

Solvay begins a new chapter in its history while celebrating its 150th anniversary

Brussels, January 17, 2013 --- Solvay is to write a new chapter in its long history this year. Now ranking among the top 10 chemical companies worldwide, the Group founded by Ernest Solvay will celebrate in 2013 its 150th anniversary. Since its creation in 1863, the company has constantly transformed itself to adapt to macroeconomic and geopolitical challenges with, at the very heart of its company culture, a sincere passion for manufacturing and science, faith in progress, and respect for people. These are the values that continue to inspire Solvay today.

The new Solvay is the result of a 16-month integration process with Rhodia that has led to a radical transformation of the company's organizational structure. Solvay is now a highly decentralized group that is global in terms of its vision, local through the actions it takes, robust thanks to its size, and agile in the way it conducts its operations. Built on robust foundations, the Group has many things in its favor: the strength of its financial base and capital structure; a well-balanced range of activities thanks to an evenly distributed portfolio of businesses; an ambition and a products and services offering in line with the expectations of its customers today and tomorrow.

"Solvay is a well-established group proud of its 150 years of history, that continues to uphold the vision of its founder to develop chemistry at the service of human progress. Our ambition is to assert our position as one of the leading players in the global chemical industry, and we want to be recognized as a model for sustainable chemistry. Our business model is founded on growth and balance, and our performance shows that the new Solvay, so soon after its creation, can claim its place among the major players in the worldwide chemical industry," says Jean-Pierre Clamadieu, Chairman of Solvay's Executive Committee.

For Solvay, 2013 began with the launch of a new corporate identity designed to symbolize the transformation of the Group and express its vision. The year will also be marked by events organized both within and outside the Group with, in particular, the creation of a website and launch of publications dedicated to its 150 years of history. In order to perpetuate Ernest Solvay's commitment to scientific research, the Group has also created the *Solvay Prize for the Chemistry of the Future* designed to celebrate major scientific discoveries that will help to build the chemical industry of tomorrow. This prize of 300,000 euros will be awarded by a jury composed of worldwide renowned scientists for the first time in November 2013 and every two years after that.

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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