



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Criterion Catalysts & Technologies Names New President

Houston, Texas, October 7, 2003 _ Criterion Catalysts & Technologies L.P., a subsidiary of CRI International, a Royal/Dutch Shell Group company, has announced the appointment of Pat Laabs as president. Laabs assumed his new responsibilities on August 1, 2003, as part of the company's recent reorganization.

"Pat brings 32 years of refining experience to Criterion," said David Aldous, CEO of CRI International and chairman of Criterion. "He truly understands what is important to our customers, because he has walked in their shoes. That perspective will be extremely valuable to our mutual success."

Laabs joined Criterion from Shell Oil Products US, where he was director of refining operations support. While at Shell and its joint ventures, his refining assignments included operations at Convent, La., and serving as assistant refinery manager in Port Arthur, Texas, and as refinery manager at the Delaware City refinery.

"I want to ensure we continue to get even better at the things that have made us successful in the past – providing state-of-the-art catalysts whenever and wherever a customer needs it, backed by excellent service," said Laabs of his new role at Criterion. "When I was in refining, the service I received from Criterion really stood out. They were always there when you needed them, regardless of where a problem originated. I want to be sure we continue to build on that reputation and deliver solutions that help our customers grow."

A San Antonio, Texas, native, Laabs was graduated from Texas A&I University with a degree in chemical engineering. He joined Saudi Aramco in 1976. Subsequent assignments included positions with Star Enterprises, Shell joint ventures, Motiva and Equiva Services.

About Criterion Catalysts & Technologies

Criterion Catalysts & Technologies is part of the CRI International family of companies, providing catalysts, process technologies and services for the full spectrum of hydroprocessing operations. Criterion's experience, know-how and state-of-the-art technologies have made it one of the most trusted solutions providers for the refining industry.