

## Solvay and the Japanese Institute for Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST) agreed on a long term partnership in next generation chemical synthesis.

Brussels, January 23<sup>th</sup>, 2019 --- Solvay is proud to announce today the launch of its long term partnership with the National Institute for Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST) in Japan. This joint research agreement is aimed at exploring new ways of synthesis of specialty chemicals, within the frame of global challenges such as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduction and resource efficiency.

AIST based in Japan, an iconic country for innovation, has a strong international reputation in applied chemistry, gathering top notch scientists in specific fields. AIST rarely engages in a long-term collaboration with a foreign company, in this case Solvay.

Solvay is a leader in markets as varied as aerospace, cars, electronics and cosmetics, developing for its customers, in its 21 major research and innovation centers all over the world, tailor-made solutions based on chemical formulations, materials and composites.

Solvay wants to accelerate its efforts toward the transition to a circular economy by teaming up its research teams with AIST, engaged in R&D to develop new ways to produce chemicals and materials with lower environmental footprint and process.

**SOLVAY** is an advanced materials and specialty chemicals company, committed to developing chemistry that addresses key societal challenges. Solvay innovates and partners with customers worldwide in many diverse end markets. Its products are used in planes, cars, batteries, smart and medical devices, as well as in mineral and oil and gas extraction, enhancing efficiency and sustainability. Its light weighting materials promote cleaner mobility, its formulations optimize the use of resources and its performance chemicals improve air and water quality. Solvay is headquartered in Brussels with around 26,800 employees in 61 countries. Net sales were €10.1 billion in 2017, with 90% from activities where Solvay ranks among the world's top 3 leaders, resulting in an EBITDA margin of 22%. Solvay SA (**SOLB.BE**) is listed on Euronext Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: **SOLB.BB** - Reuters: **SOLB.BR**) and in the United States its shares (**SOLVY**) are traded through a level-1 ADR program. *Financial figures take into account the announced divestment of Polyamides.*

**AIST**, one of the largest public research organizations in Japan, focuses on the creation and practical realization of technologies useful to Japanese industry and society, and on "bridging" the gap between innovative technological seeds and commercialization with the hope of building a sustainable society. AIST has about 2300 researchers in 11 research bases across Japan. AIST is actively building a global network by signing memorandums of understanding for comprehensive research cooperation with major research institutes around the world.

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