

Brussels, 28 February 2012, at 7:30 am (Brussels time)

## VINYTHAI STARTS SUPPLYING ITS BIO-SOURCED EPICHLOROHYDRIN TO THE DYNAMIC ASIAN MARKET

### *EUR 120 million investment using Solvay's innovative Epicerol® technology*

Solvay announced today its Thai affiliate Vinythai has successfully commissioned its world-class bio-sourced Epichlorohydrin plant based on Solvay's innovative Epicerol® technology in Map Ta Phut, Thailand. The Epicerol® technology is based on the transformation of glycerin obtained as by-product from refining vegetable oils into biofuel. This technology is protected by 1000 patent titles, some of them already granted in different parts of the world.

Epichlorohydrin is an essential feedstock for the production of epoxy resins, increasingly used in applications such as corrosion protection coatings as well in the electronics, automotive or aerospace industry. Growing demand in the Asia-Pacific region can now be met by this bio-sourced plant with a production capacity of 100,000 metric tons per year. The world-class Epicerol® plant, which required a EUR 120 million investment, is providing its customers the possibility to improve the ecological footprint of their products.

"An environmental sustainable technology based on a renewable resource as raw material is now available in the fast growing Asia-Pacific Region. This world-class plant starts serving its customers, creating a win-win situation for Vinythai's customers and shareholders", commented Vincent de Cuyper, Group general Manager of the Chemicals Sector and member of the Executive Committee of Solvay. "With these dynamic market conditions in the whole region, Solvay is pleased to pursue its epichlorohydrin project in Taixing, China, for which it recently received the Environmental Impact Assessment approvals," he added.

**VINYTHAI** is a Vinyl and Chlor-alkali producer listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Its major shareholders are the Solvay Group (58.77%), PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (24.98%).

**SOLVAY** is an international chemical Group committed to sustainable development with a clear focus on innovation and operational excellence. Its recent acquisition of specialty chemicals company **Rhodia** created a much larger player, which is realizing over 90% of its sales in markets where it is among the top 3 global leaders. Solvay offers a broad range of products that contribute to improving the quality of life and the performance of its customers in markets such as consumer goods, construction, automotive, energy, water and environment, and electronics. The Group is headquartered in Brussels, employs about 29,000 people in 55 countries and generated EUR 12.7 billion in net sales in 2011 (pro forma). Solvay SA (**SOLB.BE**) is listed on **NYSE Euronext** in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: **SOLB.BB** - Reuters: **SOLBt.BR**).

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*Ce communiqué est également disponible en français – Dit persbericht is ook in het Nederlands beschikbaar*

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