



FOSTER CORPORATION APPOINTED DISTRIBUTOR OF SOLVAY'S KETASPIRE® PEEK AND AVASPIRE® PAEK POLYMERS FOR HEALTHCARE MARKETS

Polyketone based polymers are advanced materials used in highly engineered, reusable medical device applications, such as metal replacement, where high flexural modulus, high heat resistance, and multiple steam sterilization cycles are needed

PUTNAM, CT USA – **(December 11, 2019)** – Foster Corporation, a leader in performance polymer solutions in the medical and pharmaceutical marketplace, has been appointed as a North American distributor of Solvay's KetaSpire* PEEK and AvaSpire* PAEK polyketone based polymers for the North American medical market. This will include unmodified polymers and standard color formulations currently offered by Solvay. Foster can also offer custom compounding of these polymers, including custom colors, for specific application requirements.

PEEK and PAEK medical grade polyketone based polymers are high flexural modulus and high strength polymers that offer extreme heat resistance and excellent hydrolytic stability. They maintain their mechanical properties in reusable applications when exposed to multiple steam sterilization cycles as well as other sterilization techniques. Both polymers can withstand over 1,000 steam sterilization cycles without significant loss of properties. In addition both polymers are biocompatible (USP Class VI and ISO 10993) and biostable. Common applications include surgical tools, tubing, and connectors, as well as healthcare metal replacement applications.

Foster is currently a distributor in the North American healthcare market for Solvay's Radel* polyphenylsulfone (PPSU), Udel* polysulfone (PSU), and Ixef* polyarylamide (PARA).

“Solvay's standard grades of PEEK and PAEK polyketone based polymers, along with their sulfone based polymers, are in high demand for reusable medical devices. Additionally, device companies are increasingly evaluating material formulations that provide differentiated colors and performance characteristics,” said Larry Johnson, Executive Vice President at Foster Corporation. “Our expertise in polymer distribution of standard grades and custom compounding specialty formulations is unique and provides the most comprehensive polymer solutions in the industry.”

Foster Corporation

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For more information on Solvay's KetaSpire PEEK and AvaSpire PAEK polymers and other Solvay highly engineered polymers please visit www.fostercomp.com.

**KetaSpire, AvaSpire, Radel, Udel, and Ixef are registered trademarks of Solvay.*

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About Foster Corporation

For over twenty-five years Foster Corporation has been serving medical device and pharmaceutical manufacturers with industry leading technology and service in biomedical materials. These include custom medical compounds, implantable materials, drug/polymer blends and polymer distribution. Within ISO 13485:2016 facilities, Foster offers comprehensive support to customers from formulation development through production.

About Solvay

An international chemical and advanced materials company, Solvay assists its customers in innovating, developing and delivering high-value, sustainable products and solutions which consume less energy and reduce CO₂ emissions, optimize the use of resources and improve the quality of life. Solvay serves diversified global end markets, including automotive and aerospace, consumer goods and healthcare, energy and environment, electricity and electronics, building and construction as well as industrial applications

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