



inspiring everyday





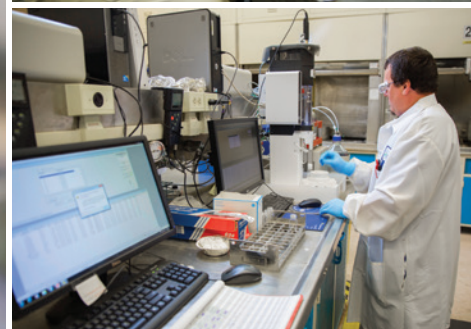
# Welcome to our world

**Ascend Performance Materials products are everywhere. Our chemicals, plastics and fibers are used to make thousands of everyday essential items, from car engines to sports equipment, cable ties to animal feed.**

Ascend is a global leader in the production of high-quality chemicals, fibers and plastics. Through the relentless pursuit of excellence, we provide solutions to customers all over the world, meeting new challenges through groundbreaking scientific research and inspiring our team members, our customers and our communities.

Our dedication and motivation has made us who we are today. But it also shapes our future. As we grow, we will keep meeting new challenges and exceeding expectations. Our people, our products and our business will continue to inspire people worldwide.

Together, we're **inspiring** everyday.



**Fact:** Ascend is one of the top 60 exporters of goods in the U.S. by volume



**Manufacturing locations:**  
Alvin, Texas; Decatur, Alabama; Foley, Alabama; Pensacola, Florida; Greenwood, South Carolina

## Worldwide reach, **individual support**

**Ascend's materials are in use all over the world. We always want to ensure our customers across the globe achieve the very best from our products. That's why we offer a support network that stretches worldwide. From our innovative scientific breakthroughs to after-sale technical support, we are dedicated to helping our customers meet their challenges, wherever they are.**

With three of the world's largest chemical processing facilities: for Acrylonitrile, Adiponitrile and Adipic Acid, Ascend's chemicals form the building blocks of products used in agriculture, road construction, water treatment and the oil and gas industry. Our five manufacturing facilities are located in the southeastern U.S., ideally located to capitalize on supplies of propane made available by shale gas extraction. Nearby ports make it easy for us to send our products across the world. Ascend's integrated facilities mean that we control every stage of manufacture, maintaining high standards but keeping costs competitive.

Throughout every stage of our work, we view our customers' needs as our top priority. We have expert applications-development specialists to help customer engineers and designers arrive at the best solutions to their nylon-based issues. Our internationally positioned field service engineers provide timely support before, during and after an order. With Ascend, you have the answers, every step of the way.

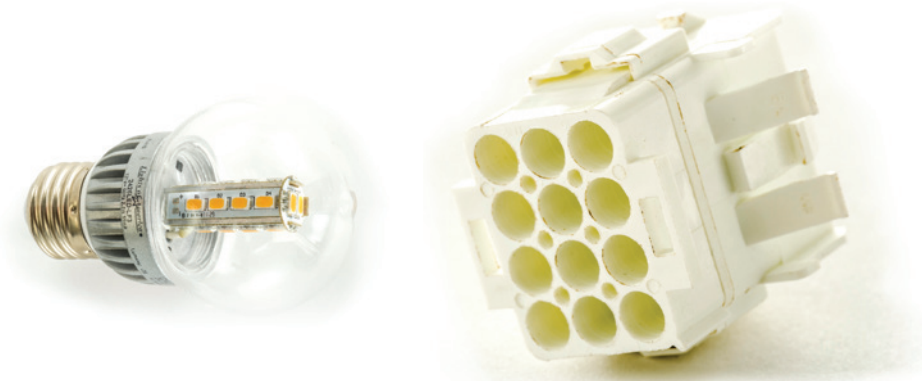
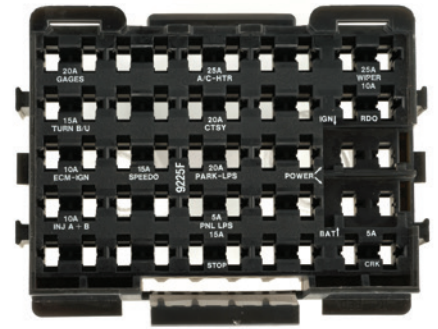
## Big innovation in small spaces

**Electronic devices are shrinking in size and growing in functionality – a big challenge for manufacturers. Smaller applications require increasingly compact designs and connectors that can operate at even higher temperatures, requiring resins that can tolerate the new, harsher conditions without compromising other key attributes.**

It's a challenge we were eager to rise to. At our Pensacola, Florida facility, we introduced a new compounding capacity and technology to meet the requirements of the growing polyamide 66 (PA66) markets.

The difference it has made has been sizable. Customers have reported vast increases in their connector run cycles before cleaning was needed to release compounds that foul tools, commonly referred to as plate-out. Some customers experienced increases of as much as 95%.

Our optimized grade PA66 from the new compounding line has better melt-flow than the industry-leading competitor as well as improved part-to-part consistency and shorter cycle times. Small products. But big differences.



