

**PRESS RELEASE**

- **COIL IMPROVES ITS GROWTH IN Q2 2008, WITH CONSOLIDATED SALES UP 8.6%**
- **EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES ON BATCH ANODIZING: +51.3%** (pro forma – excluding exchange effect)
- **RETURN TO A NORMAL LEVEL OF BUSINESS ON CONTINUOUS ANODIZING**

*Brussels, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – In Q2 2008, COIL generated €8,619 thousand in consolidated sales, up 8.6% on Q2 2007. The batch anodizing business has trended up particularly well, with a very strong increase in sales. Continuous anodizing has benefited from the end of the destocking cycle and seen activity levels return to normal. In the end, over the first half of 2008, sales grew by 4.1% to €15,938 thousand.*

**Change in sales for each business**

(€'000)	H1 2008	Change		Q2 2008	Change
		Actual	Pro forma <sup>(1)</sup>		
Continuous anodizing (COIL)	11,096	- 9.6%	- 9.6%	6,044	- 1.6%
Batch anodizing (HMF and LHT)	4,842	+ 60.0%	+ 32.1%	2,575	+ 43.1%
<b>Consolidated sales</b>	<b>15,938</b>	<b>+ 4.1%</b>	<b>+ 0.0%</b>	<b>8,619</b>	<b>+ 8.6%</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Heywood Metal Finishers Ltd ("HMF") and LHT Anodisers Ltd ("LHT") have been consolidated since February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. For better visibility, pro forma data have been drawn up for 2007 over a full year.

**Batch anodizing: acceleration in growth**

Batch anodizing activities have maintained a strong rate of growth, with €4,842 thousand in half-year sales and pro forma growth of 32.1% in relation to H1 2007. Growth picked up pace over Q2 2008, with HMF and LHT generating €2,575 thousand in sales, up 43.1% on Q2 last year.

Driven by the recurrence of outsourcing services and strong demand on projects, the increase in business has been significantly diluted by the unfavorable change in the pound/euro exchange rate. In this way, on a constant structural and exchange rate basis, sales for H1 2008 increased by 51.3% (+64.5% in Q2 2008).

These record performances, achieved within a difficult economic environment in the UK, confirm the quality of the new subsidiaries acquired one year ago.

### **Continuous anodizing: demand gradually picking up again**

In Q2 2008, the continuous anodizing branch confirmed its return to a normal level of activity following a short stock adjustment cycle within the distribution chain. Consolidated sales came to €6,044 thousand over the period, virtually stable compared with the same period the previous year.

This good level of business has been combined with a gradual upturn in demand, which has been particularly encouraging, with 20% sequential sales growth between the first and second quarters of 2008. In Q1, it is important to note that activity levels had been significantly affected by destocking.

These positive trends are expected to be reflected in a clear improvement in sales over the second half of 2008, as shown by the current level of orders.

### **Improvement in the market/client/product mix**

Further to the acquisitions in the UK, Coil significantly diversified its end markets in early 2007. The Group has continued with this diversification over 2008, with the sustained development of dedicated solutions for architectural projects outside of Europe, which started to be marketed at the beginning of the year. In this way, the first half of 2008 reflects the stronger weighting of packaged solutions (including metal supplies) in sales.

Following on from this, the regional market diversification policy is paying off. While Coil has continued to strengthen its positions in the UK (over 30% of consolidated sales in H1 2008), the Group has also seen a clear increase in its billing outside of Europe (8.5% of consolidated sales in H1 2008), with the contracts signed at the end of 2007 and beginning of 2008 ramped up in the US, China and South Korea.

### **Strong and profitable growth in 2008**

Over the full year in 2008, moves to ramp up technical marketing actions with opinion leaders, diversify the product mix and move ahead with the geographical deployment of offerings mean that Coil is able to look ahead to the next few months with confidence despite a difficult economic environment.

The Group is able to confirm its annual objective for strong and sound growth, with the clear increase in business over the second half of the year to be reflected in an improvement in profitability for 2008 compared with 2007.

**NEXT ANNOUNCEMENT:** earnings for H1 2008 to be published on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**To find out more, visit: [www.coil.be](http://www.coil.be)**

#### **About COIL**

*COIL, a Belgian Group listed on Euronext Paris Eurolist C since June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1996 is the world's largest architectural and industrial anodizer, specializing in the surface treatment of aluminum extrusions, castings and flat-rolled products.*

*Anodizing is an electrochemical process – electrolysis – that develops a natural and protective exterior layer on aluminum that can be colored, providing exceptional corrosion protection and/or increased functionality for the metal.*

*Anodizing preserves all the natural and ecological properties of aluminum – 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.*

*Anodized aluminum is used across a wide range of architectural, designer, industrial and automotive applications.*

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