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PLASTIC OMNIUM INERGY LAYS THE CORNERSTONE FOR α -ALPHATECH, ITS NEW GLOBAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Laurent Burelle, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Compagnie Plastic Omnium, laid the cornerstone for α -Alphatech today in Venette, France. α -Alphatech is the future international research and development center of Inergy Automotive Systems, the world leader in fuel systems and tanks. The ceremony was attended by Philippe Marini, Senator from the Oise, Mayor of Compiègne and President of the Greater Compiègne urban community (ARC), and Renza Fresch, Mayor of Venette and Vice-President of ARC.

The new facility will be operational in September 2014. Covering a surface area of 23,000 sq.m, α -Alphatech is set on an eight-hectare site belonging to Plastic Omnium and near the current Inergy Automotive Systems plant. Located close to Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, it will be easily accessible to global automobile manufacturers, the Group's customers.

Representing an investment of €60 million, the center will bring together 450 employees currently divided between facilities in Venette and Laval in central France, as well as teams from the research and development center in Brussels that is dedicated to electronics. All employees from these facilities are scheduled to move to the new site and support measures aimed at facilitating the transfer of employees from Laval and Brussels are now being deployed.

With α -Alphatech in Compiègne, Plastic Omnium is providing its fuel systems business with a global research and development center inspired by the success of Σ -Sigmatech in Lyon, the dedicated R&D center for the automotive components business, which opened in 2002. Designed to facilitate exchanges and interaction, α -Alphatech, like Σ -Sigmatech, includes a pilot shop that makes it possible to directly test new products and systems and to validate developments before launching production in the Company's plants around the world.

Plastic Omnium will thus have two advanced automotive technology research and development centers in France. Together, they will employ more than 1,000 technicians and engineers, or 20% of Plastic Omnium's workforce in the country.

Media relations: *Michel Calzaroni/Tarick Dali. Tel: +33 (0)1 40 70 11 89*



Model of the future R&D Center α -Alphatech



Reception of α -Alphatech



Exterior view of α -Alphatech