



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GARDNER NAMED BUSINESS UNIT DIRECTOR OF PAINTS & COATINGS FOR U.S. CHEMICAL & PLASTICS

Massillon, OH – April 2, 2004 – U.S. Chemical & Plastics, a leader in providing manufactured products for use in the automotive aftermarket, has announced that Tom Gardner has been named business unit manager of paints & coatings, effective March 22, 2004.

Gardner, formerly U.S. Chemical & Plastics' director of marketing, joined the company in 2003. Prior to joining U.S. Chemical & Plastics, he worked for Sherwin Williams for over sixteen years. Gardner started his career in the Automotive Finishes Division of Sherwin and remained there until being promoted to Dupli-Color regional sales manager in 1996. From 1999 to 2003 he was a senior product manager with Dupli-Color.

In his new position at U.S. Chemical & Plastics, Gardner will report to Tom Perry, vice president, sales and marketing.

"I am pleased to announce Tom Gardner as business unit director of paints & coatings. Due to his vast sales, marketing and technical knowledge of the refinish industry, Tom Gardner is the perfect person to head up this business segment," said Tom Perry.

Tom Gardner will be responsible for the sales, marketing, training and product management of the entire Morton and Pro-Spray product line. Gardner's duties will also include the creation of a Pro-Spray sales organization to assure ongoing sales growth of the European refinishing system.

Pro-Spray is a division of U.S. Chemical & Plastics, An ALCO Industries Company. Developed and manufactured in England and distributed in Europe and North America, the Pro-Spray product line delivers a comprehensive, versatile, and high performance intermix colour system supported by a full range of primers, clearcoats, hardeners, thinners and support products to body shops worldwide.

For more information, contact:

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