



Press Release

For Immediate Release

IMERYS Pigments for Paper to Restructure Middle Georgia Kaolin Operations

Atlanta, GA, June 27, 2008. **IMERYS** Pigments for Paper North America announces today a restructuring of its Middle Georgia Kaolin operations in Sandersville, Georgia. The plan will result in a capacity reduction, with associated workforce reductions in both operational and associated support functions.

The headcount reduction will total approximately 50 people, consisting of both **IMERYS** employees and contractors. Every effort will be made to achieve the targeted reductions through early retirement incentives and avoid involuntary separations.

An overcapacity for graphic papers, combined with a slow down in the economy triggering a decline in overall demand, has given rise to major structural changes in the North American paper industry, with multiple mill and paper machine shutdowns. This in turn has significantly reduced the demand for kaolin in this market.

The steps announced today are intended to place the operations on a sustainable path, with a capacity and cost structure consistent with the levels of anticipated market demand.

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Notes to editors:

IMERYS Pigments for Paper is a world leading producer of white pigments, manufacturing kaolin, ground calcium carbonate (GCC) and precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC). The business group serves the needs of the international paper industry and employs 2,403 people, operates 46 industrial sites in 19 countries and represents 22% of Imerys' overall revenue.