## Specialty chemicals

**As the world's only large-scale converter of Acrylonitrile to Adiponitrile, Ascend is uniquely positioned for the production of dozens of amines, acids, esters and intermediates used in a wide variety of end applications.**

Our integrated manufacturing processes allow us to produce specialty chemicals like no other manufacturer. Ascend is one of the world's few producers of Hydrogen Cyanide, used in chelates around the world. We are the only company producing Triaminonane (TAN), used as a coating for oilfield equipment,

and Propionitrile, which goes into pharmaceutical intermediates.

Ascend's specialty chemicals offer customers unique solutions to industrial problems. Utility companies use our products to reduce their SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, cutting down on waste products that cause acid rain. Our Nitrilotriacetic Acid (NTA) is used to soften water in automatic dishwasher detergents. Ascend specialty chemicals are also used in hundreds of brand-name adhesives, coatings, cleansers and detergents.



## Ascend in everyday life

From baby strollers to lacrosse heads and aerosol valves to spatulas, Ascend products play an integral part in the manufacture of thousands of everyday objects. These different uses require different material properties.

Ascend is committed to producing the highest quality chemicals, fibers and plastics that meet the specialized needs of our customers. Our custom treatments allow our products to perform reliably and consistently, even under the toughest conditions.

With multiple integrated manufacturing sites, Ascend can assure security of supply through market fluctuations, and our international technical support teams work with customers to ensure needs are not just met, but exceeded.

Ascend exports more than **25,000** containers from the U.S. every year. Stacked end to end they would reach the International Space Station within two years



## The industry leader in everyday products

**There's a good chance you've used our products before. Whatever the custom application, each and every Ascend product has been tailored for its specific use by our research and development team. Our expert applications development specialists can customize our products for virtually any purpose. We can work alongside your engineers and designers, selecting Ascend's versatile resins according to strength, toughness, color, durability, and resistance to abrasion, chemicals and heat to ensure they are not just fit for purpose, but exceed all expectations.**

**Ascend's Vydine® PA66 provides the highest quality and consistency in nylon compounds and resins. This has made us an industry leader in technologies central to the production of the following items:**



### Textiles

Vydine PA66 products can be tailored for a range of textile applications. Ascend sewing thread offers a variety of fibers in different deniers. The different weave-widths can be used in anything from cots to parachute fabric, making Ascend Nylon popular in sewing thread for industrial clothing and military equipment.

### Raw materials

Ascend's unique polymerization process makes our products ideal for compounding feedstock. We can vary viscosity, moisture and yellowness according to requirements. The high quality of Vydine resin reduces downtime and improves throughput.





### Consumer and industrial

Ascend offers resins that are modified for toughness, abrasion resistance, a high melting point and resistance to chemicals such as oil, grease and gasoline. Industrial parts built with Ascend's products work better for longer. The versatility of PA66 also makes it ideal for packaging, food products, sporting and household goods.



### Electrical and electronic

Vydyne resins are highly crystalline and have a high melting point, making them strong, abrasion-resistant and resistant to chemicals at elevated temperatures. Components using Ascend's resins will withstand tough conditions, from initial assembly through to operation, in the hands of end-users. These properties make them perfect for use in terminal blocks, connectors, wall plates, solar photovoltaic equipment, lighting parts, battery seals and cable glands.

### Building and construction

Our materials are found in 80% of all cable ties sold in the U.S. Our thorough tests of the Vydyne used in cable ties measure the effects of UV, heat-aging, impact, loop strength, hydrolysis, brittleness and cold-weather to ensure the highest standards.

Ascend's Ultron® fiber, used in carpets, has 20% higher resilience and a 12% harder fiber surface than other nylon fibers. Designed to be long-lasting without wearing, losing pile height, or suffering loss of color, Ultron fibers keep carpets looking bright and new.



### Automotive

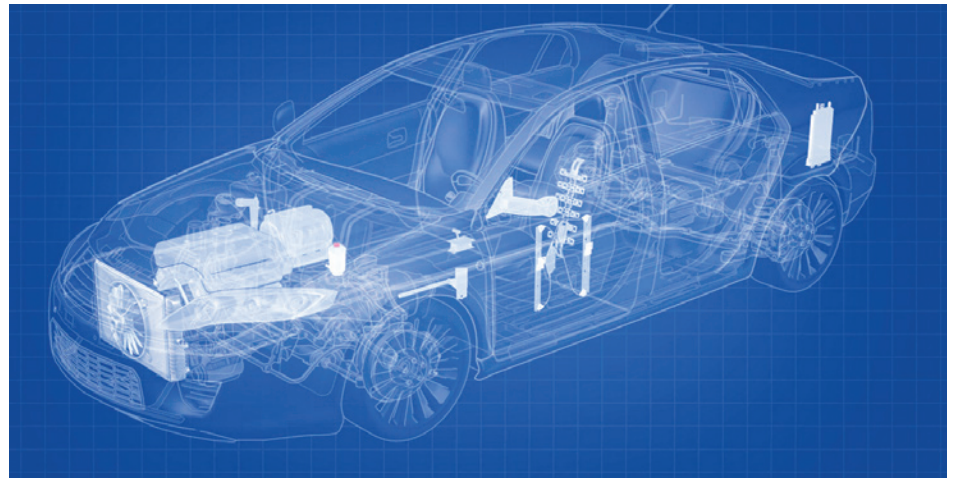
Ascend's products are used in automotive parts, from airbags to engines, rear-view mirror assemblies to lumbar adjusters. Vydyne resins and compounds deliver superior chemical and heat resistance under the hood for cooling systems and in powertrain parts.



