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New Fluids Offer Next Generation of Vacuum Lubricants

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Nye Lubricants, Inc. has announced an agreement with a major raw material supplier to custom-synthesize new multiply alkylated cyclopentane (MAC) fluids to produce specific viscosities exclusively for Nye's customers.

MACs are unique synthetic hydrocarbon oils with low vapor pressures that are formulated into lubricating oils and greases by Nye for terrestrial vacuum and space-based applications. Custom synthesized MAC viscosities allows Nye to better tailor a lubricant to a component's specific load, torque and low-temperature requirements, which should improve the life and performance of the device.

Currently there are three standard grades of MAC fluids, 14.5cs, 220cs and 8cs at 100°C. All three can be blended to achieve any viscosity between 8 and 220cs. A blend of two or more different viscosities can provide a higher viscosity index and lower pour point. However, a blended fluid is generally more volatile than a fluid synthesized for a specific viscosity.

"A blend has a sort of 'lowest common denominator' type of functionality," said Joe Braza Nye's director of technology. "For 99% of applications that's good enough. But in semiconductor fabrication equipment or satellites, where the quality and longevity of the device is absolutely paramount, that's where a custom synthesized viscosity can make all the difference."

Many studies have shown that MAC-based lubricants provide the highest degree of wear protection for loaded, metal-on-metal, oscillatory motion in a vacuum. NASA has employed MAC lubricants formulated by Nye since their commercialization in the early 1990s. Nye is the exclusive global reseller of MAC fluids.

ABOUT NYE: Nye Lubricants is an engineering company that seeks long-term partnerships with innovative companies that use high-quality synthetic lubricants and optical gels to increase the value of their products. Nye's synthetic lubricants and optical gels are specified in a full range of industries, including automotive, aerospace, appliance, aviation, electronics, medical instrumentation, office automation, paperboard manufacturing, photonics, semiconductor manufacturing, sporting equipment, telecommunications, and textiles. Founded in 1844, Nye maintains regional engineering offices throughout the United States and a network of distributors in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America.

For more information, contact Nye at 508-996-6721 or pennzane@nyelubricants.com.