



## Press Release

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### **PREGIS MICROFOAM® PP SHEET FOAM PROVIDES IDEAL CHARACTERISTICS FOR OIL BOOM CORES**

**Deerfield, Ill.**, May 19, 2010—Pregis Corp.'s Microfoam® low-density polypropylene (PP) sheet foam offers multiple benefits for oil boom containment manufacturers looking for exceptional flotation core performance.

An oil boom is a curtain-like device deployed around or across the path of a drifting oil spill. The curtain is weighted on the bottom edge to hold it a foot or two below the surface and has floats on the upper edge to hold it a foot or more above the surface. The floats are typically made from a series of vinyl sleeves—each encasing a buoyant core material. The objective is to surround the oil as quickly as possible to prevent spreading and facilitate removal.

Microfoam's closed-cell construction, light weight, flexibility and ability to repel water make it an ideal material for oil boom cores. The PP product is 50% lighter than competitive polyethylene (PE) alternatives which results in superior buoyancy.

"The oil boom's primary objective is to surround and contain an oil spill. Superior buoyancy is critical to keeping the boom above the oil slick," said Chris Frawley, Microfoam business manager, Pregis. "Additionally, Microfoam's lighter weight means it is more cost-effective to ship vs. polyethylene. This minimizes the number of truckloads it takes to deliver the same amount of core material. Less fuel and labor is used which also helps the environment."

Microfoam PP arrives at the containment company in jumbo rolls of sheet foam (72-inches wide x 3600 feet long.) The roll is loaded onto a spindle and unrolled, then rerolled, until it reaches the required diameter (most commonly, 6-inches). Then the 6-foot long core is encased in vinyl.

The roll's jumbo size means fewer changeovers and its light weight makes it easy for plant workers to handle.

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“The other benefit to using PP sheet vs. PE profiles is that there is no aging process involved. PE typically requires five to seven days of ‘degassing’ at the manufacturing plant to stabilize the material before it’s shipped. That can be a big deterrent to manufacturers who need to get containment booms out of their plants, fast,” said Frawley.

Additionally, Microfoam is recyclable, photodegradable and has a high melt point of 320° Fahrenheit.

**About Pregis:**

Pregis Corporation is a leading global provider of innovative protective, flexible, and foodservice packaging and hospital supply products. The company offers packaging and product solutions for a wide variety of consumer and industrial market segments including food and foodservice, healthcare, agriculture, automotive, furniture, electronics, construction, fulfillment, catalog and military/aerospace. The specialty-packaging leader currently operates 47 facilities in 18 countries around the world. For more information about Pregis, visit [www.pregis.com](http://www.pregis.com).

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