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BYK-Chemie Involved in European Research Project

Under the umbrella of the European Commission's "Competitive and Sustainable Growth Programme", BYK-Chemie is involved in a research project in the area of automotive coatings.

It is the aim of the three-year collaboration to establish a reliable test method for accelerated weathering for weatherproof, environmentally friendly automobile glazes. The focus of the overall project is on developing shorter market launch times, which should be achieved through the improved collaboration of the chemicals industry with the automobile industry, on the one hand, and with independent research institutes, on the other. Hence, BYK-Chemie has been invited to bring to the project its wide-ranging competence in the area of automobile coating additives. Other project members are companies in the automobile and automobile components industries such as the Volvo Car Corporation, DaimlerChrysler, Atlas MTT, Clariant and PPG.

Initial results are already in. Thus it has been possible to produce several innovative and environmentally friendly automobile coatings and to test them in real environments and under accelerated weather conditions. The final results are expected at the end of 2004, when they will be presented to the European Commission and then published by the project members.

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About BYK-Chemie:

BYK-Chemie is one of the World's Leading Suppliers of Additives used in the Coatings, Inks, and Plastics Industry.

Approximately 85 % of our sales are generated by exports. Our major export markets are Europe, the United States and the Far East.

Chemical additives are used by processing industries in the production of coatings, inks, and plastics. In very small quantities, BYK additives simplify manufacturing processes, and significantly improve the quality of finished goods, such as motor vehicles and furniture. BYK-Chemie is a member of ALTANA Chemie AG, Wesel. ALTANA Chemie is developing and producing high quality, innovative products in the sector of speciality chemicals.

BYK-Chemie has been producing additives since 1962 in Wesel. Today it employs over 881 people worldwide, 25 % of whom work in research and development departments or technical laboratories.

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This press release can also be found on the Internet at: www.byk-chemie.com.