



NEWS RELEASE

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Avon Rubber p.l.c. (“Avon”) Announces the launch of ARTIS

Avon is delighted to announce the launch of ARTIS, an acronym for **Avon Rubber Technology Innovation and Science** to the commercial market. ARTIS is an advanced laboratory in Westbury, Wiltshire, England dedicated to material testing, research and development, training, legislative support including expert witness capability. ARTIS will offer cost effective expertise in all of these specialist areas.

ARTIS, formed from Avon’s Material Development Centre, has been upgraded and expanded to offer the same world class expertise and support that has helped Avon with many programmes, including the new Joint Service General Purpose Mask (JSGPM) which is the world’s most advanced respiratory protection mask developed to equip the US armed forces. Avon continues to utilise ARTIS expertise, as it has for over a century, to further advance its product range and remain at the forefront of polymer technology and materials engineering.

The capabilities of our team of scientists and engineers include the provision of rubber formulations to international and customer specifications and a full problem solving service from root cause validation to solution implementation. ARTIS will also develop specific product test methods or equipment and conduct accelerated lifetime prediction studies to determine how long products will last in service. There is a comprehensive materials analysis service offering benchmarking and reverse engineering together with both conventional and electron microscopy facilities. ARTIS also offers an extensive training programme delivered by highly qualified and experienced staff which can be tailored to customer specific needs.

Martyn Bennett, Research and Development Scientist of ARTIS said, *“As would be expected from our history in a production based company, we have a fantastic team of experienced problem solvers who deal with the practical and not just the academic. Our testing capability covers all the normal physical and mechanical properties of materials against standard specifications , but our real strengths lie in the ability to understand how the material actually behaves in service and to develop the appropriate test methods to understand and improve how the product functions. We have one of the best materials analysis labs in the country complimented with some of the best people. We have a huge contribution to make to the market with our vast range of expertise and some unique pieces of equipment.”*

Contact ARTIS at www.artis.uk.com

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NOTES TO EDITORS: Avon Rubber p.l.c. is an international polymer engineering group adding value through material, manufacturing and industry sector expertise. The Group is currently capitalised at approximately £47 million. Avon supplies a range of advanced CBRN respiratory protection solutions through Avon Protection Systems Inc. to the world's military and police forces, as well as first responders and emergency services. Avon Rubber p.l.c. owns Avon-ISI, which designs, develops and manufactures a range of self-contained breathing apparatus for fire, rescue and law enforcement, as well as military applications. Avon Rubber p.l.c. also owns Avon Engineered Fabrications manufacturing products including Hovercraft skirting and flexible storage tanks, an Aerosol gasket business and a world leading Dairy business manufacturing dairy liners and tubing.