



News Release

Bayer MaterialScience Injects New Life into Makrolon Bird

Newbury, January 14, 2009 – Newbury-based Bayer MaterialScience, has come to the rescue of sculptor, Richard Broderick, in his quest to create a rather unusual piece of artwork.

Using Bayer's Makrolon® polycarbonate sheet, Richard has created a metre high metal bird, called 'Mating Bird'. The Tyneside-based sculptor spent around 40 days over six months making the impressive figure, which has a wingspan of 1.2m, features flapping wings, a tail which lifts and fans, and a neck and head that turns from left to right as it raises and lowers. The bird opens its beak and his eyes light up as he displays for an imaginary mate. The mechanisms are driven by motors housed in a Perspex box allowing the viewer to see how the bird works.

Richard explained: "I'd originally used some Makrolon for a large public commission – to colour the light coming from conical lamps. This was for a project in a square created for a new swimming pool in Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne. I also made a mechanised collection box for a gallery, and even some shelves for my bathroom! As I discovered, you can do quite a lot with Makrolon because it's strong and easy to work.

"When I was designing the bird I remembered the Makrolon left over from the lamps, and realised it would be perfect for the frame as it's strong and also very beautiful when polished. The Makrolon is also good for creating the components within the mechanisms due to being relatively light for the level of strength."

As the bird has only recently been completed, Richard has not yet decided what to do with it, but it probably won't be the last time he uses Makrolon.

Richard has been working as a professional artist since 1985. He has completed hundreds of projects ranging from small-scale sculpture to public art works.

His website www.richardbrodericksculptor.co.uk has a short video of the bird in action.

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Note to Editors

About Bayer MaterialScience:

With 2007 sales of EUR 10.4 billion, Bayer MaterialScience is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, electrical and electronics, construction, and sports and

leisure industries. At the end of 2007, Bayer MaterialScience had 30 production sites and employed approximately 15,400 people around the globe. Bayer MaterialScience is a Bayer Group company.

For more information visit www.bayermaterialscience.com or www.bayer.co.uk

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