

## **Stockhausen Launches New Extinguishing Agent Additive: FIRESORB® Green Light for the German Market at Interschutz**

**Krefeld/Augsburg, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2000.** The extinguishing media additive

FIRESORB® produced by Stockhausen GmbH & Co. KG is being launched today in Germany at the Interschutz fair. The new extinguishing media additive for category A fires is far superior to traditional additives in fire fighting and in preventive fire protection, as it makes more efficient use of the water. The time required to extinguish the fire using FIRESORB® is halved. The result is that less fire fighting water is used, and the damage caused by this water is reduced. Buildings and industrial plant can be more effectively protected against fire by the use of FIRESORB®. The cooling effect of

FIRESORB® is up to 15 times higher than that of water.

The basis of FIRESORB® is a superabsorber that is mixed with the water. This produces a fire-retardant gel that absorbs many times its own weight of water and slows down its evaporation. "The heat-protecting properties are far superior to all other products which fire services currently have at their disposal", explains Wolfgang Sehr, head of the FIRESORB® business area at Stockhausen.

Owing to the excellent cooling effect of the gel particles, which are filled with water, and the fact that they adhere immediately to the burning material, the fire is quickly and effectively suffocated and cooled. This reduces the water consumption drastically. The result is that less damage is caused by the water, and at the same time there is less contaminated fire fighting water present. Any subsequent damage is also significantly reduced in comparison to water and foam. This means that FIRESORB® reduces the burden on fire insurers and improves fire precautions in facility and safety management.

FIRESORB® is added to the water used in fire fighting at a ratio of 1 to 2 percent. FIRESORB® is also easy to use. Either the fire engines or aeroplanes are filled with the water and FIRESORB® mixture directly, or the

FIRESORB® is mixed into the stream of extinguishing water using a simple metering technique. The fine nozzles of sprinkler and irrigation systems in high-shelf warehouses or fuel storage depots present no problem for the water and FIRESORB® mixture.

FIRESORB® is classified in the German water hazard category WGK1, and is therefore environmentally friendly. In trials, no effect was found on natural vegetation cycles, for example in the creation of fire lanes.

FIRESORB® was used successfully last year in Spain and Portugal, above all in the fighting of forest fires. The fire services in the regions of Galicia, Huelva and Portugal used the extinguishing media additive with great success.

FIRESORB® is a product manufactured by Stockhausen GmbH & Co. KG in Krefeld, a company belonging to the Degussa-Hüls group. Their most important field of business up to now has been the manufacture of superabsorbers. These substances store liquids and are used mainly in the production of diapers for babies.