

## SOLVAY INCREASES ITS NATURAL VANILLIN PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN MELLE

**Melle, France – December 2, 2013** --- Solvay announces doubling its Natural Vanillin production capacity in Melle, France.

Solvay's Global Business Unit (GBU), Aroma Performance, a world-class leader in the vanilla flavors market, is strengthening its worldwide position as major producer of natural vanillin under its flagship brand Rhovanil® Natural.

*"The capacity extension of our production unit of Melle is part of a multi-year industrial plan which enhances our capability to be a reliable partner for our customers, especially in the food and fragrances industries. It is an important step in our strategy to continue strengthening our competitiveness and market position on natural vanillin"* says Dominique RAGE, Aroma Performance GBU President.

*"Together with ferulic acid sourcing securization, this capacity expansion is part of our continuous efforts to support our customers in seizing new market opportunities"* concludes Vincent LAJOTTE, Aroma Ingredients business Director.

Obtained by bio conversion of ferulic acid with a strain naturally occurring in nature Rhovanil® Natural, meets the strict requirements of natural status as defined by both European and US legislations.

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For more information, please visit our website [WWW.VANILLA-FLAVORS.COM](http://WWW.VANILLA-FLAVORS.COM)

Designing vanilla flavors since 1884, Solvay **Aroma Performance** was the first to synthesize and produce the vanillin molecule on an industrial scale. Solvay is the only producer mastering the whole manufacturing chain — from Catechol to its historic flagship brands Rhovanil® and Rhodiarome®. The Aroma Performance business unit operates facilities in Saint-Fons (France, Baton Rouge (USA) and soon in Zhenjiang (China).

As an international chemical group, **SOLVAY** assists industries in finding and implementing ever more responsible and value-creating solutions. The Group is firmly committed to sustainable development and focused on innovation and operational excellence. Solvay serves diversified markets, generating 90% of its turnover in activities where it is one of the top three worldwide. The group is headquartered in Brussels, employs about 29,000 people in 55 countries and generated 12.4 billion euros in net sales in 2012. Solvay SA (**SOLB.BE**) is listed on **Nyse Euronext** in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg:**SOLB:BB** - Reuters: **SOLB.BR**).

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*Ce communiqué de presse est également disponible en français. - Dit persbericht is ook in het Nederlands beschikbaar.*