International Paint wins Queen’s Award

Felling, U.K. 23rd April 2007 – Felling based coatings manufacturer International Paint is pleased to announce that the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category 2007 has been won by our Marine and Protective Coatings Business Unit.

The Award is for the development of Intersleek® 700, a silicone based foul release coating designed for use on the underwater hull of ships with in service speeds between 15 and 30 knots. Manufactured on our Felling site, Intersleek® 700 does not use biocides to control fouling on the ship’s hull, relying instead on a slippery, low friction surface onto which fouling organisms have difficulty settling. Any that do settle, normally do so only weakly and can usually be easily removed by simple wiping / washing or by the vessel moving through the water at speed. Performance and environmental benefits include reduced fuel consumption, reduced carbon dioxide emissions, no leaching of biocides into the sea and reduced wash water treatment costs at drydock.

Mr. Grant Russell, Marine and Protective Coatings Market Director, said “We’re delighted to have won this years Queen’s Award. This is in fact the fourth time we’ve won, in 1967 and 1977 for Export Achievement, in 1981 for Technology and now in 2007 for Innovation. We’re particularly pleased to have won this time because a critical element of our strategy is to continually strive for technological advances. To do this we must continuously improve, stay ahead of legislation and develop a constant stream of innovative and environmentally responsible products that meet customer and market needs. This Award clearly demonstrates we are making substantial progress towards that goal”.

Intersleek® 700 has recently been complemented by the introduction of the next generation of foul release technology, Intersleek® 900, a product also manufactured on the Felling site. Setting even higher performance standards with improved fuel efficiency and reduced emissions, Intersleek® 900 is a unique patented fluoropolymer foul release coating which represents the very latest advances in fouling control technology, significantly improving upon the performance of even the Queen’s Award winning system Intersleek® 700.

Intersleek® 900 is exceptionally smooth with unprecedented low levels of average hull roughness, has excellent foul release capabilities and good resistance to mechanical damage. For the very first time all vessels above 10 knots, including scheduled ships, tankers, bulkers, general cargo ships and feeder containers can now benefit from foul release technology.

In terms of fuel efficiency and reduced emissions, Intersleek® 900 offers predicted savings* of 2% in comparison to Intersleek® 700 and 6% in comparison to self polishing copolymer (SPC) antifoulings. The potential exists for even greater savings in comparison to controlled depletion antifoulings. For a single VLCC currently coated with an SPC antifouling this could mean savings of over 4,500 tons of fuel, a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions of over 14,000 tons and US $1.2 million over a five year period. Since launch in February 2007, Intersleek® 900 has already built an impressive track record of 20 vessels. Ends.

International Paint Additional Information:

Our Felling operation originated over one hundred years ago when three enterprising young men saw the potential in manufacturing specialist paints to meet the needs of the shipping industry. They quickly saw their enthusiasm rewarded but in working conditions that were far from ideal - in those pioneering days premises ranged from a shed in a small shipbuilding outfit to the backyard of the Dunn Cow Inn at Gateshead.

In 1904 the present Felling site was officially opened. By then the name ‘International’ was already well known abroad with factories in Odessa on the Black Sea and Copenhagen. Today International Paint operates in a range of specialised, high technology markets - the organisation extends to almost every country in the world, employs over 4,700 people worldwide and includes manufacturing plants in 18 countries.

The site at Felling, which employs around 800 people, contains two major independent businesses.

The largest is Marine and Protective Coatings which serves the European market with around 30 million litres of paint a year and includes manufacturing, distribution, product development and administration.

*Depending on application and in service conditions.
In addition we are the major centre of technological innovation for the Marine and Protective Coatings organisation worldwide. We have well over one hundred highly qualified research and other technical staff working to develop the products of the future for our customers wherever they are in the world. Research at Felling developed Intersmooth® SPC, a winner of the Queen’s Award for technological achievement in 1981 and Intersleek® 700, winner in 2007.

The worldwide Marine Marketing and Technical Operation functions are also located at Felling.

The other major business is Powder Coatings who have a manufacturing operation which produces around 10 thousand tons of powdered paint per annum. They too have product development and administration facilities on site.

Other functions located here are the Protective Coatings European Sales and Administration team and also European Systems who provide Information Technology.

Wherever you go in Felling you will find a fascinating blend of old and new. We are proud of the long history and tradition of Felling and of the knowledge and skills we have developed over the years and we are sure you will sense our friendly family atmosphere.

We aim to make Felling the best coatings site in the world, building on our success of being the voted ‘Most Improved Factory’ in 1997 and winner of our Business Unit, Health, Safety and Environment Award 2006. The site holds ISO9000, ISO14001, OHSA1801 and Investors in People certification and our manufacturing facilities are authorised by the Environment Agency and regulated by the local authority. You will see everywhere evidence of our investment programme including a new €4 Million state-of-the-art R&D laboratory opened in 2004 with another scheduled to open in 2007.

The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise are the U.K.’s most prestigious Awards for business performance, recognising outstanding achievement and success through the supply of innovative products and services. The Awards are made each year by the Queen, on the advice of the Prime Minister who is assisted by an Advisory Committee that includes representatives of Government, industry and commerce. The Award is formally conferred by a Grant of Appointment and is symbolised by a presentational item depicting the Emblem.

International Paint Ltd. is part of Akzo Nobel. Akzo Nobel is a Fortune Global 500 company and is listed on both the Euronext Amsterdam and NASDAQ stock exchanges. It is also included on the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes and FTSE4Good Index. Based in the Netherlands, Akzo Nobel is a multicultural organization serving customers throughout the world with human and animal healthcare products, coatings, and chemicals. We employ around 61,880 people and conduct our activities in these four segments, with operating subsidiaries in more than 80 countries. Consolidated revenues for 2006 totaled EUR 13.7 billion. The financial results for the first quarter will be published on April 24, 2007.

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