

September 14, 2009

**Sumitomo Metal Mining and BASF launch ¥1,830 per share all cash tender offer for full ownership of N.E. Chemcat Corporation**

- Unconditional offer represents an attractive premium of 75.12% above the average closing price for the three months ended on September 11, 2009
- Total consideration for the transaction of approximately ¥8.228 billion (€1.41 billion, US\$89.44 million)
- N.E. Chemcat Corporation's Board passes a resolution of support
- Offer period from September 15, 2009 to October 30, 2009 (30 business days)

Tokyo, Japan – September 14, 2009 –Sumitomo Metal Mining [Ticker: 5713, Exchange: Tokyo and Osaka] and BASF Catalysts Asia BV today announced in Japan an unconditional cash tender offer to acquire all outstanding shares in N.E. Chemcat Corporation (JASDAQ: 4106), the leading precious metals based catalysts producer in Japan. The offer is being made with the support of the N.E. Chemcat Corporation's Board of Directors, which today passed a resolution in support of this tender offer.

Under the terms of the offer, Sumitomo Metal Mining and BASF Catalysts Asia BV will offer ¥1,830 for each share in N.E. Chemcat Corporation. This represents an attractive premium of 56.41% above the closing price for N.E. Chemcat Corporation's share on JASDAQ on September 11, 2009, a premium of 59.69% above the average closing price for the one month ended on September 11, 2009, and a premium of 75.12% above the average closing price for the three months ended on September 11, 2009. The tender offer will run from September 15, 2009 to October 30, 2009 and will not be extended.

Currently, Sumitomo Metal Mining and BASF each owns 42.22% of N.E. Chemcat Corporation's shares. Following the completion of the tender offer, N.E. Chemcat Corporation will conduct a capital restructuring, through which N.E.Chemcat Corporation will convert its existing common stocks into a new class of shares and will

acquire the shares from all minority shareholders. N.E. Chemcat Corporation will also be delisted from JASDAQ in accordance with Japan securities regulations and rules.

The goal of acquiring full ownership of N.E. Chemcat Corporation is to better utilize the competences and the technology know-how of Sumitomo Metal Mining and BASF, and to implement strategic and operational measures. This can help N.E. Chemcat Corporation better address expected competition over the mid to long-term, and fully utilize business opportunities arising from the growing demand for advanced technologies, in response to globally tightening environmental regulations. This will further increase its corporate value and strengthen the business relationship.

N.E. Chemcat Corporation not only develops and produces catalysts which are used in various areas such as energy, automotive, petrochemical products, fine chemical products, pharmaceuticals and products for emission control, but also manufactures and sells surface treatment chemicals for electronic parts and plating machines. It employs around 700 people as a group in total.

For details of the tender offer and subsequent capital restructuring, please refer to the public notice of the commencement of tender offer and the tender offer notification statement which can be downloaded from government's website at <http://info.edinet-fsa.go.jp/>.

Remark: The exchange rates are based on the closing rates on September 11, 2009.

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Disclaimers:

#### Solicitation Restriction

This press release is intended to publicly announce the tender offer and was not prepared for the purpose of soliciting the sale of share certificates. In applying for the sale of share certificates, each shareholder is requested to make his/her own judgment to do so, after in any event reading the tender offer notification statement concerning the tender offer. This press release (or any part thereof) or the fact of its distribution should not be the basis of any agreement concerning the tender offer; nor should this press letter (or any part thereof) or the fact of its distribution be relied upon in entering any agreement.

#### Future Prospects

"Forward-Looking Statements" is included in this letter. The Forward-Looking Statements include discussions, plans, different perspectives, strategies, expectations, assumptions underlying such statements or other information relating to the future, of projections or predictions on business results and financial conditions. Known or unknown risks, uncertainty or other factors might make actual results totally different from what are included in or implied by, the Forward-Looking Statements. Neither the tender offeror nor its affiliated companies guarantees the results will reflect the projections, predictions or expectations included in or implied by, the Forward-Looking Statements. The Forward-Looking Statements contained in this letter are prepared based upon the information the tender offeror possesses as of the date hereof and unless otherwise obligated under laws and regulations, or regulations of stock exchanges, neither the tender offeror nor its affiliated companies assumes any obligations to renew or amend the descriptions of the Forward-Looking Statements in order to reflect the future events and circumstances.

#### Disclaimer for US residents

This tender offer is not being made in the USA or toward the USA, either directly or indirectly, will not use the US mail or any other interstate commercial transmission or international commercial transmission method or way (including but not limited to facsimile, electronic mail, internet transmission, telex, or telephone), and will not be made through any securities exchange facility in the USA. A response to the tender offer cannot be made by any of the above methods or ways, or through the above facilities, or from within the USA. Also, tender offer notification statement and related documents shall not be sent or distributed in the USA or to the USA or from within the USA by mail or any other method, and any such sending or distribution cannot be made. Any response to the tender offer that directly or indirectly violates the above restrictions will not be accepted.