



World leader in aluminium anodising – www.coil.be Eurolist C - ISIN: BE0160342011 - Reuters: COIL.LN - Bloomberg: COI FP

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brussels, 8th February, 2007

# MAJOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

- LEADING MARKET POSITION CREATED IN THE U.K. THROUGH TWO SIMULTANEOUS BUT INDEPENDENT ACQUISITIONS
- FURTHER REINFORCEMENT OF COIL'S POSITION AS THE EUROPEAN MARKET LEADER IN ANODISED ALUMINIUM, PERMITTING THE COMPANY, FOR THE FIRST TIME, TO OFFER THE FULL RANGE OF ANODISING SERVICES FOR ALUMINIUM EXTRUSIONS. CASTINGS AND FLAT ROLLED PRODUCTS
- ACCESS TO UNIQUE TECHNICAL MARKETING SYSTEM FOR ANODISED ALUMINIUM
- STRONG GROWTH IN GROUP SALES AND EBITDA

### Tim Hutton, Coil's Chief Executive Officer:

"Following the successful integration of our new plant in Germany, Coil enters the next phase in its strategic development to become the leading full service provider to the fast growing market for anodised aluminium. Consistent with the Group's strategy, we have today completed the acquisition of two key UK companies in the anodising sector, in simultaneous, but independent, transactions. This represents a unique opportunity for our enlarged group.

Heywood Metal Finishers Limited ('HMF') and LHT Anodisers Limited ('LHT') are the UK's two leading batch anodisers. They perfectly complement our range of continuous anodising treatments and, in addition, will contribute strong financial results. Both companies have first-rate management, who will continue to be closely involved in our future development.

The synergies between the three companies are significant. We have a complementary know-how in our high value-added process, similar business models, a common culture and the same long-term ambitions for the development of anodised aluminium - a product which is demonstrably superior to, and increasingly replacing, rival products such as painted aluminium or stainless steel. The technical and commercial synergies, with the opportunities for cross-fertilisation between our products, services and competences will permit us to accelerate our growth towards a broader global customer base.

These acquisitions create a significant new force in the market. Coil will now have the critical mass to provide real and effective leadership for the development of the anodising market. With a substantially broader range of products and services now geared directly to the end-user market, we are now in a position to roll out a new marketing strategy. This will permit us to promote our products and services to all professionals involved in the selection of the optimum material for their architectural or industrial applications. Under the new 'United Anodisers' banner, our group of companies will operate under a single brand across our target markets.

We believe that these acquisitions are clearly in the best interest of our shareholders. They open a new and exciting chapter in the history of Coil. Both companies are profitable. The acquisitions have been structured in a way which is highly advantageous for our shareholders".

### Increased geographical market leadership and development opportunities

The acquisition of LHT and HMF will enable Coil to significantly increase its geographic coverage, its range of surface treatments and to acquire complementary know-how; this will offer strong potential for synergies and growth within the group.

With these transactions, the Group is able to establish a major presence in the U.K. market, where construction standards – notably on exterior facades – require an anodic layer of at least 25 microns, which typically favours the batch anodising process.

The UK anodised market is in a strong growth phase reflecting the long-term trend towards anodised aluminium - preferred for its superior strength-to-weight, extreme durability and its total recyclability. There will be even greater potential in the future for major architectural and infrastructure projects relating to the 2012 Olympic Games, as well from the continuous shift towards aluminium in industrial applications.

Based in Huddersfield, HMF (www.hmfltd.co.uk), with 79 employees, is the UK's largest independent batch anodiser. The company has a modern production site with the largest dimensional range available in the U.K. suitable for the full range of architectural, industrial and automotive applications.

Based in Uxbridge, LHT (www.lhtanodisers.co.uk), with 41 employees, has developed a unique concept for the support and promotion of anodised aluminium to key specifiers and end-users. This low overhead, but highly effective concept has permitted the Company to influence market demand in the UK for over 20 years. As a result anodised aluminium is a preferred material for architects, façade specialists and construction companies in the UK.

