

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2006

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Berkel Chooses IDI Thermoset Composites for New Food Slicer

NOBLESVILLE, IN (USA) – IDI Composites International has been chosen to provide custom thermoset molding compounds to Berkel Company, a leading supplier of slicers, processors, mixers, and packaging equipment to the commercial food service industry. IDI's custom bulk molding compound (BMC) is being utilized in Berkel's latest line of automatic food slicers: the X13A.



The use of BMC from IDI ultimately contributed to a 40% parts reduction in the new line of slicers, and is indicative of the increasing use of thermoset molding compounds in the commercial food service industry.

Berkel's new X13A slicers are unique, as they utilize a single-molded base that promotes sanitary operation. Plus, it's easy to clean. By switching to IDI's BMC material, Berkel was able to eliminate seams in the "drip and drop zone" of the slicer caused by welded or bolted metal parts. The material provided by IDI is corrosion resistant, providing an effective cleaning surface that will not degrade from exposure to common sanitizers and cleaners, or acids and proteins commonly found in food.

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In addition to the cost savings realized by eliminating secondary operations required with traditional aluminum bases, IDI thermoset molding compounds have other properties that make it ideal for the commercial food service industry, including:

- Dimensional stability and reduced weight
- Flame resistance around machined parts
- Ability to mold-in color and tolerate powder-coat or water-based paint
- Ability to mold to net shape due to zero shrink

The IDI BMC material is available for production at all of IDI's global manufacturing facilities, including Noblesville, IN (USA); West Midlands, UK; Shanghai, China; Shenzhen, China; and Aguirre, Puerto Rico.

"Our relationship with Berkel illustrates the benefits of thermoset molding compounds in a market traditionally dominated by metal and aluminum die cast," said Tom Flood, Vice President and General Manager of IDI Composites International. "The X13A slicer from Berkel features a material that is lighter, easier to clean, and safer to operate, giving our customer a distinct advantage in the marketplace."

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About IDI Composites International: IDI Composites International is the premier global formulator and manufacturer of thermoset molding compounds for custom molders and OEMs. The company provides customized polyester/vinylester-based bulk molding compounds (BMC) and sheet molding compounds (SMC) for the world's most demanding markets, including automotive, electrical, transportation, telecommunications and military/aerospace.

Headquartered in a 200,000 square foot facility in Noblesville, IN (USA), IDI has a strong presence in the international thermoset composites market. To support a growing customer base world-wide, the company operates multiple wholly-owned manufacturing facilities in Europe, Asia, and The Americas. For more information, please visit www.idicomposites.com.

About Berkel Company: A division of ITW Food Equipment Group, Berkel is a leading manufacturer in the mid-tier market of quality slicers and mixers for today's North American food service industry. The company produces affordable products that are engineered for safe and reliable performance. The company is based in South Bend, IN (USA) and is supported by a network of sales representatives and distributors. For more information, please visit www.berkel.com.