PRESS RELEASE

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PLASTIC BAG BANS

VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE!

On 27th January 2010 the California Court of Appeals refused to allow the City of Manhattan Beach to ban plastic bags without making a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment. They must now consider among other relevant factors whether a ban on plastic bags would increase the use of paper bags or would cause other damaging effects upon the environment.
See http://www.leagle.com/unsecure/page.htm?shortname=incaco20100127062 and http://www.biodeg.org/position-papers/Plastic-bag-bans/?domain=biodeg.org

Michael Laurier, CEO of UK-based Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc said "It is amazing how much emotional and political energy is invested in attacking the humble plastic bag!

Plastic carrier bags are in fact a wonder of modern technology. They can be made very thin, with minimal raw material, but are still strong enough to carry a full load of heavy shopping. No other shopping container can carry 2,500 times its own weight, and stay strong when wet. A typical plastic carrier bag uses 70% less plastic today than 20 years ago, and no other industry has a better track record in material reduction.

Plastic bags will protect the goods from dirt and rain, they are hygienic and can be made in an almost unlimited number of colours and designs. Despite all these attributes they are very inexpensive, and are by far the most cost-effective and functional solution available.

The bags can also be re-used many times over for shopping, and are compact enough to be put in a pocket or handbag. They are also put to many other uses in the home, and for other uses such as clearing dog-waste from the street, and most of them will eventually serve as a bin-liner to safely collect and dispose of household waste. They occupy less than 1% of the space in an average landfill.

They are NOT "single-use bags" and they ARE "re-usable bags."

Nevertheless all around the world attempts are being made to ban them!"

Plastic bags are made from by-products of oil or natural gas. These by-products arise because the world needs fuels, so nobody is extracting or importing oil or gas to make plastic. Until other fuels have been developed it makes good environmental sense to use the by-products, instead of using scarce agricultural resources and water to make paper, jute or cotton bags, or vegetable-based plastics, all in competition with food production.

The only problem with plastic bags is that they can take decades to degrade if they get accidentally or deliberately into the open environment, but this problem can be avoided by making the bags with Symphony's d_2w Controlled-life Technology, which makes them harmlessly self-destruct at the end of their useful life."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

SYMPHONY ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES PLC is a world leader in Controlled-life plastic technology - a system that works by a process called oxo-biodegradation. The technology is branded $d_2w^{®}$ and appears as a droplet logo on many thousands of tonnes of plastic packaging and other plastic products.

Symphony has a diverse and growing customer-base and has established itself successfully as an international business, with 53 Distributors worldwide. Products made with d_2w plastic technology can now be found in more than 80 countries around the world and in many different product-applications. Symphony is a member of the Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association (www.biodeg.org), the Society for the Chemical Industry (UK), and the American Standards Organisation (ASTM). Symphony is also a member of The US Save the Plastic Bag Coalition (http://www.savetheplasticbag.com/). Symphony actively participates in the work of the British Standards Institute (BSI) and the European Standards Organisation (CEN).