In addition, LHT has developed an exclusive range of products built around interference-colouring technology. Using this process, the company has developed a high-growth market for UV-resistant grey and blue/grey anodised sheet and profile products. Highly innovative and valued by architects, these products are primarily sold in the UK at present, but offer significant potential in Continental European markets.

All three companies will, however, continue to operate independently with their existing and proven management teams.

### Acquisitions perfectly aligned with Coil's historical development strategy

These acquisitions are highly favourable for Coil, which intends to fully leverage the in-depth experience and proven performance of these two anodisers.

More specifically, these acquisitions will enable Coil to:

- establish a strong position in the UK market, where its presence was previously limited;
- offer a complete range of anodising treatments within a single group to meet the entire range of requirements for specifiers and end-users;
- distribute more effectively a complete range of products and services throughout the UK and continental Europe;
- offer small production series only possible with batch anodising a key factor for developing new processes and products for the continuous anodising;
- roll out a proven, effective and low-cost marketing concept throughout Europe;
- capitalise on a wider, complementary range of treatments to win new European and global markets.

These two acquisitions mark the first step in a federation of the highly fragmented anodising industry, reinforcing the industry's position through developing strong local market presence. With selective further acquisitions of companies with complementary products and services located in high-potential markets, the Group will continue to extend its geographical presence and to widen its range of products and services.

#### Transaction structure and financial information

For FYE 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, the provisional key figures for both companies are as follows:

Heywood Metal Finishers Limited		LHT Anodisers Limited	
	€'000		€'000
Sales	4,134	Sales	3,934
EBITDA	732	EBITDA*	566

<sup>\*</sup> before non-recurring costs

Effective 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007, these acquisitions will make a positive contribution to Coil's earnings.

The two transactions (including HMF's real estate, valued at €1.8 million), represent an aggregate total investment of €5.5 million (including refinancing of existing debt) or 4.3 times the combined forecast 2006 EBITDA of the two companies or 3.2 times on a property-adjusted basis (excluding property but adding back a notional market rent).

The financing for the transactions includes:

- €3.3 million of long term credit facilities provided by Yorkshire Bank in pounds sterling.
- €1.7 million of zero-coupon vendor equity notes issued by new UK holding companies subscribed by the vendors of HMF and LHT, with a redemption date of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012.

Coil has options to purchase these vendor equity notes at any time before maturity. It is the intention of the Company to exercise these options in the near future, through a new equity issue, the characteristics of which have yet to be defined.

Coil has been advised by:

- · Gordons LLP, Solicitors, Leeds
- BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, Chartered Accountants, Leeds

Yorkshire Bank has been advised by:

Cobbetts LLP, Solicitors, Leeds

### **Next Analysts Meeting**

A more detailed analysis of these transactions and their impact on Coil will be given when the annual results are published to analysts on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

## To find out more, visit: www.coil.be

## About COIL

COIL, a Belgian company listed on the Euronext Paris Eurolist C since June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1996, is the world's largest architectural and industrial anodiser, specialised in the surface treatment of aluminium extrusions, castings and flat rolled products.

Anodising is an electrochemical process which provides a hard, transparent exterior layer on the aluminium providing exceptional corrosion protection and/or, increased functionality to the metal.

Anodising preserves all the natural and ecological properties of aluminum – it retains high strength to weight ratio, non-magnetic properties, exceptional corrosion resistance without any impact on the total and repeated recyclability of the metal.

Anodised aluminium is used across a wide range of architectural, designer, industrial and automotive applications.

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## For further information, contact us at

COIL - Tim Hutton - Chief Executive Officer - tim.hutton@unitedanodisers.com - Tel: +32 (0) 479 208500 CALYPTUS - Cyril Combe - coil@calyptus.net -Tel: +33 (0) 1 53 65 37 94