

SOLVAY AND HUATAI TO JOINTLY BUILD HYDROGEN PEROXIDE PLANT IN CHINA***Hydrogen Peroxide plant will produce for growing Chinese market***

Solvay today announces that it has struck an agreement with Huatai Group of China to establish a Hydrogen Peroxide joint venture. The joint venture company, Shandong Huatai Interox Chemical Co Ltd, will build a Hydrogen Peroxide plant at Huatai's new site in Dongying, Shandong Province, China, with an annual capacity of 50,000 metric tons per year. The plant is expected to be completed by the end of 2011. The joint-venture agreement was signed yesterday at a ceremony presided over by Mr. Xi Jinping, Vice President of the People's Republic of China, in Brussels, Belgium.

China is the largest market in the world for Hydrogen Peroxide and is expected to continue to grow strongly. Solvay is the global leader in the Hydrogen Peroxide industry and this project represents an opportunity for Solvay to establish an industrial and commercial presence in this important market with a strong partner. Huatai is producing Hydrogen Peroxide since many years, primarily for its internal consumption of its paper production processes, and this project increases security of supply for its growing needs.

The joint venture will not only serve Huatai, but also other Chinese industries requiring hydrogen peroxide (textile, chemicals, etc.). In addition, the joint venture will utilize Solvay's leading technology for the production of high purity grades of Hydrogen Peroxide and Peracetic Acid. With such grades, Solvay has developed a leading position in aseptic grades for the food and packaging industry worldwide.

"This investment will make it possible to competitively participate in this important market with a strong partner who brings good integration, both upstream and downstream, and with good support from the authorities in Dongying," says Mr. Mignonat, General Manager of the Strategic Business Unit Peroxides at Solvay. "In addition, we will be able to better serve our existing customers for our specialty products in China."

"It is our great pleasure to collaborate with Solvay, a world famous company with advanced technology and management. The collaboration between both parties will foster a strong alliance between them, which have complementary strengths. We will jointly develop a hydrogen peroxide company with advanced technology and applications", says Mr. Li Jianhua, President of Huatai Group.

HUATAI GROUP is a one of major companies in China with business in Paper and Chemicals. The company is one of top 500 companies, top 100 public listed companies in China. It has more than 15,000 employees and 3 million ton paper production capacity. Huatai is the biggest news print manufacturing company worldwide. Chemical is an import business sector with annual capacity of 1 million ton of various chemical products including caustic soda and hydrogen peroxide. Huatai has developed collaborations with other famous international companies in recent years.

SOLVAY is an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs more than 29,000 people in 50 countries. In 2008, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 9.5 billion, generated by its three sectors of activity: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals. Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels (NYSE Euronext: SOLB.BE - Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBt.BR). Details are available at www.solvay.com.

For further information please contact:

ERIK DE LEYE

Manager Press and External Communications

SOLVAY S.A.

Tel: +32 2 509 7230

erik.deleye@solvay.com

www.solvaypress.com

PATRICK VERELST

Head of Investor Relations

SOLVAY S.A.

Tel: +32 2 509 7243

patrick.verelst@solvay.com

www.solvay-investors.com

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