Huntsman Teams Up with Local Foodbank to Develop Prototype Food Storage Pod

Huntsman teamed up with one of our key customers – Dyplast Products, a manufacturer of insulated metal panels; along with several other companies including Kroger, the largest supermarket chain in the United States; Cardinal Manufacturing, a metal products fabricator; and Southeast Coolers, a manufacturer of walk-in coolers / freezers — to create a prototype mobile, refrigerated food storage container (pod) that will be used to feed the hungry in Montgomery County, Texas.

The Montgomery County Food Bank’s (MCFB) Produce Pod can store 210 boxes of produce, thus allowing local food banks and partners to distribute fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables to 735 additional individuals per day and more than 700,000 additional pounds of fresh produce annually.

The Produce Pod features IMPs, supplied by Dyplast, which utilizes Huntsman’s polyurethane-based technology. The insulation works so well, that the entire unit can be refrigerated to a constant temperature of 42 degrees F with a simple retrofitted window-mounted, air-conditioned unit running off of a regular 110-volt extension cord. This means the unit can be dropped off at various locations and allows the refrigeration unit to run off of a standard extension cord. The Produce Pod can be dropped off at a location and simply be plugged into a standard outlet.

“Approximately 50 percent of the world’s food would spoil without refrigeration. Polyurethane insulation helps preserve perishable food items by enabling temperature controlled conditions to be maintained throughout the cold chain; from production to processing to transportation to storage. We are excited that Huntsman’s polyurethane technology has been utilized in Dyplast Products insulated panels, and subsequently used to construct the MCFB Produce Pod to help prolong the shelf life of fresh produce,” said Eric Stebel, Communications Manager, Americas, Huntsman Polyurethanes.

Cutline for Photo: Allison Hulett, President & CEO, Montgomery County Food Bank
The issue with many food pantries is that they don't have the capacity to hold fresh produce because many of them don't have refrigeration units, so they have no way to keep the perishables items cold. The Produce Pod will help alleviate this problem in Montgomery County.