

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

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In re:	:
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CEP HOLDINGS, LLC,	: Case No. 06-61796
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Debtor.	: Chapter 11
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(Employer Tax I.D. No. 20-330088)	: Honorable Russ Kendig
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In re:	:
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CREATIVE ENGINEERED POLYMER PRODUCTS, LLC,	: Case No. 06-61794
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Debtor.	: Chapter 11
	:
(Employer Tax I.D. No. 20-3210816)	: Honorable Russ Kendig
	:
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In re:	:
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THERMOPLASTICS ACQUISITION, LLC,	: Case No. 06-61797
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Debtor.	: Chapter 11
	:
(Employer Tax I.D. No. 20-3851291)	: Honorable Russ Kendig
	:
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**MOTION OF DEBTORS AND DEBTORS
IN POSSESSION PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY
RULE 1015(b) FOR JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER 11 CASES**

CEP Holdings, LLC, Creative Engineered Polymer Products, LLC and Thermoplastics Acquisition, LLC (each a “**Debtor**” and collectively, the “**Debtors**” or “**CEP**”) in the above-captioned Chapter 11 cases (the “**Cases**”), hereby move (the “**Motion**”), pursuant to section 105(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”) and Rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “**Bankruptcy Rules**”), for the joint administration

of the Cases for procedural purposes only. In support of the Motion, the Debtors refer to and rely upon the Affidavit of Joseph Mallak in Support of Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Motions (the “**Mallak Affidavit**”), filed contemporaneously herewith, and respectfully represent as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. The Court has jurisdiction over this Motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. Consideration of the Motion is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).
2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
3. The predicates for the relief requested herein are section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).

BACKGROUND

4. On the date hereof (the “**Petition Date**”), each Debtor filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

5. The Debtors are operating their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107 and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code. No trustee, examiner or official committee of unsecured creditors has been appointed.

A. Summary of Capital Structure and Current Business Operations

6. Creative Engineered Polymer Products, LLC, (“**CEPP**”) is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Ohio. CEPP is wholly owned by CEP Holdings, LLC (“**Holdings**”), a privately-held limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Ohio. Holdings is a holding company whose sole asset is its membership interests in CEPP. CEPP has three subsidiaries: (i) Composite Parts Mexico S.A. de C.V. (the “**CEP Mexico**”), a Mexican corporation which is 99.9% owned by CEPP and .01% owned by non-debtor Reserve Capital Group, Ltd; (ii) Thermoplastics Acquisition, LLC (“**Thermoplastics**”), an Ohio limited

liability company which is wholly owned by CEPP and is a debtor in these cases; and (iii) CEP Latin America, LLC (“**CEP LA**”), a non-debtor Ohio limited liability company which is wholly owned by CEPP. CEP LA was never funded and has no operations or debt. The principal place of business of the Debtors is 3560 West Market Street, Suite 340, Akron, Ohio 44333.

7. The Debtors operate 10 manufacturing plants in Ohio, Michigan, Alabama, South Carolina and Mexico, including a plant in Canton, Ohio. CEPP operates six plants in Ohio, Michigan and Alabama. Non-debtor CEP Mexico operates two plants in Mexico. Thermoplastics operates one plant in Ohio and one in South Carolina.

8. CEP and its debtor subsidiaries are custom molders and extruders of rubber and plastic products, primarily for the OEM automotive market. The Debtors have achieved a unique position as preferred suppliers of high quality products to major customers, including General Motors, Delphi Corporation, Visteon, Nissan, Daimler-Chrysler, Honda and GKN Automotive. CEP has maintained this position as a leader in the marketplace through innovative manufacturing techniques and by continuously improving its broad base of material and process technology.

9. Gross sales for the Debtors’ businesses are projected to be approximately \$190 million for fiscal 2006. The Debtors’ nearly 1,106 employees manufacture the Debtors’ products at ten strategically located manufacturing facilities in Ohio, Michigan, South Carolina, Alabama and Mexico.¹ The Debtors also maintain a Technical Center in Livonia, Michigan which offers design assistance and program management services for the Debtors’ businesses.

¹ CEP Mexico, a non-debtor, produces high quality plastic products at two factories in Mexico.

