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INERGY AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS DEPLOYS ITS FUEL SYSTEMS BUSINESS IN CHINA, INDIA AND RUSSIA

The Solvay / Plastic Omnium joint venture supplies its automotive customers on strong-growth markets

Solvay today announced that its Inergy Automotive Systems subsidiary, world leader in fuel systems for the automotive industry, has just launched a plant construction project at Wuhan in the Hubei province of China. The facility will go on stream in 2008 to deliver fuel systems to production plants operated by Nissan and General Motors in China. Inergy Automotive Systems, in which Solvay and French group Plastic Omnium each have a 50% interest, will also be seeking new opportunities on the strongly growing Chinese market.

According to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM), sales of private cars rose by 37% last year in China to 3.8 million vehicles.

Inergy Automotive Systems is also in the process of negotiating the purchase of a site between Moscow and Nijni Novgorod, with a view to building a new facility to supply the fuel system for the Logans produced by Renault/Dacia in Russia. The plant would start shipping as from 2008. Inergy Automotive Systems already supplies the system for the down market Renault/Dacia out of its Romanian facility. Inergy Automotive Systems then plans to build on this first venture in Russia to develop new business with other manufacturers operating in the country.

Inergy Automotive Systems has also set up a company in India that will ultimately operate at a location between Bangalore and Chennai in the South-East. It will produce the fuel system for a low-cost model that a Japanese auto maker is planning to develop to target the emerging countries, and that is slated for release in 2010.

Renault, Nissan and Mahindra also have plans to build a new assembly plant with an annual capacity of 400,000 vehicles near Chennai.

The new production plants will extend the network already operated by Inergy Automotive Systems in Korea, Japan and Thailand, as well as Poland, Slovakia and Romania to satisfy the strong automotive demand in Asia and Eastern Europe.

“Inergy Automotive Systems’ ambitious projects to win new business on high-potential markets are part of the sustainable and profitable growth strategy pursued by the Solvay Group”, explained Jacques van Rijckevorsel, General Manager of the Plastics Sector and Member of the executive Committee, Solvay. “IAS equips one new car in five worldwide; our leadership position enables us to supply car makers worldwide and match their development in strong growth markets,” he added.

Inergy Automotive Systems is the world’s number one supplier of complete plastic fuel systems and fuel storage technologies (for petrol, diesel and biofuels). The company was set up as an equal share joint venture by the French company Plastic Omnium and Solvay SA. Inergy Automotive Systems has its head office in Paris; the company employs a workforce of around 4,500 and has 23 production plants in 16 countries. For more details go to www.inergyautomotive.com.

SOLVAY is an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs some 29,000 people in 50 countries. In 2006, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 9.4 billion, generated by its three sectors of activity: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals. Solvay (Euronext : SOLB.BE - Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR) is listed on the Euronext stock exchange in Brussels. Details are available at www.solvay.com.

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