



Kureha Recognized by Edison Awards for Innovation

Tokyo / New York, April 6, 2011 – Kureha Corporation (“Kureha”), a leading global supplier of specialty chemicals and plastics, has been recognized by the 2011 Edison Awards for its innovative work in the field of energy and sustainability. Kureha’s new high-barrier biodegradable polymer, Kuredux™ PGA, was selected as a finalist by the Edison Best New Product Awards™ for energy and sustainability in the packaging segment. Each year the awards honor the development and successful launch of the most innovative products.

Kuredux™ PGA is a biodegradable polyester resin that offers high barrier to both carbon dioxide and oxygen and excellent mechanical strength. This unique combination of properties makes it ideally suited to high performance packaging and industrial applications, such as multilayer PET bottles for carbonated soft drinks. Kuredux™ offers a gas barrier 100 times higher than that of standard PET, making it possible to reduce the amount of PET used in bottles by more than 20 percent, while maintaining the equivalent barrier against carbon dioxide loss.

In addition to reducing the amount of PET material required, Kuredux™ also supports a sustainable approach by extending the food or beverage’s shelf life, reducing the amount of food spoilage and disposal. Also from an end-of-life perspective, Kuredux™’s unique degradation properties make it highly compatible with widely practiced industrial PET recycling processes, ensuring the material does not interfere with the purity and quality of recycled PET.

Kureha President and Chief Executive Officer, Takao Iwasaki, said, “We are honored that Kureha has been recognized for its innovative work with Kuredux™. Although the advantages of this type of biodegradable plastic have been understood for many years, up until now there has never been a high volume, cost effective manufacturing process available for Kuredux™. We are very proud that Kureha, following its instinct in this area and determined to help protect the natural environment, has become the first and only company to succeed in developing technology to produce large volumes of PGA, supporting this development with significant intellectual property. We believe Kuredux™ has many potential applications and can make a strong contribution to sustainable development for many years to come.”

“The unique combination of source reduction, recyclability and inherent barrier characteristics means Kuredux™ PGA offers great promise for packaging applications. Kureha has been contacted by many leading consumer goods companies wanting to work with us to explore how Kuredux™ PGA could meet their current and future needs,” added Dr. Iwasaki.



Beyond packaging applications, Kureha is also working with several development partners to commercialize industrial applications such as oil recovery applications that utilize Kuredux™'s biodegradability feature.

For further information, please contact:

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About Kureha Corporation:

Kureha Corporation is a leading specialty chemicals and plastics company, focused on four key strategic business areas: high-barrier packaging resins and films, advanced materials, pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals. Headquartered in Tokyo, with plants and sales offices in the United States, China, Vietnam, Germany and the Netherlands, Kureha's growth and development has come exclusively from producing innovative products developed in-house rather than from using outside technology. Many of Kureha's core products relate to "environmental", "energy-efficiency" and "healthcare" areas, all of which are essential to sustainable development, and demonstrate Kureha's ability to meet the evolving needs of today's global society. The development of the new, high-barrier, biodegradable polymer, Kuredux™ PGA, is another example of the strength of Kureha's R&D efforts and commitment to innovation and sustainability, and aligns perfectly with the company's mission, "The Pursuit of Excellence", and its Corporate Philosophy, "We treasure people and the natural environment".