



Press Release

For Immediate Release

IMERYS Pigments for Paper North America to Increase Kaolin and Calcium Carbonate Prices

Atlanta, GA, December 4, 2009. **IMERYS** Pigments for Paper North America announces price increases for kaolin and calcium carbonate, subject to any provisions in individual customer contracts.

The prices of kaolin manufactured in the USA and Brazil, including calcined kaolin products, will increase by 5 to 7%. The prices of ground calcium carbonate (GCC) will increase by 2 to 3%. In addition to this announced increase, the natural gas trigger price for the kaolin energy surcharge program will be standardized at \$5.00 per MMBtu for all non-contract customers.

Cost increases in logistics, mining, chemicals, fuel and power are key factors in this decision. Despite Imerys' continual improvement programs and cost reductions to mitigate these effects, the price increases are necessary to achieve a sustainable pigment business.

Imerys Pigments for Paper is committed to investing in new products and technology to continue to be the market leader in pigment products for paper. Our goal is to offer our customers cost-effective and value-added solutions.

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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 2,517 people, operates 46 industrial sites in 18 countries and represents 22% of Imerys' sales.