



## NEWS RELEASE

### **SCUBA FINS MOVE EFFORTLESSLY FROM LAND TO SEA BY PAIRING RIGID PP WITH FLEXIBLE, OVERMOLDED GLS TPE**

#### ***Award-winning Amphibian™ Flip Fins Deliver High Performance, Durability and Comfort***

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Sept. 10, 2008 – The IDSA 2008 show theme is “Polar Opposites.” Epitomizing this theme, GLS is exhibiting award-winning SCUBA fins here in booth 23 that pair the disparate materials of a stiff, shiny, yellow polypropylene (PP) and a soft, flexible, matte-black thermoplastic elastomer (TPE). Omega Aquatics’ Amphibian™ flip fins, designed by Designcraft, allow divers to switch from walking with the fin blade up to swimming with the blade extended without using their hands. This is made possible through a unique, convertible design that relies on overmolding DYNAFLEX™ thermoplastic elastomers from GLS onto a polypropylene base. Through this combination of materials, divers enjoy a soft, comfortable feel plus enhanced buoyancy and agility underwater.

The Amphibian fins won a Bronze IDEA Design award from *BusinessWeek*, and were featured in *I.D. Magazine’s* Annual Design Review. They also were on the cover of *Sport Diver* magazine. According to Casey Stahl, designer and project manager for Designcraft, GLS DYNAFLEX TPE grades were critical to the success of the Amphibian. “This was a complex design due to the contrasting requirements of walking with the fin blade up and swimming with the blade extended. When the blade is resting against the shin, it’s important to have a flexible, soft material for comfort. The footpiece also requires a comfortable fit, but must be durable for walking on the ground. For top performance underwater, we needed a combination of stiffness and flexibility for propulsion and turning, the ability to direct water off the end of the blade, and light weight for near neutral buoyancy. GLS’s DYNAFLEX TPEs with polypropylene delivered on all our requirements.”

DYNAFLEX TPEs offer a soft yet resilient feel, excellent grip characteristics, good weatherability and easy processing. For the fins, Designcraft and the molder chose two grades with different durometers: DYNAFLEX 7960 for the footpiece and DYNAFLEX 7970 for the blade. “We were particularly impressed with the materials’ bonding performance and mold-filling capabilities,” Stahl noted.

The GLS materials provided the following benefits:

- Design freedom: GLS TPEs allowed Designcraft to achieve breakthrough design elements such as overmolding stabilizing ribs near the end of the blade to guide water off the fin; and creating the Omega logo in contrasting texture for a bas-relief look.
- Durability: Chemical bonding between the overmolded DYNAFLEX TPE and the polypropylene prevents peeling, even in harsh conditions such as sun, salt water and high temperatures.
- Performance: Using two different grades of DYNAFLEX allowed Stahl to tailor performance properties to the blade and the footpiece. A higher durometer TPE used on the blade provided stability and a lower durometer TPE used on the foot piece allowed for added comfort and traction.

The GLS team sent technical experts on site to provide guidance for process optimization. “We worked closely with Designcraft and the molder to ensure complete mold filling, which presented challenges due to the single gate on the blade and on the footpiece,” said Dyana Hunsaker, account representative for GLS. “We’re thrilled to see all the recognition these fins have received from the design community, and how well they showcase the compelling value of our TPEs.”

## **About GLS**

GLS, acquired by PolyOne in January of 2008, is a global leader in the development, manufacture, and supply of high-performance, custom-formulated thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs). See [www.glscorporation.com](http://www.glscorporation.com) for additional information on GLS.

## **About PolyOne**

PolyOne Corporation, with annual revenues of more than \$2.7 billion, is a premier global provider of specialized polymer materials, services and solutions. Headquartered outside of Cleveland, Ohio USA, PolyOne has operations around the globe. For additional information on PolyOne, visit our new Web site at [www.polyone.com](http://www.polyone.com).

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<sup>TM</sup> DYNAFLEX is a registered trademark of GLS.

<sup>TM</sup> AMPHIBIAN is a registered trademark of Omega Aquatics.

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**GLS' DYNAFLEX™ TPE HELPS THE AMPHIBIAN™ SCUBA FIN FEEL AT HOME ON LAND OR SEA**



**Photo Caption: GLS TPEs Used in the Amphibian™ Flip Fins**

The award-winning Amphibian flip fin from Omega Aquatics was designed by Designcraft using GLS DYNAFLEX™ thermoplastic elastomers (black portions of the fins) overmolded onto polypropylene (PP). Soft yet durable GLS TPEs provide design freedom, high performance, comfort and excellent aesthetics.

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