

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo attached

The Hopkinsville-Christian County Economic Development Council (EDC) is proud to announce and celebrate the grand opening of Riken Elastomers Corporation.

Don Henderson, EDC Chairman welcomed the community's ninth Japanese operation to Hopkinsville along with Mayor Dan Kemp and County Judge Executive Steve Tribble. "This is a confirmation of our strong relationship with our Japanese partners – they are truly an important part of our community", said Mayor Kemp.

This \$20 million facility is located on 24 acres in Commerce Park, the community's second industrial park. Riken Elastomers is a 60% owned subsidiary of Riken Technos Corporation. Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsubishi International own 30% and 10% respectively.

Riken is engaged in the manufacture and sale of high performance plastics (thermo plastic elastomer) compounds primarily used in the automotive industry. Thermo Plastic Elastomer Compounds (TPE) have the properties of plastic and rubber.

Riken Grand Opening – More

Compounds are mixtures of base resin with several different additives, thereby giving them the novel properties of being lightweight and recyclable. The customer base includes leading automotive related industries with final applications of interior and exterior parts for window, roof and belt molding products.

Mr. Kinoshita, President of Riken Technos and Mr. Kazu Tokiwa, President of Riken Elastomers reaffirmed that Riken Elastomers Corporation is founded on dignity, respect, and service to their customers and to the community. “Being a responsible corporate citizen is an integral part of our philosophy. We believe that through teamwork, a high level of safety and environmental responsibility and commitment to quality, we can impact the quality of life for our employees and the community.”

On hand for the ceremony were representatives from Riken Technos, Mitsubishi as well as the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, Congressman Whitfield’s office as well as city and county representatives.

The Hopkinsville – Christian County Economic Development Council was established in 1986 to recruit new industry and help existing industry expand. More than 50 industries are located in Hopkinsville – Christian County, employing more than 7,000 workers.

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