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S-2 Glass® Reinforcement Use in Armor Continues Growth
New Applications Fuel Expansion in Defense Market

AIKEN, S.C., March 28, 2006 – New applications for composite armor systems in military vehicles and vessels are continuing to drive the growth of S-2 Glass® reinforcements from AGY. The company said it shipped a record amount of the material in 2005 and expects to break that record in 2006.

New applications recently introduced or announced include:

- M1151/1152 High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), commonly referred to as Humvees – US Army vehicles that use a lighter, more-flexible and modular armor system that can be installed in the factory or added in the field
- Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) vessels – US Navy ships for coastal and shallow-water missions, focusing on high-speed maneuverability, agility and sprint speed
- Humvee Helmet Hardtop® – a field-installable composite cover providing ballistic protection for personnel and equipment in the back of a Humvee

Current applications of S-2 Glass in composite armor systems include:

- M1114A – an up-armored US Army vehicle offering improved protection against small arms fire and shrapnel
- Landing Helicopter Deck (LHD) ships – built for the US Navy and the largest amphibious assault vessels in the world
- Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle (EFV) – a self-deploying, high-water-speed, armored amphibious vehicle capable of transporting US Marines from out-of-sightline ships to inland objectives
- Stryker – a family of eight-wheel-drive combat vehicles built for the US Army

“All of these applications have been successful in part because of the contribution of S-2 Glass reinforcements,” said Drew Walker, AGY Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

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The M1151 and M1152 model Humvees will be capable of using a much lighter protection kit than has traditionally been available for the vehicle. Up-armorings vehicles not originally manufactured with armor can be a time-consuming process requiring a lot of manpower and special equipment, but the new lightweight armor for the M1151 and M1152 – employing the same HJ1 composite armor system with *S-2 Glass* roving as the original vehicles – can be added by two people in about two hours.

The new vehicles will give the military greater flexibility in using Humvees for a variety of combat and non-combat missions. When the situation requires it, military leaders having the M1151 or M1152 will be able to get more armored tactical vehicles in the field rapidly by armorings and re-deploying vehicles from other areas.

Two developmental LCS ships being built by Lockheed Martin Corp. will employ the HJ1 armor system for deckhouse protection. In addition to its ability to stop projectiles, the HJ1 armor system is known for excellent flame, smoke and toxicity performance.

The Helmet Hardtop for the Humvee is made by the Yakima Division of Amtech Corp., headquartered in Yelm, Wash., which had for several years produced a lightly reinforced cover for the Humvee and its trailers. The new composite cover offers ballistic protection for personnel and the sensitive electronic equipment often transported in the back of a Humvee or a trailer.

The Helmet Hardtop is molded in the vacuum assisted resin transfer molding process (VARTM) using an innovative fabric made with *S-2 Glass* reinforcements. The product was developed by a consortium of five entities: Amtech Corp., manufacturing; University of Delaware, Center for Composite Materials, design and tooling; Sioux Manufacturing Company, Fort Totten, N.D., production of HJ1 panels incorporated into the Helmet Hardtop; 3Tex, Inc., Cary, N.C., three-dimensional fabric; and AGY, *S-2 Glass* roving and reinforcement technology.

Walker also said AGY recognizes the need for continuous improvement and is hard at work on the next generation of composite armor.

“The market has been asking for increased performance and lighter weight and we’re going to respond,” he said.

“We recently applied for patent protection for a new and improved ballistic system using a new *S-2 Glass* reinforcement,” he explained. “The new product will be delivered to converters as an assembled or multi-end roving that will be processed in the same way as our current product,” continued Walker.

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“Composite materials made with the new fiber will have similar mechanical performance but yield a 5 to 10 percent boost in ballistic protection capability. That may not sound like much but in ballistic protection that’s quite significant.”

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, S.C. (USA), AGY has a European office in Lyon, France, and manufacturing facilities in Aiken, S.C., 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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Helmet Hardtop is a registered trademark of Amtech Corporation.