

## **Solvay Opens Flagship Innovation Center in Singapore** Laboratory is the largest Solvay Innovation Centre for Novecare in Asia Pacific

**Singapore, 11 February 2014** – Solvay announces today the opening of a new Innovation Centre in Singapore. Located in Biopolis and occupying a total area of 1100sqm, the laboratory is the key innovation center in Asia Pacific for Solvay Novecare. The laboratory will lead global projects in the fields of Home and Personal Care, Coatings and Oil & Gas, including a dedicated team working on Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) solutions. In addition, it will be a regional hub in the development of sustainable solutions for the Agrochemical business.

“Singapore has undergone an important transformation in recent years and is now established as a key knowledge and innovation hub in the Asia Pacific region”, said Pierre-Franck Valentin, Vice President & General Manager of Solvay Novecare Asia Pacific. “By basing one of our global Innovation Centers in Singapore, we want to take advantage of the country’s research capabilities and ready infrastructure. Singapore’s strong intellectual property protection also makes it an ideal location to set up our new innovation laboratory that will address the challenges that the specialty chemicals industry faces in Asia.

With the inauguration of the new state-of-the-art Research and Innovation Center in Singapore, Solvay will be developing some of its core competencies in this new premises. Valued at an initial investment of about S\$3 million, the laboratory will be the core innovation ground in Asia Pacific for Solvay Novecare, a global leader in the specialty surfactants industry. Besides leading the global innovation projects in the three domains mentioned above, the researchers in Singapore will also provide technical support to Solvay’s regional customers as well as plants in the Zone.

Following the announcement made in April 2013 of Solvay’s construction of a large-scale alkoxylation facility in Singapore that will be ready by 2015, the laboratory is Solvay’s latest investment project in Singapore and has received strong support from the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). Speaking of the new laboratory, Eugene Leong, EDB’s Director of Energy & Chemicals said, “Solvay’s new Innovation Centre strengthens Singapore’s strategy to grow the specialty chemicals industry. The new lab presents opportunities for Solvay to be closer to their customers and partners in Singapore, especially those in the consumer and oilfield businesses. Solvay’s presence will also create exciting job opportunities for Singaporeans and develop our pool of talent in core innovation and leading technical services.”

In line with the company’s development plans, Solvay plans to boost the laboratory’s capabilities in the next 5 years with a further investment of about S\$8 million.

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With sales in 2012 of 1.7 billion Euros, **Solvay Novecare** is one of the major Global Business Units of the Solvay Group. The company 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, softening, moisturizing, gelling, texturizing, penetrating or dispersal 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 25 manufacturing sites and seven 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. The Group is firmly committed to sustainable development and focused on innovation and operational excellence. Solvay serves diversified markets, generating 90% of its turnover in activities where it is one of the top three worldwide. The group is headquartered in Brussels, employs about 29,000 people in 55 countries and generated 12.4 billion euros in net sales in 2012. Solvay SA ([SOLB.BE](#)) is listed on [Nyse Euronext](#) in Brussels and Paris (Bloomberg: [SOLB.BB](#) - Reuters: [SOLBt.BR](#)).

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