Hannover, July 31st, 2017 --- The Düsseldorf Regional Court has decided in a judgment issued on July 18th 2017 that Neo’s sales into Germany of a certain cerium-zirconium mixed oxide composition infringed Solvay patent EP 0863846, which expired in June 2016. This last judgment follows a series of previous judgments issued on cerium-zirconium mixed oxide compositions which already found that Neo’s sales infringed two other Solvay patents and therefore enhances the basis for Solvay claiming damages from Neo for their past infringing activities. Neo has appealed those earlier judgments and has the right to appeal the July 18th judgment.

Solvay remains committed to enforce its intellectual property rights against suspected unauthorized use. It has also sued Neo in the United Kingdom Patent Court and in the Mannheim Regional Court in Germany, claiming infringement of one of Solvay’s affiliate Anan Kasei’s patents (EP 1435338) by certain Neo high surface area ceric oxide products - a state of the art technology that is essential for minimizing NOx emissions of the latest generation Diesel engines.

Rare earth oxides are used in automotive catalysts to abate noxious gases from engine exhaust. Ever stricter air quality standards require increasingly complex formulated rare earth oxides. Solvay’s OPTalys® and ACTalys® product ranges offer tailored solutions for all types of automotive catalysts and contribute significantly to cleaner mobility.

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