

# Two recycling ventures announced

PLASTICS NEWS STAFF REPORT

Two resin makers announced they have joined recycling ventures.

Phillips 66 Co. and recycler Partek Corp. have formed a \$3.5 million joint venture to recycle high density polyethylene.

Du Pont Co. and American National Can have agreed to share in the development of a recycling program for rigid plastic bottles, such as multilayered ketchup bottles.

The Phillips Plastics Recycling Partnership venture will build a recycling facility at a site yet to be determined. Construction should begin this year and be completed next summer, the companies said in a press release. The plant will process both post-consumer and post-industrial scrap.

The recycling venture is Phillip's first.

Victor Bitar, president and founder of Partek, said in a telephone interview that he considers

Partek an innovator in the development of recycling technology. The 3-year-old company focused on recycling HDPE, the largest component in bottle-grade material, because, according to Bitar, a number of large companies, such as Wellman Inc., already covered the PET market. However, Partek plans to recover all bottles within the next two years, said Bitar.

Presently Partek has one patent pending on technology involving what Bitar calls "kinetic process," which uses no chemicals to remove paper label and glue from regrind—part of the overall technology that will be used in the venture with Phillips—Bitar said.

A subsidiary of Phillips owns 51 percent of the venture, while Partek of Vancouver, Wash., owns a 49 percent interest. Phillips is investing about \$1.8 million and Partek over \$1.7 million. Phillips will market the recycled HDPE.

Plastic Recycling Alliance, a previous venture between Du Pont and Waste Management Inc., will

sort and process the plastic bottles for the new Du Pont venture, in an existing Chicago facility. The plant, which presently processes only PET and HDPE, can handle up to 40 million pounds, said a Du Pont spokesperson. The new operation also may expand to another PRA site in Philadelphia, she said.

Du Pont and American National Can will share in the development of sorting technology and end-use markets for the plastics, which include PVC, low density polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene and other types of rigid plastics not now being widely recycled, said the companies.

The resins generally can be used in nonfood packaging, such as laundry detergent and household cleaner bottles, and as replacement of virgin materials, according to a spokesperson for Du Pont.

American National Can, based in Chicago, manufactures plastic bottles, inflexible plastic, metal and glass packaging products.

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