

Press Release

ALTANA Chemie AG

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BYK-Chemie sells French marketing company to IMCD

Consolidation of strong position in France through joint marketing venture

Wesel/ Paris (France), July 2, 2004 – BYK-Chemie, a business unit of ALTANA Chemie AG, Wesel, has sold the French company BYK-Chemie France to the holding company of IMCD France SNC, while at the same time concluding a long-term supply and distribution agreement. IMCD owns the commercial firm of SPCI S.A. in Paris, St. Denis, which specializes in the distribution of specialty chemicals used in the paint and plastics sector. BYK-Chemie France with its 15 employees has concentrated on the sale of paint, plastics and wax additives in France. Details of the turnover and sales price have not been given.

“As a result of this sales and distribution agreement we expect considerable marketing synergies, which will strengthen our good position in the French additives business even more significantly, linked to an improved cost situation,” says Dr. Roland Peter, Business Unit Manager Additives & Instruments and Chairman of the Management Board of BYK-Chemie GmbH. “IMCD and SPCI offer a noticeably greater product portfolio in our target markets, which is superbly complemented by our additives.” The acquisition of staff and know-how will allow the existing contacts of field personnel with the customers to be developed still further.

ALTANA Chemie develops and produces high-quality, innovative products in the specialty chemicals business. The specialty chemicals activities of the ALTANA Group as a globally active group of companies are consolidated in ALTANA Chemie AG. ALTANA Chemie AG with its headquarters in Wesel, Germany, is the holding company for the three business units of Additives & Instruments, Coatings & Sealants and Electrical Insulation. ALTANA Chemie provides innovative and environmentally compatible solutions, along with the appropriate special products, for coatings manufacturers, paint and plastics processors, and the electronics industry. The range of products includes additives, special coatings, sealants, compounds, impregnating agents, and testing and measuring equipment. In its target markets the company occupies a leading position in terms of quality, product solutions, innovation and service. In 2003 ALTANA Chemie, with over 2,600 employees, achieved sales of €775m. Sectorally, therefore, ALTANA Chemie is among the most innovative, fast-developing and profitable chemical corporations in the world.

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