

Solvay Opens State-of-the-art Research & Innovation Laboratory in greater Tokyo area

Tokyo, 25 May 2015 – Solvay announces today the opening of a new research and innovation laboratory “Solvay Nicca Tokyo Innovation Laboratory”. Located near the Haneda airport and occupying a total area of 250 sqm, the laboratory will be the key innovation centre for Solvay Novecare to support Japanese customers in the Agrochemical, Coatings, Home & Personal Care and Industrial markets. This laboratory is fundamental to the growth strategy of Solvay and represents an important milestone in its ambition to deliver sustainable and innovative technologies to its customers in Asia.

“Japan has always been at the forefront of new, innovative technologies. With our key focus on bringing innovations to the market to answer our customers’ unmet needs, it becomes even more apparent that we need to have the most advanced application labs in this country. We can then offer our customers innovative solutions to help differentiate themselves in the marketplace”, said Pierre-Franck Valentin, Vice President & General Manager of Solvay Novecare Asia Pacific.

By basing one of our global innovation centres in the greater Tokyo area, Solvay Novecare is to take advantage of the country’s deep research and academic capabilities and ready infrastructure. The laboratory will be a key interface to our customers and partners, supporting them to develop formulations and new technologies in their key markets.

With the inauguration of the new state-of-the-art Research and Innovation lab in Tokyo, Solvay is developing some of its core application competencies in polymers and specialty surfactants technologies as well as develop new products in this premise, in conjunction with our R&D Innovation Centres situated in Singapore, Shanghai and other global sites. The laboratory will be one of the core innovation grounds in Asia Pacific for Solvay Novecare, a global leader in the specialty surfactants industry.

###

Solvay Novecare is a worldwide leader in specialty surfactants and a major player in polymers, amines, guar, and phosphorus derivatives. Solvay Novecare engineers and develops formulations that provide consumer products and state-of-the-art industrial applications with specific functional qualities designed to modify fluid behavior and deliver cleansing, dispersal, gelling, moisturizing, penetrating, softening or texturizing properties. These formulations are used in shampoos, detergents, paints and lubricants as well as in crop protection, mining and energy production and stimulation. Novecare, which boasts a worldwide network of 37 manufacturing sites and nine R&D centers, has become the preferred partner of its customers in rapidly growing economies and leverages an innovation platform based on sustainable solutions.

As an international chemical group, **SOLVAY** assists industries in finding and implementing ever more responsible and value-creating solutions. Solvay generates 90% of its net sales in activities where it is among the world’s top three players. It serves many markets, varying from energy and the environment to automotive and aerospace or electricity and electronics, with one goal: to raise the performance of its clients and improve society’s quality of life. The group is headquartered in Brussels, employs about 26,000 people in 52 countries and generated 10.2 billion euros in net sales in 2014. Solvay SA (SOLB.BE) is listed on Euronext in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: SOLB.BB - Reuters: SOLBT.BR)

MARK WHEELER
Global Communications

ABIGAIL TOH
AP Communications