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## SOLVAY INCREASES SODIUM BICARBONATE PRODUCTION IN ITALY TO SERVE GROWING DEMAND

### *New Sodium Bicarbonate capacity will mainly be used for environmental applications*

Solvay today announces that its sodium bicarbonate production capacity extension at its Rosignano site, Italy, successfully started production. With this expansion, Rosignano will become the world's biggest sodium bicarbonate production plant with a yearly capacity of 250,000 tons. Solvay manufactures sodium bicarbonate in Europe, in Egypt and in the U.S.A. With the capacity expansion in Rosignano, Solvay's total annual production capacity for sodium bicarbonate has reached now 870,000 tons.

Sodium bicarbonate is marketed by Solvay under the brand name BICAR<sup>®</sup> for a wide variety of applications, whose fast growth calls for additional production capacity. In particular, Sodium bicarbonate contributes substantially to the protection of the environment with the NEUTREC<sup>®</sup> process, developed by Solvay for flue gas treatment.

Furthermore, special grades of BICAR<sup>®</sup> are used in several pharmaceutical and paramedical applications such as haemodialysis. The sodium bicarbonate plants in Dombasle, France, and Torrelavega, Spain, have recently also implemented the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Standard for APIs (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients), and obtained also the Certificate of Suitability of the Monograph of the European Pharmacopoeia (CEP).

Sodium bicarbonate is also traditionally used in human food and animal feed industries, in detergents, fire extinguishers and most recently for the cleaning of surfaces and the removal of asbestos (BICARJET<sup>®</sup>) in buildings, etc.

"This new capacity will allow satisfying the increased demand for sodium bicarbonate of our customers", says Giordano Zappelli, Marketing Manager of the Sodium Related Products activity of Solvay's Sodium Carbonate Strategic Business Unit. "This investment in Italy will enable us to continue to demonstrate the outstanding environmental benefits of sodium bicarbonate", he adds.

#### Note to the editors:

Sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO<sub>3</sub>) is a white crystalline powder, also known as bicarbonate of soda or baking soda. This non-toxic specialty is often described as a "miracle" product owing to the variety of its home uses: baking, cleaning, deodorizing, water softening, tooth whitening, digestion aid, etc. The wide range of domestic and industrial applications results from the intrinsic features of sodium bicarbonate, which include antacid, effervescent and mildly abrasive properties.

**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](http://www.solvay.com).

#### For further information please contact:

**ERIK DE LEYE**  
Corporate Press Officer  
SOLVAY S.A.  
Tel: +32 2 509 7230  
[erik.deleye@solvay.com](mailto:erik.deleye@solvay.com)  
[www.solvaypress.com](http://www.solvaypress.com)

**PATRICK VERELST**  
Head of Investor Relations  
SOLVAY S.A.  
Tel. +32 2 509 7243  
[patrick.verelst@solvay.com](mailto:patrick.verelst@solvay.com)  
[www.solvay-investors.com](http://www.solvay-investors.com)

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