

Press Release

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ECKART Closes Production Site at Porto Marghera (Italy)

Güntersthal/ Porto Marghera, September 27, 2006 – As part of a consistent strategic and operative alignment, the Division Effect Pigments (ECKART Group) of ALTANA Chemie AG, Wesel, is concentrating on realizing synergy potentials and on improving the structures within the division. ECKART will be closing the production site for aluminum pastes at Porto Marghera near Venice/Italy at the end of 2006 and relocating production to the existing European sites.

ECKART has had four production sites for aluminum pastes at its disposal to date: two in the Italian towns of Rivanazzano and Porto Marghera and two in Wackersdorf and Velden, Germany. 38 employees are affected, though a number of them will be offered jobs in other sites where possible. The closure of the Italian plant in Porto Marghera is a consequence of excess capacity in Europe and satisfies the adjustment measures required of the European operating sites of the Division Effect Pigments. The ECKART Group is thus concentrating on seven production sites globally, with another in China in the planning. The ALTANA Chemie Group today has five sites in Italy: Ascoli Piceno, Quattordio, Collechio, Rivanazzano and Porto Marghera.

Altogether the ECKART Group supplies over 70 countries with effect pigments. These products lend special high gloss and brilliance to paints, printing inks or cosmetics. The product range includes aluminium, pearlescent and PVD pigments, metallic pigment coatings, gold-bronze and zinc pigments and even press-ready metallic printing inks for the Graphic Arts industry. ECKART pigments are widely used, for example, in the automobile industry and also for other types of paint and coatings. The plastics industry uses them, among others, as dye pigments. In the manufacture of lightweight concrete aluminium pigments serve as a propellant.

ALTANA Chemie develops and produces high-quality innovative products in the specialty chemicals business. The ALTANA Chemie AG group, with headquarters in Wesel/Germany, is a genuine "global player" with 84% of its sales generated by international activities. The ALTANA Chemie Group has four divisions: Additives & Instruments, Effect Pigments, Electrical Insulation, and Coatings & Sealants. All of these divisions occupy a leading position in their target markets with respect to quality, product solution expertise, innovation and service. ALTANA Chemie offers innovative, environmentally compatible solutions with the matching speciality products for coating manufactures, paint and plastic processors, the printing and cosmetic industries, and the electrical and electronic industry. The product range includes additives, special coatings and adhesives, effect pigments, sealants and compounds, impregnating resins & varnishes, and testing and measuring instruments.

At present the ALTANA Chemie Group has 34 production facilities and 42 service and research laboratories worldwide. Throughout the group about 4400 people work to ensure the success of ALTANA Chemie worldwide. In 2005 ALTANA Chemie achieved sales of 907 million euros. Its impressive earning power and high growth rate make ALTANA Chemie one of the most successful and innovative chemical groups worldwide.

Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made. ALTANA does not intend, and does not assume any obligation, to update forward-looking statements to reflect facts, circumstances or events that have occurred or changed after such statements have been made.

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