B. Prepetition Debt Structure

10. The Debtors were formed as part of two separate purchase transactions on August 16, 2005 and December 20, 2005, respectively. As part of the August 16, 2005 transaction, the CEPP and CEP Mexico businesses were purchased from the Carlisle Companies. In conjunction with the transaction, CEP Acquisition LLC n/k/a CEPP entered into a Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of August 16, 2005 (the “**Prepetition CEPP Credit Agreement**”) with Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central) (“**WCFC**”), as both Agent and Lenders thereunder. The Prepetition CEPP Credit Agreement provided two term loans and a revolving credit facility to CEPP in the maximum amount of \$45 million (collectively, the “**CEPP Prepetition Loan**”). The CEPP Prepetition Loan is secured by substantially all the assets of CEPP, including, without limitation, all accounts, general intangibles, goods, inventory, equipment, real property, accounts receivable, other personal property and proceeds thereof (collectively, the “**Prepetition CEPP Collateral**”). As of the Petition Date, the amount outstanding under the CEPP Prepetition Loan was not less than \$21,693,507.60 (not taking into account pre-petition and post-petition interest, fees and expenses to which Agent may be entitled under the Prepetition CEPP Credit Agreement and applicable law).

11. As part of the December 20, 2005 transaction, CEPP purchased the Thermoplastics business from Parker Hannifan Corporation. In conjunction with the transaction, Thermoplastics entered into a Loan and Security Agreement, dated as of December 21, 2005 (the “**Prepetition Thermoplastics Credit Agreement**” and together with the Prepetition CEPP Credit Agreement, the “**Prepetition Credit Agreements**”) with WCFC, as both Agent and Lenders. The Prepetition Thermoplastics Credit Agreement provided a term loan and a revolving credit facility to Thermoplastics in the maximum amount of \$5 million (collectively, the “**Thermoplastics Prepetition Loan**” and together with the CEPP Prepetition Loan, the

“**Prepetition Loans**”). The Thermoplastics Prepetition Loan is secured by substantially all the assets of Thermoplastics, including, without limitation, all accounts, general intangibles, goods, inventory, equipment, accounts receivable, other personal property and proceeds thereof (collectively, the “**Prepetition Thermoplastics Collateral**” and together with the Prepetition CEPP Collateral, the “**Prepetition Collateral**”). As of the Petition Date, the amount outstanding under the Thermoplastics Prepetition Loan was not less than \$4,219,688.58 (not taking into account pre-petition and post-petition interest, fees and expenses to which Agent may be entitled under the Prepetition Thermoplastics Credit Agreement and applicable law). The Prepetition Credit Agreements are cross-defaulted and cross-collateralized.

12. Prior to the Petition Date, Visteon Corporation, General Motors Corporation and Delphi Corporation (collectively, the “**Customers**”) and WCFC entered into a Subordinated Participation Agreement dated June 30, 2006 and a First Amendment to Subordination Participation Agreement dated August 18, 2006 pursuant to which the Customers purchased subordinated, last out participation interests (the “**Participation Interests**”) in the Prepetition Loan Facilities. The Customers purchased \$2.9 million of Participation Interests, the proceeds of which were used by the Debtors to fund their operations and the building of the Customers’ parts.

C. Events Leading To The Filing Of These Chapter 11 Cases

13. The Debtors and other automotive suppliers and manufacturers have faced a series of unanticipated operational and market challenges that have adversely affected their operations and cash flows. These challenges have impaired both the Debtors’ suppliers and customers which in turn have severely affected the Debtors’ operations and businesses.

14. With respect to suppliers, the September 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast region have disproportionately damaged manufacturers who rely on plastic resins. Shortly after the

hurricanes, the Debtors began experiencing sharp increases in their principal raw materials (plastic resins) which increases were attributable to interrupted refining capacity. With prices already high due to increased global demand, insecurity and supply constraint issues, the hurricanes magnified the rise in the price of crude oil and natural gas. The Debtors have continued to experience significantly higher costs for raw materials.

15. With respect to the Debtors' customers, the Debtors have been unsuccessful in recovering much of these increases in raw material costs from their customers through price increases. The structure of the American automotive industry is such that it is difficult for manufacturers such as the Debtors to pass rising material costs on to customers. Faced with rising costs, the Debtors have expended substantial effort in attempting to source cheaper alternatives (such as recycled materials and alternative formulations) for substitution of higher cost materials. Despite these efforts, most of the Debtors' customers have delayed approving these material substitutions. Although the Debtors are now starting to experience success in receiving approvals of the material substitutions, the damage to the Debtors' liquidity is irreversible outside the protections of the Bankruptcy Code.

