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Optima Chemical Receives National Performance Improvement Honor *ChemStewards® Recognizes Optima for their commitment to improving EHS&S*



(Shown above left to right: Joe Acker, President, Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA), Gene Williams, President, Optima Chemical, Charlie Hinnant, President, Charkit Chemical and Chairman Board of Governors SOCMA)

Optima Chemical is pleased to announce it has received the 2009 Bronze Award for its achievements in implementing a recognized environmental, health, safety and security (EHS&S) program. The award is given as part of the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates' (SOCMA) annual Performance Improvement Awards, sponsored by ChemStewards, SOCMA's EHS&S initiative.

Optima is being recognized for its successful efforts go above and beyond the minimum for federal EHS&S compliance, build customer confidence and community trust, and strengthen product stewardship.

"We are honored to receive national recognition for our company's commitment to performance excellence. In particular, we commend our employees for their hard work all year to maintain a superior EHS&S program in our facility," said President Gene Williams. "We made the commitment to integrate ChemStewards criteria into the way we manage our business. Our certification and this award are the result of several years of effort on the part of our entire staff. We will always maintain our efforts for continuous improvement in the EHS&S aspects of our operations to insure we are providing the safest work environment possible for our employees, being a responsible corporate neighbor in our community and a partner our customers can depend on."

SOCMA, the leading international trade association representing the batch chemical industry, recognized Optima at SOCMA's Annual Dinner during a special awards reception on December 7 in New York City.

"Optima's hard work on their comprehensive environmental, health, safety and security program shows their commitment to constant improvement and to contributing to the quality of life in their community. SOCMA commends them on their Bronze Award honors and encourages Optima to continue these efforts through the ChemStewards performance improvement program," said SOCMA President Joe Acker.

SOCMA is the leading trade association, serving the batch, custom and specialty chemical industry since 1921. SOCMA's nearly 300 members employ more than 100,000 workers across the country and produce 50,000 products valued at \$60 billion annually.

Optima Chemical provides specialized products, custom manufacturing and support services for advanced intermediates and fine chemicals to a variety of industries including Pharmaceutical, Nutraceutical, and Bioscience industries.