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Solvay starts the production of specialty polymers compounds in China

Solvay announced today that its specialty polymers compounding plant located in Changshu, province of Jiangsu in China, has started to serve the local growing demand for specialty polymers compounds. The plant is mainly serving China's customers in the electronics, automotive, consumer and industrial applications markets with compounds of **Amodel[®] polyphthalamide (PPA)**, **Ixef[®] polyarylamide (PARA)** and Kalix[®] (modified PARa).

This plant required an investment of EUR 21 million and is fully adaptable for future expansion of overall capacity as well as production of compounds made out of other high performance polymers. It is adjacent to another specialty polymers plant which is currently under construction for the production of **SOLEF[®] Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF)**, **TECNOFLON[®] Fluoroelastomers (FKM)** and their essential monomer VF2.

"The start-up of our compounding plant in Changshu is an important step in the development plan of Solvay's growing industrial base in China where the Group is committed to increase its customer base. Sales of Specialty Polymers in Asia have already increased to over 30% of total sales and we see this trend continuing," comments Augusto di Donfrancesco, General Manager of the Global Business Unit Specialty Polymers.

More information about the three specialty polymers and their applications is available on the [next page in the notes to the editors](#).

SOLVAY is an international chemical Group committed to sustainable development with a clear focus on innovation and operational excellence. It 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 31,000 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

Notes to the editors

Ixef® polyarylamide (PARA) and Kalix® (modified PARA) are specialty high-performance polymers for structural applications where aesthetics and high stiffness are important considerations. **Ixef®** is used in automotive, consumer and industrial applications as replacement for metal. Typical applications for **Ixef®** and Kalix® compounds are light but strong structural frames for mobile handheld devices. **Ixef®** has also been used to produce parts of the landing gear mechanism of the exclusively solar powered airplane of Solar Impulse.

Amodel® polyphthalamide (PPA) is high-temperature polymer which retains its excellent mechanical properties – including fatigue and creep resistance – over a broad temperature range in humid and chemically aggressive environments. **Amodel®** is used for demanding automotive and industrial applications where it must withstand prolonged exposure to high heat, high humidity and aggressive chemicals, such as bio-diesel in fuel systems in cars or glycols and sulfuric acid in industrial installations. It is also used for electronic connectors and reflectors for surface mounted high brightness LED's. **Amodel®** has also been used for some internal parts in the throttle box and for the top view LED cups of the exclusively solar powered airplane of Solar Impulse.



Ixef® polyarylamide (PARA) is used in the landing gear mechanism of Solar Impulse.



Amodel® polyphthalamide (PPA) is used for the LED cups on the wings of Solar Impulse.

Pictures are available on demand.