



# PRESS RELEASE



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**SOLVAY IS FOUNDING MEMBER OF EXELTIUM,  
THE FRENCH GROUPING OF ELECTRO-INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES: AN  
INNOVATIVE SOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE CONTROL OF ENERGY COSTS**

The Solvay group is pleased to participate in the foundation of Exeltium, the grouping of electro-intensive industries active in France, whose creation was announced yesterday by the French Ministry of the Economy, Finances and Industry. This innovative move will allow a sustainable and competitive energy supply for Solvay's sizeable production sites in France. Among others, it would apply to Tavaux, which is among the largest of the Group, and one of the most significant chemical platforms in France.

Founded by seven companies (Air Liquide, Alcan, Arcelor, Arkema, Rhodia, UPM - Kymmene and Solvay), Exeltium will launch a call for tender shortly, addressing European electricity producers, with the aim of creating an electricity supply mechanism which could be operational as soon as before the end of 2006. The mechanism is based on the acquisition, by the industrial groups, of drawing rights with a duration of at least 15 years, which would reserve a stable energy supply for them, at prices linked to the most competitive production costs.

"Our participation in Exeltium is part of the Group's sustainable and profitable growth strategy," commented Luigi Belli, member of the Executive Committee of the Solvay group and General Manager Research & Technology. "We will ensure a reliable and sustainable energy supply for our French sites, at a price in line with the realities of operations. In our activities, energy is one of the most important inputs; it is a decisive component of our competitiveness," Belli added.

The mechanism created by Exeltium is open to other industrial groups, within the limits of criteria set by the French authorities. Among other conditions, electricity must be a substantial element in their creation of value and their consumption must be steady. On the whole, some 50 companies are eligible, in addition to the seven founding members.

SOLVAY is an international chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels. It employs some 30,000 people in 50 countries. In 2005 its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 8.6 billion generated by its three activity sectors: Chemicals, Plastics and Pharmaceuticals. SOLVAY is listed on the Euronext 100 index of top European companies. Details are available at [www.solvay.com](http://www.solvay.com).

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