

Wesel, July 27, 2004

BYK-Chemie GmbH

Postfach 10 02 45
46462 Wesel

Abelstraße 45
46483 Wesel
Germany

T +49(0) 281 670-0
F +49(0) 281 65735
info@byk.com
www.byk-chemie.com

Nano Additives from BYK-Chemie: First Application in the Field of PVC Floor Coverings

On the occasion of the K 2004 to be held in Düsseldorf from October 20 – 27, 2004 BYK-Chemie presents two products for plastics based on nanotechnology.

The products are marketed under the tradenames **NANOBYK-3600** and **NANOBYK-3601**. They have been developed to improve scratch and wear resistance of UV-coatings that can also be applied to plastics (e.g. as a top coat for Vinyl Floorings). NANOBYK-3600 is a water-based dispersion of nano-Alumina particles. At levels of 0.5% to 5% being applied to water-based UV-coatings NANOBYK-3600 improves significantly the scratch resistance of those coatings. NANOBYK-3601 is a dispersion of nano-Alumina in Tripropylene Glycol Diacrylate (TPGDA) developed for 100% UV curable coatings. Again by adding 0.5% to 5% to the coating formulation mechanical properties of the coatings are improved significantly.

These products have jointly been developed by BYK-Chemie and Nanophase Technology Corporation (NTC). Following the equity investment of ALTANA Chemie end of March 2004 this is the first product launch based on the worldwide strategic alliance of the two companies. "We are pleased to announce the availability of the first nanotechnology products based on the knowledge and the capabilities of BYK-Chemie and NTC. Since there is more and more interest being shown in these products by different customers all over the world we see this very early product launch as a proof for the value of the partnership for both our customers and the two companies involved." says Dr. Roland Peter, Managing Director of BYK-Chemie, Wesel.

BYK-Chemie and Nanophase Technology Corporation expect further products to be introduced throughout 2004 covering other application properties that can be achieved using nanotechnology.

.../2

- 2 -

About BYK-Chemie:

BYK-Chemie is one of the World's Leading Suppliers of Additives used in the Coatings, Inks, and Plastics Industry.

Approximately 85 % of our sales are generated by exports. Our major export markets are Europe, the United States and the Far East.

Chemical additives are used by processing industries in the production of coatings, inks, and plastics. In very small quantities, BYK additives simplify manufacturing processes, and significantly improve the quality of finished goods, such as motor vehicles and furniture. BYK-Chemie is a member of ALTANA Chemie AG, Wesel. ALTANA Chemie is developing and producing high quality, innovative products in the sector of speciality chemicals.

BYK-Chemie has been producing additives since 1962 in Wesel. Today it employs over 881 people worldwide, 25 % of whom work in research and development departments or technical laboratories.

About Nanophase

Nanophase Technologies (NANX), www.nanophase.com, provides nanoengineered solutions for multiple industrial product applications. Using a platform of patented and proprietary integrated nanomaterial technologies, the Company creates products with unique performance attributes from two ISO 9001:2000 facilities. Nanophase delivers commercial quantity and quality nanoparticles, coated nanoparticles, and nanoparticle dispersions in a variety of media. The Company owns or licenses 23 United States patents and patent applications and 27 foreign patents and patent applications.

For enquiries:

BYK-Chemie GmbH
Julia Terheiden
Market Communication

Tel.: (0281) 670-741
Fax: (0281) 670-660
E-mail: julia.terheiden@byk.com