Trans #	Acquiring	Acquired	Entities
20000895	OCM Principal Opportunities Fund, L.P	TCW Special Credits Fund V—The Principal Fund.	New Bristol Farms, Inc.
20000899	HAL Trust	Cole National Corporation	Cole National Corporation.
20000906	Tyco International, Ltd	Eric R. Cosman	Radionics, Inc.
20000912	First Union Corporation	Hosokawa Micron Corporation	Hosokawa Micron Corporation.
20000922	Clear Channel Communications, Inc	Clear Channel Communications, Inc	CCC-Houston AM, Ltd.
20000926	Industrial Growth Partners, L.P	Louisiana-Pacific Corporation	Associated Chemists, Inc.
20000928	Royal KPN N.V	Euroweb International Corp	Euroweb International Corp.
20000930	Olympus Growth Fund III, L.P	Doane Pet Care Enterprises, Inc	Doane Pet Care Enterprises, Inc.
Transactions Granted Early Termination—12/13/1999			
20000660	Johnson & Johnson	Cygnus, Inc	Cygnus, Inc.
20000689	The Coastal Corporation	TransCanada PipeLines Limited	TransCanada Energy Marketing Inc., TransCanada Gas Processing USA Inc.
20000904	Repsol, S.A	Repsol, S.A	Repsol, S.A.
20000917	Jack P. Cook, Jr	Louis D. Root	Root Corporation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sandra M. Peay or Parcellena P. Fielding, Contact Representatives, Federal Trade Commission, Premerger Notification Office, Bureau of Competition, Room 303, Washington, DC 20580, (202) 326–3100.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

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FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

[File No. 991–0167]

MacDermid, Inc., et al.; Analysis to Aid Public Comment

AGENCY: Federal Trade Commission.

ACTION: Proposed consent agreement.

SUMMARY: The consent agreement in this matter settles alleged violations of federal law prohibiting unfair or deceptive acts or practices or unfair methods of competition. The attached Analysis to Aid Public Comment describes both the allegations in the
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in the following markets: (1) The research, development, manufacture, and sale of liquid photopolymers for use in the manufacture of flexographic printing plates for printing on packaging materials, such as corrugated containers and multi-wall bags (''Liquid Photopolymers''); and (2) the research, development and sale of solid sheet photopolymers for use in the manufacture of flexographic printing plates for printing on packaging materials such as plastic bags and other flexible packaging, as well as corrugated containers and multi-wall bags (''Sheet Photopolymers'').

The proposed complaint alleges that the Liquid Photopolymer market in North America is highly concentrated, and that the proposed acquisition of Polyfibron by MacDermid represents a virtual merger to monopoly in that market.

The proposed complaint also alleges that the Sheet Photopolymer market in North America is highly concentrated, with the pre-merger market being dominated by two firms, E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Inc. (''DuPont'') and Polyfibron (selling its own-manufactured Sheet Photopolymer products, and those of BASF under the 1995 distribution agreement). Other firms that participate in the North American Sheet Photopolymer market are niche players with minor market shares. While MacDermid does not produce Sheet Photopolymers, it entered into a distribution agreement with Asahi in 1998 that gives it the right—which it has not yet exercised—to distribute and sell Asahi's Sheet Photopolymer products in North America. The proposed complaint alleges that the existence of the respective distribution agreements means that the present duopoly in the sale of Sheet Photopolymers in North America would be further entrenched, because the only two likely entrants, BASF and Asahi, are bound by the distribution agreements to sell only through polyfibron and MacDermid, respectively.

The proposed complaint further alleges that the effect of the acquisition may be to substantially lessen competition and to tend to create a monopoly by, among other things, eliminating direct competition between MacDermid and Polyfibron in the manufacture, distribution and sale of Liquid Photopolymers, entrenching the existing duopoly in North America in the sale of Sheet Photopolymers, increasing the likelihood that purchasers of Liquid Photopolymers and Sheet Photopolymers will be forced to pay higher prices, increasing the likelihood that technical and sales services provided to customers will be reduced, and increasing the likelihood that innovation will be reduced. Customers have complained that the effect of the transaction would be increased prices for Liquid Photopolymers and Sheet Photopolymers and reduced technical service, support, and innovation.

The proposed complaint further alleges that entry into the relevant markets would not be timely, likely, or sufficient to deter or offset the adverse effects of the acquisition on competition. Entry is difficult in this market because of the length of time it would take and the expense that would be incurred in building appropriate chemical production facilities; the difficulty of perfecting the underlying polymer chemistry without violating existing patents; the need to offer to customers plate-making equipment on a consignment or lease basis and the concurrent difficulty and cost of obtaining a source of supply for plate-making equipment; and the difficulty of gaining recognition in a marketplace in which customers are reluctant to change from proven suppliers. In addition, the proposed complaint alleges that most customers in the relevant market for Liquid Photopolymers are engaged in long-term equipment and material supply contracts with either MacDermid or Polyfibron, further reducing the number of customers available to a new entrant at any given time.

Finally, the proposed complaint alleges that the respondents have allocated markets for the sale of photopolymers with competitors, or invited competitors to allocate markets for the sale of photopolymers. Specifically, the complaint alleges that beginning in 1995, when MacDermid first entered the market for the production and sale of Liquid Photopolymers (by virtue of its acquisition of Hercules, Inc.'s photopolymer business), MacDermid and Asahi agreed to allocate markets such that Macdermid would not compete in the sale of Liquid Photopolymers in Japan and in other areas of the world in which Asahi sold Liquid Photopolymers while Asahi would not compete in the sale of Liquid Photopolymers in North America. In the case of Polyfibron, the proposed complaint alleges that during the same period of 1995 through 1998, Polyfibron engaged in discussions with Asahi that had as their purpose the division of markets between the two companies. The proposed complaint alleges that on several occasions during this time period, Polyfibron invited Asahi to agree not to compete in the sale of Sheet Photopolymers and Liquid Photopolymers in North America in return for Polyfibron's agreement not to compete in the sale of Sheet Photopolymers and Liquid Photopolymers in Japan.

The proposed Order is designed to remedy the anticompetitive effects of the acquisition in the North American markets for Liquid Photopolymers and Sheet Photopolymers, as alleged in the complaint, by requiring the divestiture of Polyfibron's Liquid Photopolymer business, by requiring the respondents to terminate their respective distribution agreements with Asahi and BASF, and by requiring the respondents to cease and desist from entering into, inviting or participating in any agreements to

Polyfibron's Liquid Photopolymer business. The proposed Order also requires that respondents provide incentives to certain employees identified by the acquirer as important to the continued competitiveness and viability of the Liquid Photopolymers business, to facilitate their transfer and the transfer of know-how to the acquirer.

The proposed Order to Maintain Assets requires that respondents preserve the Polyfibron Liquid Photopolymer business as a viable and competitive business until it is transferred to the Commission-approved acquirer. It includes an obligation on respondents to build and maintain a sufficient inventory of Liquid Photopolymers to ensure there is no shortage of supply during the period that the business is being transitioned to the Commission-approved acquirer, and obligations to maintain an adequate workforce.

Both the proposed Order and the