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HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS WITH B&G FOODS AND AMERICAN DISTILLING INC. FUEL GROWTH IN THE USE OF PET PLASTICS FOR MEREDITH-SPRINGFIELD

**Trend Toward the Use of Environmentally-Friendly Containers Proves Beneficial for
Consumers and Area Manufacturing Companies**

LUDLOW, MA, USA – A huge investment in two new polyethylene terephthalate (PET) molding machines in 2010 has paid off significantly for Meredith-Springfield Associates, Inc. The plastic extrusion blow molding manufacturing and engineering company has enthusiastically joined the international trend toward using environmentally-safe plastics for food and health and beauty containers; a move that has deepened its relationships with two prominent international companies.

Mel O'Leary, Chief Executive Officer of Meredith-Springfield, reports that 55% of the company's PET growth is the result of a partnership with B&G Foods, Inc. of Parsippany, NJ. Another 20% of its PET capacity is going toward containers for health and beauty products made by the witch hazel category leader American Distilling Inc., of East Hampton, CT. The remaining 25% of capacity is for a variety of food packages for smaller companies in New England, New York and New Jersey.

In 2010, following a directive it issued to produce products according to stricter environmental principles, B&G Foods made Meredith-Springfield the exclusive supplier of containers for two of their top maple syrup products. More than 8 million containers for *Vermont Maid Maple Syrup®* and *Maple Grove Farms of Vermont®* sugar-free and low-sugar brands are now produced each year by Meredith-Springfield.

American Distilling Inc. is the world's largest producer of Distilled Witch Hazel Extracts, with 98% of the world's supply being manufactured in Connecticut. Extracts from witch hazel's bark and pulp are used in skin toners, aftershaves, and lotions for treating bruises, cuts, scratches, external inflammations, sore eyes, insect bites, relief of hemorrhoids, and the treatment of blemishes. The company's origin dates back to the late 1800s. With its state-of-the-art facility, American Distilling produces Distilled Witch Hazel and other botanical products for the leading pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies throughout the world.

"More gallons of Distilled Witch Hazel are used than gallons of any other botanical ingredient in the world, including Aloe," said Edward Jackowitz, President/CEO of American Distilling Inc. "Our partnership with Meredith-Springfield is vitally important because the company understands the environmental changes that a health and beauty product company must adapt to, and their attention to quality and cost-effective pricing is unparalleled."

The national news has recently reported stories of plastic containers for water, food, and health and beauty products leaching potentially harmful chemicals into their contents. While chemical levels can be very low on an individual item basis, it is the continued, multiple, daily exposures to these chemicals that has consumers concerned and is quickly changing the plastics industry.

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In general, blow molding is the plastic conversion process used to make bottles, containers and other hollow articles from plastic resin pellets. Environmentally-safe blow molded plastic PET products, such as those made by Meredith-Springfield, are now at the core of the health and beauty and food container industry. Step by step, more plastic bottles that contain liquids, food, and health and beauty substances are being made with PET resin.

PET, which is essentially polyester, may exist both as an amorphous (transparent) and as a semi-crystalline material. Made using improved barrier technology, PET is a non-leaching plastic that will not allow carcinogens or other contaminants to enter the liquid contents of the container. PET is what the plastic industry calls “green” or “soda-bottle” plastic, which is widely recycled by consumers.

“Because of our proprietary ‘Direct Heatcon’ technology, our one-step machines are the most energy-efficient available,” said O’Leary. “Very technical bottles can generally be produced at a lower cost and higher quality than those made with other blow molding processes, and we are extremely cognizant of the quality-control process from start to finish.”

Meredith-Springfield has been servicing national and international customers in the plastics industry, such as Clairol, Clorox, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft, PepsiCo and Reebok, since 1983. They are continuing their global partnerships with companies that require improved barrier technology plastics while being friendly to the environment.

Meredith-Springfield also offers extrusion and coextrusion (double or triple layer) blow molding as well as one-step stretch blow molding. Technically challenging, short run, or one-time production run projects—or projects using exotic resins—are very manageable for Meredith-Springfield, which has successfully completed dozens of projects for clients spanning the globe. In addition to PET, its resin capabilities include HDPE, PP, PVC, PA, EPET, TPE, TPU, ABS, LDPE, and Fluoropolymers. Years of experience and attention to global environmental changes has allowed the company to be on the cutting edge of creating highly technical articles out of engineering materials, as well as post-mold finishing, decorating, and “retail-ready” packaging.

About Meredith-Springfield Associates, Inc.

A plastic extrusion blow molding manufacturing and engineering company in Ludlow, Massachusetts, Meredith-Springfield has built a reputation for providing superior, high-quality finished products and a hassle-free experience to companies across the globe. The company’s core competencies include project management of extrusion blow molded articles from concept through commercialization; and creating process solutions to enable optimal manufacturing of the most difficult articles. Meredith-Springfield offers the latest technology for molding PET and other resins to the existing client base and can take advantage of other global opportunities. Clients include American Distilling Inc., B&G Foods, Inc., Chesebrough-Ponds, Chevron Oil, Clairol, Clorox, Elizabeth Arden, Gillette, Johnson & Johnson, Kraft, PepsiCo, and Reebok. These are just a few of the companies that in the past, or at present, enjoy partnerships with Meredith-Springfield. Serving the medical, packaging, industrial, HBA, and food industries, Meredith-Springfield consistently demonstrates its capabilities in world-class product design and manufacturing and deepens its national and international relationships. Meredith-Springfield is also a consistent referral for companies of all sizes who need test-market quantities of custom blow molded prototype samples for research and development (R&D) and for “out-of-the box” concept development. For more information, please visit www.meredithspringfield.com.

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