



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**Armacell Strengthens Position in Technical Foams with
Purchase of Monarch Rubber**

March 10, 2005 -- Armacell International GmbH announced today that its subsidiary Armacell LLC in the U.S. has purchased Monarch Rubber Company's 69,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Spencer, West Virginia. Monarch is a leading manufacturer and developer of high quality cellular rubber and plastics foams used by value-adding producers for a wide range of applications.

Armacell and Monarch had entered into a purchase agreement several weeks ago. The purchase represents Armacell's latest important milestone in its strategy to achieve leadership in both the North American and global technical foam markets and adds to its expanding portfolio of branded products.

"We are extremely excited about this acquisition and the widening of our scope and product lines in the Technical Foam markets," stated Ulrich Weimer, President, Armacell International GmbH. "This is another step consistent with our vision of global leadership in technical foam manufacturing. Monarch's strong business is a solid base to enhance customer value through new and upgraded products, higher quality levels and improved service levels. We are very pleased to welcome Monarch, their employees and their customers into the Armacell family."

Armacell is tightly focused on ensuring a smooth transition for former Monarch customers, according to Jim Mars, head of Armacell's U.S. company. "This purchase provides all of our customers with an even broader and deeper product offering. We especially intend to show our new customers that Armacell's real strengths are product quality, service and commitment to customer satisfaction. We don't intend to change any of that."

Over the past few years, Armacell has transformed from the global market leader in flexible foam insulations to also becoming a major supplier of technical foams. Based in Mebane, NC, Armacell LLC took a major stride to the forefront of the technical foam market last June when it acquired three key manufacturing facilities formerly owned by RBX Industries. These consisted of the Conover, NC plant that produces Ensolite[®] continuous roll closed cell foams; the South Holland, IL plant that makes OleTex[®] chemically cross-linked polyolefins; and a previously closed facility in Colt, AR. Armacell relocated equipment from that plant for the production of elastomeric profiles. In addition to Ensolite and OleTex, Armacell produces a broad range of ArmaSport[®] products for sport and leisure applications and ArmaFoam[®] specialty foams.

Monarch is a respected name in foam materials used in automotive, electronic, footwear, sporting goods, marine, and specialty industries, among many others. The company has over 75 years in the technical foams business and had been widely recognized as a premium polymeric bun developer and supplier with special product customization capability.

Monarch was founded in Baltimore, MD in 1928 by Sol Schwaber, the uncle of former owners David M. and David J. Schwaber. In a recent letter to customers, the former owners expressed their confidence that the market would be well served by Armacell. "We expect a seamless transition as all of our management and plant personnel will continue to manufacture your products, and our sales representatives will continue to service your accounts," the letter stated.

Monarch employs 67 people at its Spencer manufacturing facility, which is ISO 9001 registered and has an onsite research laboratory. Products include primarily sheets of neoprene, EPDM, nitrile rubber, Evalite[®] (ethylene-vinyl acetate), and various blends and specialty products. Monarch customers are either OEM specialized in specific industries, consumer products manufacturers or fabricators who further process the products and sell them to OEMs, or to a lesser extent, end users.

Armacell has over 50 years of experience as an innovator in closed cell foam technologies and a leading edge manufacturer. The organization is the inventor of Armaflex[®], the world's original closed-cell elastomeric foam insulation. With the addition of the Spencer plant, Armacell now operates 18 manufacturing facilities worldwide, five of which are located in the U.S. For more information on Armacell and its products, visit the website at www.armacell.com.

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