

April 7th, 2010

Merck and Archimica start distribution partnership

Darmstadt, April 7, 2010 – Merck Schuchardt OHG, a subsidiary of Merck KGaA, and Archimica Group Holdings B.V. are entering into a close cooperation to provide building blocks and special reagents for Organic Synthesis via an exclusive distribution agreement.

“The combination of Merck’s and Archimica’s strengths offers a lot of added value for customers,” as Dr. Walther Johannssen, Senior Director of Performance Products, points out. “Merck’s well-known documentation and regulatory support together with customized specifications and packaging for high quality products from Archimica, a recognized world leader in fine chemicals, are a unique package for a broad variety of applications.”

Dr. Andreas Meudt, Managing Director Marketing, Sales and R&D of Archimica, comments that “Merck’s global network of technical experts and marketing and sales specialists will provide dedicated support for customers world-wide which have not been covered so far and will make our products available to a much broader customer base.”

Media Release

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The range of Archimica products will further enhance Merck's portfolio of special chemicals for Organic Synthesis. Besides providing building blocks and special reagents for the synthesis of active pharmaceutical ingredients, applications in regulated markets like cosmetics and food as well as a variety of fine chemical applications are focus areas for Merck. Based on the proven track record in supplying products from grams to tons, Merck is the ideal partner to work with from the very beginning of a new project up to production scale.

About Merck:

Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 7.7 billion in 2009, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by approximately 33,000 employees in 61 countries. Merck's success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917, the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.

Archimica – Strong. Steady. Focused on Pharmaceuticals.

Archimica is a privately held leading pharmaceutical fine chemicals company that combines world-scale chemical manufacturing experience with a history of pharmaceutical commercialisation that stretches back over 40 years. Archimica is particularly focused on the custom synthesis of innovative building blocks, intermediates and APIs in close cooperation with its clients. The company has approximately 600 employees at six production sites in Italy, France, Germany, US and UK and sales of € 131 million in 2009. Archimica's core technologies are its T3P® technology for high-performance amide-/peptide bond formations and other cost-reducing condensations, cryogenic reactions especially for boronic acids, Lithium chemistry, Pd-catalyzed chemistries for biaryls and C,X-couplings, hydrogenations up to 80 bar, heterocyclic products, enzymatic chemistries, nitrations and aseptic filtration for bulk steriles. Production facilities at all scales up to very large volumes (> 20 m³ reactors) are available for substantial economies of scale for large-volume products.

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