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**Press release – investments in Germany**

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## **UNITED ANODISERS INTENDS TO MAKE IMPORTANT STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS AT ITS PRODUCTION SITE IN GERMANY**

### **CREATION OF NEW BUSINESS UNIT TO DEVELOP SALES OUTSIDE EUROPE**

*Brussels, March 9th 2011 – 7:30 am - United Anodisers, the world's leading anodiser of aluminium, intends to make new investments at its existing production site in Bernburg, Germany. An investment in a new sixth continuous anodising line will enable the Group to increase significantly its production capacity to meet strong global demand and, in particular, to be able to meet growth forecasts from emerging markets.*

#### **New Investments to increase capacity**

Current demand for continuous anodising for architectural applications is running at very high levels and the Group is already having difficulty to meet demand. However, this new production capacity is principally targeted at providing extra capacity for new markets outside Europe, where substantial further growth is foreseen.

The Bernburg site currently consists of one continuous anodising line, completed in 2005 at a total cost of €20.9 million. Representing a maximum investment of €18.0 million, the new facilities will comprise:

- A second continuous anodising line which will be designed to produce heavy gauge architectural sheet; it will double the capacity of the Bernburg production site to 30,000 tonnes and increase both the dimensional capacity and the product range at the site. This will be accommodated in the existing building and take advantage of existing environmental and other infrastructure already on site.
- A cut-to-length line. This permit coils to be broken down into sheets for on-sale to customers; it will also be able to undertake services for existing and new customers.
- A new logistics hall to house the cut-to-length line and associated packaging, logistics and storage facilities.

Subject to approval by the Saxony Anhalt region, the investments should attract investment subsidies from State (around 38% of total cost), as well as subsidised loans and long term loan guarantees.

The new production facilities are expected to enter into full production in the fourth quarter of 2012.

#### **Important market development initiatives outside Europe**

At the same time, the Company is creating a new business unit to be known under the 'Coil International' brand name to consolidate and further develop the continuous anodising business outside Europe. This follows on from the appointment of new agents and distributors in recent months in Thailand, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, UAE/Qatar and Canada in addition to the existing network in USA, China, South Korea and Australia. The Company intends to make further appointments in Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Brazil and other larger South American economies during 2011.

These regions represent new and major sources of development for the Group's products. Continuously anodised aluminium presents many advantages over more traditional materials: competitive price, perfect surface finish, lightweight, exceptional durability with low maintenance and repeated recyclability through simple re-melting. This makes it an increasingly relevant product in both architectural and industrial markets. It is, therefore, a very natural choice for the new, modern economies under rapid development. Further, anodised aluminium in coil or sheet form is light and easy to transport worldwide.

Commenting on these proposed developments, Tim Hutton, Chief Executive Officer said: "In the last few months, there have been significant changes to both the Board of Directors and shareholder base of the Company. As a result, there has been a strategic review of the business and the new opportunities for growth. As world leader in our industry in both size and quality, there is a strong commitment to develop the full potential of our business in a rapidly changing world."

**To find out more, visit: <http://investors.unitedanodisers.com>**

#### ***About UNITED ANODISERS***

*United Anodisers, the Belgian Group listed on NYSE Euronext Paris Compartment C since June 26th, 1996, is the world's largest architectural and industrial anodiser, specialising in the surface treatment of aluminium extrusions, castings and flat-rolled products.*

*Anodising is an electrochemical process - electrolysis - that develops a natural and protective exterior layer on aluminium that can be coloured, providing exceptional corrosion protection and/or increased functionality for the metal.*

*Anodising preserves all the natural and ecological properties of aluminium - it retains its high strength-to-weight ratio, non-magnetic properties and 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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