## Compounds – a better solution The world-leading formula

Ascend's compounds can be treated in several ways that make them suitable for specialized uses. Every modification we make undergoes the same thorough testing. We insist on the best, most reliable results. That's how we have become world-leaders in our field.

We offer fiberglass reinforcement for additional strength, rigidity and hydrolysis-resistance at elevated temperatures. Our flame-resistant resins also provide improved electrical insulation. Impact modification makes them tougher in low- and room-temperature environments. Mineral-filling gives additional dimensional stability and stiffness at higher temperatures, and extrusion brings better melt strength, abrasion resistance and toughness.



## Ascend worldwide

As the world's leading producer of neat resin, demand for our products is of a truly international scale. 50% of our plastics revenue comes from Asia and recent statistics have ranked Ascend as the 56th largest exporter in the U.S.

With world-scale facilities at each stage of production, it's little wonder Ascend leads the way in the production of chemicals, fibers and plastics.

But there's more to our success than global reach. We want to inspire everybody we work with. We believe that every job makes a difference and every team member matters. It's our people and our values that tell the real Ascend story.



By working together and developing problem-solving skills we can become better at what we do



## What we believe

**Ascend's success revolves around our people. This success comes down to shared values and a commitment to inspiring customers, colleagues and the community. We can only offer the best products and customer service because of our shared beliefs and the way every Ascend team member approaches their work.**

Our five focus areas of safety, reliability, productivity, customers and people provide the basis for Ascend's values:

**We set high standards.** In everything we do, we commit ourselves to offering the best products and services.

**We collaborate across boundaries.** We encourage others. We give feedback. And when there's a challenge, we rise to it.

**We meet our commitments,** aiming to deliver the best results in everything we do.

**We encourage everyone to be a leader.** Our leaders ask questions and make connections that unite us with a single purpose.

**We are always learning,** striving to be better and thinking beyond. Ascend to Excellence (A2E) is our way of working together and developing problem-solving skills, allowing us to become better at everything we do.

Ascend is constantly evolving, but our values stay the same. Our reach is continually extending, but our resolve to be better never ends. Every day, more customers, in more countries use more of our products, but as we move forward our shared beliefs keep us on the path that helped establish us as a world leader.



# Ascend Cares

**The Ascend Cares Foundation is about making a difference in the lives of others. The foundation supports Ascend families in their time of need through hardship assistance, provides inspiring opportunities for community engagement, and facilitates community leadership. Funded entirely by donations, every dollar given to the foundation is matched by Ascend, and 100% of every dollar is put into the programs.**

The foundation's name says what is best about the people of Ascend: they care about each other and their communities. The name Ascend Cares was chosen as a tribute to their caring and giving spirit.

## People

Ascend Cares recognizes special circumstances by meeting a humanitarian need, helping families struggling with financial hardship caused by illness, injury, or disaster. The foundation provides financial assistance to ease the stress of meeting the basic needs of food, shelter and transportation.

## Leadership

We expect each of our more than 2,200 team members at Ascend to be a leader. The work of the foundation provides leadership

opportunities on both small and large projects. We also believe that creating a path for our team to become leaders in the community helps to ensure the success of our team, our company, and our communities.

## Community

We take seriously our responsibility to serve the communities in which we operate. The foundation creates opportunities for Ascend people to make a difference through community projects such as Habitat for Humanity builds and the Ascend Day of Doing Good. By making small grants available to projects that meet its criteria, Ascend Cares is engaged where Ascend people are engaged.

One of the foundation's most rewarding projects was helping a local woman in need of a new home. When Felicia Rich was told

Ascend Performance Materials was going to help build her new home, she had never heard of the company. Having previously been denied a loan to build a new house, Felicia was helped by more than 230 Ascend employees, working with Habitat for Humanity, to build a home for her and her twin boys. The project celebrated the company's 50th anniversary at the Chocolate Bayou site by making a difference in the life of a family in the community.

Ascend processor Irma Romero-Mcinnis said:

*"It made me feel like a better person because I helped do that. We helped do that. The Foundation helped do that: helped us help them."*



# inspiring everyday

**At Ascend we are continually improving the products we make and the service we provide. But our values make us more than that. From our scientific innovation to our work with customers and the community, we want to inspire people in everything we do. That's what we aim for, and it's made us a global leader in our field.**

We like to adopt customer needs as our own, and we are dedicated to finding the most cost-effective solutions. We customize our products for specialized needs. We pioneer new products for new requirements. Through everything we do, we're **inspiring everyday**. It's our way.





Chris

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ASSISTANCE UNIT

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