



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 1, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Cherilyn Bertges

Public Relations and Outreach Manager

[cbertges@obrc.com](mailto:cbertges@obrc.com)

**ORPET Enters New Era with Partner Merlin Plastics USA Ltd.**

**Warren, OR** – Plastics recycler, ORPET, located at the Port of St. Helens, began a new era with the addition of partner, Merlin Plastics USA Ltd. on November 7, 2014. Merlin Plastics purchased the ownership stake from Pacific PET, LLC. The Merlin Plastics group operates multiple plants on the west coast of North America. They have 26 years of experience processing PET and other containers, converting them to a variety of finished grades, including FDA approved pellets.

ORPET converts Oregon deposit beverage containers into clean, washed flake used in the manufacturing of new plastic products. Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative (OBRC), the organization that executes the functions of Oregon's bottle bill on behalf of beverage distributors, has been a partner in ORPET since its inception in 2012, and provides ORPET with a clean and stable source of recyclable plastic.

"ORPET has always been a project Oregonians could feel good about. Now that we are partnered with a well-established container processor in Merlin Plastics, the opportunities for using recycled Oregon PET only increase," says John Andersen, President of OBRC. "This is a step forward in our mission to continuously improve recycling practices surrounding Oregon's iconic bottle bill."

Merlin Plastics' manufacturing and distribution strengths combined with OBRC's raw material sourcing are expected to result in significant competitive benefits and growth opportunities for the new ORPET, Inc.

OBRC is a member-owned, cooperative corporation that collects and processes nearly all containers sold and redeemed in Oregon. OBRC counts, sorts, crushes, bales and recycles 1.2 billion containers each year. The entire process is funded and managed by

the beverage and grocery industries – at no cost to taxpayers.

Established in 1987, Merlin Plastics helps leading companies and environmental stewardship associations turn used plastics and packaging into new, usable materials. This reduces consumption of non-renewable resources and reduces our dependency on fossil fuels. The Merlin Plastics group serves customers across Canada and the US, employs approximately 200 people, and has the capability to process 200 million pounds of beverage containers per year.

# # # #