16. In addition to increased material costs, the general instability of the industry has directly harmed the Debtors' liquidity. For example, the Debtors have been impaired by the bankruptcy filing of several large OEM's, including Delphi Corporation, the Debtors' second largest customer. The bankruptcy filing of Delphi in October 2005 alone resulted in a cash loss to the Debtors of nearly \$1.7 million based on the Debtors' unpaid prepetition claim in that case.

17. In addition to bankruptcy filings in the industry, the general credit downgrade has led to delays and increasingly delinquent customer payments for approved tooling programs. These programs are typically managed and paid for by the Debtors for the benefit of a particular

customer which subsequently reimburses the Debtors. The increased delays and failure of customers to pay for these programs have decreased the portion of accounts receivable against which Wachovia will lend under the Prepetition Credit Agreements. This, in turn, has further impaired the Debtors' liquidity.

18. The Debtors have further experienced excess capacity at their plants due to decisions by their customers. For example, GM's transfer from the GMT800 platform to the GMT900 platform has led to substantial idling of capacity. In late 2005, GM started phasing out the GMT800 platform, a manufacturing platform in which the Debtors were heavily involved. The Debtors have been harmed by this action because (i) the Debtors have significant up front costs invested in the GMT800 platform and (ii) GM has not provided the Debtors with replacement work in the new GMT900 platform. Thus, the Debtors have not recovered their costs associated with the GMT800 platform and are operating at significantly lower capacity at several manufacturing plants due to a failure to receive work under the GMT900 platform.

D. Prepetition Activities

19. In an attempt to create maximum value for the Debtors' creditors, the Debtors worked with the Customers and WCFC to allow the Debtors to formulate a restructuring plan which would reorganize the Debtors outside of a chapter 11 proceeding. As part of this plan, in May 2006 the Debtors entered into a series of forbearance, accommodation and access and security agreements with WCFC and the Customers, which agreements provided a 120-day window for the Debtors to effectuate an out-of-court restructuring plan. This window expired September 6, 2006.

20. Given the size and complexity of the Debtors' operations and the continuation of the market circumstances described above, the Customers, WCFC and the Debtors ultimately determined that an out-of-court restructuring was not feasible. Thus, after exploring all options

and faced with a severe liquidity crisis, the Debtors have no choice but to commence these cases as the only means of preserving the Debtors as going concerns, and, thus, maximize the value of the Debtors' assets for their creditors.

21. With the aide of this Court and the support of WCFC and the Customers, the Debtors' goal is to stabilize their business operations and financial situation and sell their assets in a manner to maximize value for the Debtors' Creditors. As detailed in the Debtors' DIP Financing Motion,² filed contemporaneously herewith, WCFC and the Customers have agreed to provide post-petition financing and cash infusions to the Debtors which financing and cash infusions will fund the Debtors' costs of operations, wind down, restructuring and liquidation until such time that the Debtors' assets are sold pursuant to section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code. The Debtors believe that this course of action will maximize the value of their assets for all creditors.

RELIEF REQUESTED

22. By this Motion, the Debtors seek the entry of an order, pursuant to section 105(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b), authorizing the joint administration of the Cases for procedural purposes only.

BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

23. Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) provides in relevant part, "[i]f a joint petition or two or more petitions are pending in the same court by or against . . . a debtor and an affiliate, the court may order a joint administration of the estates." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(b). The Court may also exercise its equitable powers to grant the relief requested herein. Section 105(a) of the

² The full title of the DIP Financing Motion is CEP Holdings, LLC's Motion for Emergency Order Authorizing Debtors to: (A) Use Cash Collateral on an Emergency Basis; (B) Incur Postpetition Debt on an

Bankruptcy Code empowers the Court to “issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.” 11 U.S.C. § 105(a).

24. The Debtors are “affiliates” as such term is defined in section 101(2) of the Bankruptcy Code and as used in Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b). Thermoplastics Acquisition, LLC is the wholly owned subsidiary of Creative Engineered Polymer Products, LLC, which in turn is the wholly owned subsidiary of CEP Holdings, LLC. Accordingly, joint administration of the Cases is appropriate pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b).

