



## Metabolix offers new bioplastics

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Bioplastics maker Metabolix Inc. has launched new materials through development deals with Nypro Inc. Enhanced Coverage Linking Nypro Inc.

Both deals involve Telles, the joint venture between Cambridge, Mass.-based Metabolix and agricultural giant Archer Daniels Midland Co. of Decatur, Ill.

Lowell, Mass.-based Telles will work with Nypro — a major injection molder based in Clinton, Mass. — to develop a new grade of Mirel-brand bioplastic aimed at the injection molding market.

The Telles/Nypro material is a semi-crystalline polyester that's tough, durable and has excellent heat resistance, officials said in a June 22 news release. The material can replace polycarbonate and ABS and has better flow, processability and cycle times than other bioplastics, they added.

The new material "allows us to focus on high performance and durable applications within the business machine and consumer electronics market sectors," Bob Findlen, Telles vice president of sales and marketing, said in the release.

With Teknor Color — a unit of compounder Teknor Apex Co. of Pawtucket, R.I. — Telles has developed a range of color concentrates based on Mirel. The materials meet industry standards for compostability and biodegradability and can be used in a range of injection molding, sheet, film and thermoforming applications, officials said.

"Teknor developed this series of color concentrates for use with Mirel in direct response to customer demands for a wider range of bioplastic colorants," John Wood, Teknor Color technical manager, said in the release.

Mirel is a corn sugar-based polyhydroxyalkanoate resin that is biodegradable when disposed of in natural soil and water environments, or in home or industrial composting facilities. The first commercial-scale Mirel production plant — a 110 million-pound-capacity plant located next to an ADM corn mill in Clinton, Iowa — will open by the end of 2009.

Mirel currently is produced in pilot amounts at several locations, including Cambridge and Lowell.