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**PLASTIC OMNIUM INTENDS TO ACQUIRE SOLVAY'S STAKE  
IN INERGY AUTOMOTIVE SYSTEMS*****Non-binding memorandum of understanding signed about taking full ownership***

Solvay announces today that Plastic Omnium has expressed its intention to take full ownership of Inergy Automotive Systems. Both companies have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding in this regard. Inergy Automotive Systems, an equal share joint venture of Solvay and Plastic Omnium, is the world's number one supplier of integrated fuel tank systems. The joint venture employs approximately 4000 people worldwide and operates 24 manufacturing facilities in 18 countries. Its sales amounted to about 900 million EUR in 2009.

Both companies are expecting to reach an agreement in the coming months, which will be subject to the usual antitrust authorizations and following employee consultations.

"Solvay has guided and supported the successful development of Inergy Automotive Systems and continued to bring his technological and industrial know how to this successful venture with a very professional partner. We are convinced the new ownership will secure the best sustainable growth prospects for Inergy Automotive Systems", comments Claude Thibaut de Maisières, Senior Executive Vice President. "Furthermore, this step will simplify our product portfolio and allow the Group to even better focus on its strategic targets and businesses", adds Jacques van Rijckevorsel, Group General Manager of the Plastics Sector and member of the Executive Committee.

**PLASTIC OMNIUM** is a world leader in automotive components and modules, and a major European player in products and services for local communities. The Group employs about 14,000 people in 94 plants and 27 countries worldwide and booked sales of 2.5 billion EUR in 2009. Plastic Omnium is listed on the Euronext Paris stock market, Compartment B, and is included in the SRD long-only, in the SBF 250 and CAC Mid 100 indexes (ISIN code: FR0000124570). Details are available at [www.plasticomnium.com](http://www.plasticomnium.com).

**SOLVAY** is an international industrial Group active in Chemistry. It offers a broad range of products and solutions that contribute to improving quality of life. The Group is headquartered in Brussels and employs about 19,000 people in 50 countries. In 2009, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 8.5 billion. Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels (NYSE Euronext: [SOLB.BE](http://www.nyse.com/quote/SOLB:BE) - Bloomberg: [SOLB.BB](http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/SOLB:BB) - Reuters: [SOLBt.BR](http://www.reuters.com/quote/SOLBt:BR)). Details are available at [www.solvay.com](http://www.solvay.com).

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