25. The joint administration of the Cases will permit the Clerk of the Court to use a single general docket for each of the Cases and to combine notices to creditors and other parties-in-interest of the Debtors’ respective estates. The Debtors anticipate that numerous notices, applications, motions, other pleadings, hearings and orders in the Cases will affect many or all of the Debtors at the same time. Joint administration will save time, money and avoid duplicative and potentially confusing filings by permitting counsel for all parties in interest to (a) use a single caption on the numerous documents that will be served and filed herein, and (b) file the papers in one case rather than in each of the Debtors’ respective Cases.

26. Joint administration will also protect parties in interest by ensuring that parties in interest in each of the Cases will be notified of the various matters before the Court in all of the Cases.

27. The rights of the respective creditors of the Debtors will not be adversely affected by the proposed joint administration of the Cases because each creditor may still file its claim against a particular estate. In fact, the interests of all creditors will be enhanced by the reduction

Emergency Basis; (C) Grant Adequate Protection and Provide Security and Other Relief to Wachovia Capital Finance Corporation (Central); and (D) Grant Certain Related Relief.

in costs resulting from joint administration. The Court will also be relieved of the burden of entering duplicative orders and maintaining duplicative files. Finally, supervision of the administrative aspects of the Cases by the Office of the United States Trustee will be simplified.

28. The Debtors request that the official caption to be used by all parties in all pleadings in the jointly administered Cases be as follows:

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

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In re:	:
	: Case No. 06-61796
CEP HOLDINGS, LLC, <u>et al.</u> , ³	: (Jointly Administered)
	:
Debtors.	: Chapter 11
	:
	: Honorable Russ Kendig
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29. The Debtors submit that use of this simplified caption, naming only CEP Holdings, LLC, without specific reference to the other Debtors, will eliminate cumbersome and confusing procedures and ensure uniformity with respect to pleading identification.

30. The Debtors further request that the docket for each of the Cases be amended to contain the following legend:

An order has been entered in this case directing the procedural consolidation and joint administration of the Chapter 11 cases of CEP Holdings, LLC, Creative Engineered Polymer Products, LLC and Thermoplastics Acquisition, LLC. The docket in Case No. 06-61796 (RK) should be consulted for all matters affecting this case.

31. Relief similar to the relief requested herein has been granted by courts in this District and elsewhere in other Chapter 11 cases. *See, e.g., In re Nexpak Corp.*, No. 04-63816

(RK) (Bankr. N.D. Ohio July 19, 2004); *In re Am. Way Invs. Corp.*, No. 04-42629 (RB) (Bankr. N.D. Ohio June 9, 2004); *In re Waving Leaves, Inc.*, No. 03-66524 (RK) (Bankr. N.D. Ohio Dec. 3, 2003); *In re LTV Steel Co.*, No. 00-43866 (WTB) (Bankr. N.D. Ohio Dec. 29, 2000); *accord In re Dana Corp.*, No. 06-10354 (BRL) (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Mar. 3, 2006).⁴

NOTICE

32. Notice of the Motion has been given to (a) the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Ohio, (b) the Debtors' secured lenders, and (c) the Debtors' fifty (50) largest unsecured creditors on a consolidated basis. The Debtors submit that, under the circumstances, no other or further notice need be given.

33. Because this Motion presents no novel issues of law and the authorities relied upon are stated herein, the Debtors respectfully request that this Court waive the requirement contained in Local Bankruptcy Rule 9013-1(a) that the Debtors file a separate memorandum of law in support of this Motion.

34. Notwithstanding the possible applicability of Bankruptcy Rules 6004(h), 7062, 9014 or otherwise, the Debtors request the relief sought by this Motion be immediately effective and enforceable upon entry of the order requested hereby.

35. No previous motion for the relief sought herein has been made to this or any other court.

[Intentionally Left Blank]

³ The Debtors include: CEP Holdings, LLC, Creative Engineered Polymer Products, LLC and Thermoplastics Acquisition, LLC.

⁴ Because of the voluminous nature of these unreported orders, they are not attached to this Motion. Copies of these orders will be made available to parties upon request from the Debtors' counsel.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that this Court enter an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, granting the Motion and such other or further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 20, 2006
Cleveland, Ohio

CEP HOLDINGS, LLC, et al.,
Debtors and Debtors-in-possession

By: /s/ Joseph F. Hutchinson, Jr.
One of Their Attorneys

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