

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**ATOFINA Refinery Achieves Important Safety Milestone**

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (July 30, 2004) – ATOFINA Petrochemicals, Inc.'s Port Arthur Refinery achieved a remarkable Level 9 on a recent International Safety Rating System (ISRS) audit designed to assess the effectiveness of the facility's safety and loss control management system.

ISRS is a recognized global audit protocol that measures facility compliance with a comprehensive set of industry standards and best practices. Det Norske Veritas, a third-party company not affiliated with ATOFINA, conducted the ISRS audit.

"A Level 9 rating for a refinery is very exceptional," explained Refinery Manager Wouter Raemdonck. "I am proud of our accomplishment because it indicates safety management is a daily part of our lives."

There are 20 elements to the audit, ranging from training to critical task analysis, from rules and work permits to emergency preparedness.

Eric Miller, the refinery's manager of health, safety and environment, said ISRS audits are widespread in Europe. In fact, more than 3,000 facilities



worldwide have implemented safety management systems based on the elements of ISRS.

“In the United States, the ISRS approach is not as well known as the OSHA Star program,” he said. “In an ISRS audit, a Level 6 should obtain a facility an OSHA Star rating. We achieved a Level 9.”

Ron Rhodes, ATOFINA’s manager of safety and loss control systems at the corporate office in Houston, said, “The refinery scored well in all 20 elements, but the element that played the most important role in achieving the Level 9 was Critical Task Analysis.

“The hub of loss control is Critical Task Analysis,” said Rhodes. “Our refinery performed extremely well in the other 19 elements, but the plant’s concentration on those tasks with high loss potential put it into Level 9.”

Miller said it was a monumental job to identify critical tasks performed at the refinery and involved input from everyone. “All our employees provided significant assistance in helping us achieve our milestone,” he said.

Port Arthur will be constantly reviewing its critical task procedures. It has now begun critical task audits. Teams consisting of personnel from all departments will audit the critical tasks each month.

Raemdonck said, “Our goal is to run a safe, profitable plant with negligible environmental impact.”

ATOFINA Petrochemicals, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, produces polypropylene, polyethylene, polystyrene, styrene, base chemicals and

transportation fuels. With sales of \$5.3 billion in 2003, ATOFINA Petrochemicals, Inc. employs about 1,600 people in the U.S. and is part of ATOFINA, one of the largest chemical companies in the world with 71,300 employees worldwide and 2003 sales of \$19.5 billion. ATOFINA is the chemical branch of Total (NYSE:TOT), the world's 4<sup>th</sup> largest integrated petroleum company with 110,000 employees worldwide and 2003 sales of \$118.3 billion.

The 240,000 barrels per day Port Arthur Refinery employs about 450 people. Opened in 1936, the facility today is one of the most modern and efficient refineries in the U.S.

The Det Norske Veritas International Safety Rating System (ISRS) is a licensed audit protocol that measures safety and loss control management system implementation at a facility on a scale of 1 to 10. ISRS Level 9 indicates that a comprehensive safety management system is in place, with a documented process of continual improvement.

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