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For Immediate release:

CMAI Completes 2009 World Xylenes & Terephthalates Analysis

Houston, TX – Chemical Market Associates, Inc. (CMAI) announces the completion of the **2009 Xylenes & Terephthalates Analysis**, an annual global study covering the future outlook for supply, demand, production, capacity, trade, pricing and profitability of the global mixed xylenes, paraxylene, orthoxylene, metaxylene, TPA and DMT markets for the period 2003-2013. Included with the analysis is access to CMAI's online capacity and supply/demand databases with a mid-term update. This study leverages all of CMAI's worldwide consultants to offer a global view of the major issues facing this important industry.

The analysis is a necessary resource for business managers and planning professionals who need to make strategic business decisions based on the recent unpredictability in the global financial markets and fluctuations in energy prices. High energy prices plagued the first half of 2008 and pushed producers into negative margin territory. The rapid fall off in energy in the back half of 2008 gave relief as aromatics pricing collapsed along with the energy complex but collapsing global demand tempered this. Aromatics complexes globally are under extreme financial stress and are seeing very limited volume as the global economic meltdown has resulted in extremely poor downstream demand.

Demand drivers for mixed xylenes, PX, TPA and DMT continue to be region specific. Absolute demand and demand growth in Asia continue to be dominated by polyester fiber, which dwarfs the market size of PET resin, although the latter has grown significantly. In Europe and the Americas, PET bottle resin has significantly increased market share and now exceeds demand for polyester fiber, but PET is now showing significant signs of maturing in those regions. However, PET demand may face trouble in the future.

While increased base energy costs have encouraged beverage companies to reduce the weight of their PET package thus reducing some of the demand growth for PET, this light weighting ultimately further solidifies PET's position in those applications as it increases the technical requirements for potential substitutes. A more important trend in PET is the shift from carbonated soft drinks, sports drinks and juice consumption by consumers toward bottle water. As bottled water uses 50 to 70 percent less plastic per equivalent amount of contained fluid, this can result in a contraction in PET demand even when overall container demand is showing positive growth.

CMAI's **2009 Xylenes & Terephthalates Analysis** is available in book and CD-ROM format, with access to CMAI's Online Capacity and Supply/Demand databases. With updates to the Capacity database as changes in the marketplace occur, and an annual mid-year update to the Supply/Demand database (which now includes the current economic recession), clients find this database access to be a necessary tool for their strategic business decisions.

CMAI is the premier provider of Market and Business Advisory Services offering a unique combination of consulting analytics and expertise for the global chemical, plastics, fibers and chlor-alkali industries. With offices in Houston, New York, London, Dubai, Düsseldorf, Singapore and Shanghai, CMAI has provided expert advisory services to a broad base of companies across multiple value chains and geographies since 1979. Clients to CMAI services include chemical and oil companies, technology & EPC companies, banking and financial institutions, plastic converters, textile & apparel manufacturers, brand-owners, grocers/retailers, government agencies and trading companies.

For more information on the *2009 Xylenes & Terephthalates Analysis*, visit CMAI's website at www.cmaiglobal.com or contact:

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