

## Press Release

ALTANA Innovation Conference holds its premiere:  
100 scientists discuss specialty chemicals solutions for tomorrow

**Wesel / Duisburg, Germany, November 5, 2008.** ALTANA AG continues to back research and innovation also in economically more difficult times, just as it always has. For the first time since the repositioning of the Group with its concentration on the specialty chemicals business, about one hundred of ALTANA's top scientists and development engineers are coming together today and tomorrow in the Mercatorhalle in Duisburg in the first "ALTANA Innovation Conference". They are to discuss technical and economical developments and trends, to exchange experiences and to develop specialty chemicals products for the future. Among the many important topics are new, functional surfaces, polymer electronics, nanotechnology, and the application of biotechnological processes in specialty chemistry. After its starting signal in this year, the ALTANA Innovation Conference is from now on going to take place on an annual basis. The Group-wide best innovation will be presented the "ALTANA Innovation Award".

"Innovation is the ultimate key for ALTANA's further growth," stated Dr. Matthias L. Wolfgruber, CEO of ALTANA AG. This is why the company's investments in research and development were almost twice as high as the average in the chemicals industry. Dr. Wolfgruber continued, "With these investments we safeguard our technological lead and offer our customers unique, innovative products and services, paving the way for the future success of our company."

"What is our life going to be like in ten or twenty years? What needs will people then have? Which are the decisive technologies to fulfill these needs? And in which areas will ALTANA then be present with its products? Among others, we are going to discuss these questions on a cross-division basis during the two days of the conference," explained Dr. Georg Wießmeier, who is responsible for innovation at ALTANA as the company's Chief Technology Officer. In addition to the exchange of expert knowledge, networking is also given special emphasis. "We are to exploit the globally available knowledge and expertise in the company in an even more efficient way in the future. We wish to identify synergies and eventually transfer them into new products. To this end we need employees who communicate across divisions and countries and jointly develop innovative solutions for our customers."

**This press release is also available on [www.altana.com/press](http://www.altana.com/press)**

This press release contains forward-looking statements, i.e. current estimates or expectations of future events or future results. These statements are based on beliefs of ALTANA as well as assumptions made by and information currently available to ALTANA. 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.

#### About ALTANA:

ALTANA develops and produces high-quality innovative products in the specialty chemicals business. The ALTANA Group, with headquarters in Wesel/Germany, is a genuine "global player" with 83% of its sales generated by international activities. The ALTANA Group has four divisions: **BYK** Additives & Instruments, **ECKART** Effect Pigments, **ELANTAS** Electrical Insulation, and **ACTEGA** Coatings & Sealants. All of these divisions occupy a leading position in their target markets with respect to quality, product solution expertise, innovation and service.

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Contact  
Corporate Communications

Achim Struchholz  
Head of Corporate Communications  
Tel +49 281 670-2460

Sven Kremser  
Head of External and  
Internal Relations  
Tel +49 281 670-746

Heike Dimkos  
Corporate Communications  
Tel +49 281 670-792

Fax +49 281 670-1114  
[press@altana.com](mailto:press@altana.com)  
[www.altana.com/press](http://www.altana.com/press)

ALTANA AG  
Abelstraße 45  
46483 Wesel  
Germany  
Tel +49 281 670-8  
Fax +49 281 670-1114  
[info@altana.com](mailto:info@altana.com)  
[www.altana.com](http://www.altana.com)

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ALTANA offers innovative, environmentally compatible solutions with the matching specialty 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 Group has 32 production facilities and 46 service and research laboratories worldwide. Throughout the group about 4,800 people work to ensure the success of ALTANA worldwide. In 2007, ALTANA achieved sales of about 1.4 billion euros. Its impressive earning power and high growth rate make ALTANA one of the most successful and innovative chemical groups worldwide.