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News Release  
For Immediate Release

## **InMat, The Leader in Nanocomposite Barrier Coating Technology, Receives \$1.5 Million in Funding**

Hillsborough, NJ April 14, 2003 --- InMat Inc. (formerly InMat LLC), a leader in the area of functional nanocomposite coatings, announced a round of venture financing today. The round was led by Pangaea Ventures, and was also joined by NGEN Partners and DSM Venturing.

Purnesh Seegopaul, of Umicore USA Inc. and advisor to Pangaea Ventures, and Erik Wolters of DSM Venturing will join Harris Goldberg, Carrie Feeney, and Wayne Tamarelli on the InMat Board. Steve Parry, Partner, NGEN Partners will attend board meetings as an observer.

With its functional nanocomposite coating approach, InMat® has solved a generic problem in the rubber industry – rubber is too permeable for most of its applications. Thus tires and sports balls lose air, and chemical protective gloves must be very thick and stiff if they are to provide adequate protection. InMat aqueous elastomeric nanocomposite coatings provide a unique combination of barrier performance and flexibility that will lead to major innovations in all of these areas. Its first product, Air D-Fense 2000 is used in Wilson Sporting Good's Double Core tennis balls, the official ball of the Davis Cup.

Purnesh Seegopaul, who led pioneering work on the manufacturing of nanostructured composites in the 1990's, said, *"InMat has succeeded in exploiting nanotechnology to engineer solutions for improved everyday applications. At the same time, the InMat team has designed an environmentally friendly, scalable, robust manufacturing process to facilitate the transition to industrial production."*

InMat's technology platform is based on its expertise in developing stable aqueous dispersions of polymer and nanodispersed layered silicates that can easily be applied to form good barrier coatings. In addition, it has proprietary technology for controlling the interfacial interactions enabling the resulting coatings to be flexible enough for products made out of rubber.

Paul Hamm, Director of DSM Venturing and Business Development said: *"The investment is at the heart of two of our focus areas: functional coatings and nano-applications and allows DSM to further explore our core-competences in these fields"*.

InMat is currently working with potential customers to develop tires that will be less expensive, more fuel efficient, and safer while reducing disposal costs. InMat is also working to develop improved gloves for protection against chemical warfare agents with the support of U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (Natick Labs, Natick, Mass.).

*"With its established customer base, proven technology and strong financial backing, we believe InMat will be able to quickly penetrate several new markets. We look forward to working with Harris Goldberg and his team",* said Steve Parry, Partner, NGEN Partners LLC.

*"All three investors have an understanding of materials technology, and will provide valuable help and assistance in addition to their financial investment",* said Carrie Feeney, Vice President and COO.

*"This deal will not only bring the resources InMat needs to develop additional markets and products, but also bring in partners that can significantly impact the growth of our business",* said Harris Goldberg, President and CEO. *"We are very proud that these three investors see our potential and have invested in InMat."*

**InMat, Inc. ([www.InMat.com](http://www.InMat.com))**

InMat Inc., The Innovative Materials Company, is a New Jersey based company leading the development and commercialization of nanocomposite barrier coating technology. InMat targets sporting goods, automotive, packaging, and personal protection markets. The company is committed to providing environmentally friendly coatings to improve product performance for industrial customers.

**Pangaea Ventures ([www.pangaeaventures.com](http://www.pangaeaventures.com))**

Pangaea is a venture capital firm based in Western Canada that invests in post-seed, early stage companies. It focuses on advanced materials, including nanomaterial and alternative energy technologies and software companies. Pangaea prides itself on building companies by providing strategic technical and business expertise. One of Pangaea's strategic investors is Umicore, a leading, global metals and materials company. This is the third portfolio company for Pangaea Ventures.

**NGEN Partners LLC ( [www.NGenpartners.com](http://www.NGenpartners.com) )**

NGEN is a venture capital fund dedicated to identifying and nurturing emerging companies that address large market opportunities in the materials fields. Based in Santa Barbara, CA, the fund is engineered so as to support portfolio companies in accelerating product development progress. Investors in the fund, the fund's limited partners, include Air Products and Chemicals, BASF, Bayer, BHP Billiton, Boeing, DSM, Dupont, Henkel, Schott Glas, CDP Capital – Technology Ventures, and Unilever. The fund includes as portfolio companies Agile Materials and Technologies, Inc., Catalytic Solutions Inc., Optiva Inc. and Oxonica Limited.

**DSM Venturing ([www.dsm-venturing.com](http://www.dsm-venturing.com))**

DSM Venturing is part of DSM's Venturing & Business Development business group and was formed in the first half of 2001. It has already invested in several Venture Capital Funds and is shifting its focus toward direct investments in early stage companies in DSM's strategic growth fields: Food Ingredients, Pharmaceutical Intermediates and Performance Materials. This is the fourth direct investment of DSM Venturing.

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