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Manufacturer wins recycling award

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Manufacturer of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) containers Polypet has received the Packaging Council of South Africa award for Best Recycled Product of the Year in the Best Recycled Product competition hosted by the South African Plastics Recycling Organisation (SAPRO) and Plastics SA.

The manufacturer, which is a division of rigid plastic packaging supplier Polyoak Packaging, won the award for a 1.5 l cold drink bottle that it manufactures from recycled content for retailer Woolworths.

Recycled materials for the Polypet bottles were supplied by recycling plant Extrupet, which is able to produce recycled goods for use in food contact applications.

"Extrupet received international accreditation from the Bureau Veritas Certification for its recycling process for PET flakes for use in food packaging, making the recycler the first in the world to achieve such accreditation," says SAPRO chairperson **Douglas Greig**.

The juice bottle represents the commitment of a complete value chain to make

a difference: Woolworths' commitment to the environment, Extrupet's commitment to world-class recycle, Polypet's commitment to manufacture aesthetically appealing packaging that meets consumers' expectations and PET recycling company Petco's commitment to extended producer responsibility.

"This bottle is an example of how major retailers can influence an industry when it makes a commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainability," states Plastics SA sustainability council chairperson and Petco CEO **Cheri Scholtz**.

Other categories in the competition included the 100% postconsumer recycle category, the percentage recycle mixed with virgin materials category, the mixed recycled materials category, as well as special merit awards.

Products were judged by a panel of plastics experts, taking into account the life expectancy of the product, sustainability and long-term demand and market acceptance, tonnage diverted from land-



BEST BOTTLE

Woolworths' 1.5 l bottle from Polypet wins top award in Best Recycled Product competition

fills and converted into a product, replacement of alternative materials, technical achievements in manufacturing to overcome recycled material challenges and, lastly, measures taken to ensure product consistency and customer satisfaction despite recycled material content.

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