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MEDIA INFORMATION

EMS Group: further concentration on Performance Polymers – sale of business unit INVENTA-FISCHER

The EMS Group continues to focus its strategy on Performance Polymers. Consequently, EMS has decided to sell business unit INVENTA-FISCHER to German plant contractor UHDE GmbH in Dortmund. UHDE will take over INVENTA-FISCHER – which plans and builds polymer and synthetic fibre production facilities – retroactively per 1 January 2004. Transfer of ownership will be effected at the end of June 2004, subject to approval by the antitrust authorities. The parties have agreed not to reveal the sales price.

UHDE intends to pursue the current activities of INVENTA-FISCHER unchanged at the existing locations Domat/Ems and Berlin and to retain the 160 employees.

UHDE, a company of ThyssenKrupp Technologies, is a plant contractor with international experience. It focuses on the design and construction of chemical and other industrial plants. The acquisition of INVENTA-FISCHER will provide UHDE with a strategically expanded range of processes.

Within the strategy of growth through speciality products EMS is focusing on Performance Polymers, in particular on metal-substituting and high-temperature-resistant plastics as well as custom adhesives. Over the past five years EMS has applied global investment of more than CHF 120 million to novel products and production processes, of which over CHF 100 million in Domat/Ems alone. The final stage of the high-temperature polyamide plant was completed at the beginning of 2004. In mid-April a further pilot and small-volume production plant for plastics became operational and the new facilities in Taiwan and the USA will start producing in autumn 2004.

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