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Velocity Boats Launches Fourth Performance Model Featuring VeTron™ High Performance Glass Roving

Aiken, South Carolina, March 30, 2004 – Velocity Powerboats of Sanford, FL recently introduced a fourth high-performance racing model built entirely with *VeTron* high performance roving from AGY.

The new boat, a 41-foot vessel built for the long-distance performance and social events known as poker runs, joins 29-, 35-, and 39-foot Velocity racing models already made exclusively with *VeTron* high performance roving. The new 41-foot model – VR1 410 – was launched earlier this year.

“Once again, being at the forefront of composite marine technology has put Velocity in front of the competition,” says Steve Stepp, Owner and President of Velocity Powerboats and Initial Marine Corp.

The first two racing models made exclusively with *VeTron* roving – Velocity’s VR1 290 and VR1 390 – were launched at the 2003 Miami Boat Show, while the third model VR1 350 was presented later in 2003. According to Velocity, the superior performance and competitive cost of *VeTron* roving allowed the entire boat to be built from the advanced material, with all the associated performance and high-speed safety enhancements Velocity customers expect. For all three racing boats, *VeTron* roving is woven into a bi-axial fabric style DBM 2408 by OC® Fabrics and molded with Reichhold Vinyl Ester resin at the Velocity plant in Sanford.

“Our experience with *VeTron* roving has been very good,” says Stepp. “Our production employees like the material because of its workability – it has good flexibility, works easily into corners and absorbs resin quickly,” he continues. “At the present time we use 100 percent *VeTron* glass only for our racing models, but in due time we may use it on all of our production boats.”

Stepp says his company tested the material extensively before putting it in any of their boats. He says the company liked the combination of strength and light weight they could achieve with *VeTron* glass.

“We made test panels in various thicknesses and subjected them to strength tests,” explains Stepp. “We didn’t have any problems in the tests, but what really matters is how the material performs in our boats and we haven’t had any problems there, either.”

In 2002, Velocity won the APBA F1 Class World Championship and broke the world speed record (83.9 mph) in a two-way run over a kilometer in the same class, with a 29-foot Velocity VR1 powerboat made with a combination of S-2 Glass[®] and E-glass fabrics.

In April 2003, Velocity Powerboats made with *VeTron* high-performance glass roving won first place in two classes at the American Power Boat Association event in St. Cloud, FL. Velocity boats also participated in APBA championship events last fall.

“With the ability to utilize lightweight reinforcement properties in high-strength glass, boat designers are able to place weight where they want it in the cross section, thus allowing for even greater customization than has been available in the past,” says Will Chafin, Market Manager, *S-2 Glass* Products, AGY.

“This presents boat designers and end users with a very attractive option for the future,” he continues. “AGY expects more and more boats to utilize this technology and stands ready to deliver on the next generation of challenges presented by this competitive marine environment.”

For more information about Velocity Boats, please visit: www.velocityboats.com

AGY is a leading global producer of fiberglass yarns and high strength fiberglass reinforcements used in a wide variety of composites applications. Headquartered in Aiken, SC (USA), AGY has a European office in Lyon, France, and manufacturing facilities in Aiken, SC, and Huntingdon, PA. Additional information may be found at the company’s website, www.agy.com, or by email at info@agy.com.

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