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Eurolist C - ISIN: BE0160342011 - Reuters: COIL.LN - Bloomberg: COI FP



## PRESS RELEASE

- **STRONG GROWTH IN BUSINESS OVER THE FIRST HALF OF 2007: +33.5%**
- **STRENGTHENING OF THE SALES STRATEGY: UNITED ANODISERS BRAND RAMPED UP**
- **REGIONAL EXPANSION OF OFFERINGS: COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIP SEALED IN CHINA**

*Brussels, July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 – Driven by strong demand for anodized aluminum, COIL's consolidated sales have increased significantly, rising 35.2% in Q2. Over the first half of the year, sales are up 33.5% to €15 million.*

*At the same time, COIL is forging a commercial alliance with the Chinese firm Eagle Superior Industries, specialized in the distribution and promotion of aluminum, with a high level of expertise in the building and industry sectors in China.*

### **Tim Hutton, Chief Executive Officer**

*"The situation on the aluminum market is favorable. Our commercial performances are good, reflecting the dynamic strategy rolled out. While the second quarter was hit by the one-off impacts of a temporary reduction in the metal's availability on the market, our fundamentals are still sound. With the acquisitions of LHT and HMF, we have taken up good strategic positions, which we are harnessing today so that COIL will be able to further strengthen its position as the anodized aluminum market leader.*

*The integration of the two specialized batch anodizing firms under the United Anodisers brand is enabling us to incorporate their commercial market approach, built primarily around a "project"-based approach, working closely with architects, facade firms and construction companies.*

*In this way, while continuing to faithfully serve our rolling mill and distributor partners, we are now in a position to significantly strengthen our commercial strategy, ramping up an offering that is unrivaled worldwide, making it possible to meet 100% of anodizing needs for the industrial and building markets, whatever the specifications.*

*The new federating actions carried out under the United Anodisers banner are strengthening the penetration of high-potential regional markets. Thanks to these actions, our companies are notably taking part in ambitious and complex projects with a strong level of value added in the UK, while in Asia, we are taking our first steps in the Chinese market today, with a major commercial partnership sealed.*

*In 2007, we are implementing an intensive policy to further improve performance levels, with strong lines to consolidate our Group's prosperity, while serving our clients and shareholders".*

**A first half of sustained growth**

(€'000)

	2007*	2006	Change	2007 pro forma 6 months	
<i>Continuous anodizing</i>					
COIL	12,023	11,271	+6.7%	12,023	
<i>Batch anodizing</i>					
HMF	1,722			2,036	
LHT	1,296			1,639	
<b>Consolidated sales in Q1</b>	<b>15,041</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>+33.5%</b>	<b>15,698</b>	<b>+39.2%</b>

\* The basis for consolidation includes HMF and LHT as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

Business over the first half of the year shows a strong rate of growth, up +33.5% to €15 million. This good performance factors in the business of the new subsidiaries, LHT Anodisers Ltd and Heywood Metal Finishers Ltd, two leading batch aluminum anodizers in the UK, acquired at the start of the year and consolidated as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

For better visibility, pro forma data have been drawn up for the first half of the year, giving €15.7 million in consolidated sales, including €3.7 million on batch anodizing. Based on these pro forma data, growth comes out at 39.2%

**Slight contraction over Q2 due to the metal's reduced availability**

Organic growth – solely on the continuous anodizing activity – was satisfactory over the first half of the year, coming in at 6.7%, which represents a high level in light of the strong basis for comparison with H1 2006, which had seen organic growth of 9%.

The slight slowdown in growth over Q2 in relation to Q1 reflects a lag between the dynamic development of demand and the adjustment of production capabilities set against the aluminum sector's current reconfiguration. This situation is expected to be rapidly resolved, with the Group forecasting a return to a normal situation by the end of the second half of the year.

**Strengthening of positions in the UK and value added on product ranges**

The first half of the year was also marked by a strengthening of positions in the Group's main regions, notably in the UK, following on from the acquisitions carried out at the start of the year.

The United Anodisers brand is being developed based on the proven ability of the Group's companies to take part in complex, high value-added projects. The many achievements to date represent genuine showcases for anodized aluminum, making it possible to highlight the expertise and capacity for innovation on solutions offered by the Group.

In this way, the Young Vic, the London theatre that was recently renovated with the application of anodized aluminum facades by Heywood Metal Finishers, a Coil subsidiary, received an RIBA award from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Its technological aesthetics were singled out for praise, and it was chosen as the building of the year for the London Region. It is also one of the six international buildings shortlisted for the annual Stirling Prize, awarded to the British architect who has made the biggest contribution to European architecture.



Many more projects will further illustrate the Group's know-how, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, which is due to be opened shortly and represents a major "100% anodized" building.

### Strategic agreement for the Chinese market

In addition to these good performances, Coil is delighted to announce a commercial partnership with Eagle Superior Industries, a private Shenzhen-based company specialized in the specification, distribution and promotion of aluminum for architectural and industrial projects in China. This agreement should rapidly pave the way for major contracts, which will benefit all of the Group's companies.

As Tim Hutton, the Chief Executive Officer, explains: *"We are delighted to be joining forces with Eagle Superior Industries for the distribution of our solutions in China. For United Anodisers, this represents a first step forwards for the penetration of a high-potential market. Anodized aluminum is developing very rapidly in China despite the lack of capacity and quality among local anodizers; Eagle Superior Industries has a high level of expertise in the building and industry sectors; this alliance will enable us to effectively develop our sales in this country."*

*This partnership also illustrates our active regional expansion policy for the Group's offerings, while we expect to be able to make other such announcements shortly for other regions around the world".*

### Expectations confirmed

For the second half of the year, the order book already shows a high level of projects, with the outlook for growth remaining intact. The actions carried out confirm this. For 2007, COIL is therefore confirming its forecast for double-digit growth in business, with strong growth in operating income.

### NEXT DATES:

- Unaudited half-year results to be published on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007
- Audited half-year results to be published on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**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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