

# SPECIALTY MATERIALS, INC.

Manufacturers of Boron and SCS Silicon Carbide Fibers and Boron Nanopowder

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Specialty Materials, Inc. Announces Increased Availability of its Carbon Monofilament**

Lowell, MA, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Specialty Materials, Inc. (SMI) announced today that it is now offering to sell large volumes (1M linear feet and above) of its carbon monofilament. SMI uses this material as a substrate for the manufacturing of its SCS silicon carbide fibers. Sales to customers have typically been small quantities used as microelectrodes for in vivo electrochemical studies. However, SMI believes there may be emerging applications that would use larger quantities.

“An accessory benefit of growing our SCS silicon carbide fiber business has been a significantly improved carbon monofilament production capacity and efficiency”, said Monte Treasure, SMI’s president. “This results in not only a more efficient SCS fiber production process, but it also allows us to offer a better carbon monofilament to all potential customers”.

SMI is a privately held company that was formed in 2001 when it was sold by Textron Corporation. The company developed the process for making carbon monofilament over 30 years ago. Using petroleum-based pitch as a precursor, the monofilament is melt spun and carbonized prior to its use as a substrate for making SCS silicon carbide fibers. While there are many carbon fibers available in the marketplace, SMI’s carbon monofilament is unique.

“Typical carbon fibers are 5 to 10 micrometers in diameter, and simply cannot be handled individually”, cited Bill Grant, SMI’s Director of Product Engineering. “So they are twisted (gathered) together to form a multifilament tow (or yarn) to form a stable product. With a diameter of 33 micrometers, our carbon fiber can be handled as a monofilament, which opens up a whole new range of applications.”

In addition to its carbon monofilament and SCS fiber, SMI manufactures Boron fiber, most of which it converts to Boron epoxy prepreg tape for use in various aerospace and commercial applications. Both Boron and SCS silicon carbide fibers are monofilaments made by chemical vapor deposition. SMI has also used its expertise in gas phase chemical processing to develop a boron nanopowder for use in magnesium diboride superconductors. SMI is ISO 9001 certified.

For further information about this or other SMI products, please contact Bill Grant by e-mail at [wgrant@specmaterials.com](mailto:wgrant@specmaterials.com) or by phone at 978-322-1972, or visit our website at [www.specmaterials.com](http://www.specmaterials.com).

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