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Solvay's new SOLEF[®] production capacity strengthens its leadership in the growing specialty polymers market

Solvay announced today that it is reinforcing its leadership on the growing world market for **SOLEF[®] Polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF)** by starting up new production capacity at its Tavaux plant, France. Solvay invested EUR 26 million to increase the PVDF production capacity at the plant by 50%.

Solvay's SOLEF[®] PVDF is, among others, used for demanding applications in oil & gas extraction, as binders and in separators in Lithium-Ion and Lithium-Metal-Polymer[®] (LMP) batteries in hybrid and electric cars, in semiconductor manufacturing, in water purification membranes for waste water filtration equipments or in batteries and capacitors which enable energy storage in a wide range of electronic devices. The outstanding properties of SOLEF[®] PVDF combined with the multiple available processing techniques make this fluorinated polymer a prime material for new applications in various demanding environments and applications.

"Global demand for PVDF grew markedly in the last five years. Our SOLEF[®] PVDF with its impressive competitive edge resulting from its product quality and consistency is clearly benefiting from such a significant market demand," commented Augusto Di Donfrancesco, General Manager of Solvay's Global Business Unit Specialty Polymers. *"Being used in an increasing number of applications that benefit from the global megatrends, we expect SOLEF[®] PVDF demand growth to continue. Our customers know they can build on our long experience and strong track-record as PVDF producer,"* he added.

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**).

For further details, please contact:

LAMIA NARCISSE
Media Relations
+33 1 53 56 59 62

ERIK DE LEYE
Media Relations
+32 2 264 1530

MARIA ALCON-HIDALGO
Investor Relations
+32 2 264 1984

PATRICK VERELST
Investor Relations
+32 2 264 1540

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