Start into first quarter restrained

The start of 2009 saw the challenging world economic situation continue and this was reflected in Henkel's business performance. While the Laundry & Home Care and Cosmetics/Toiletries businesses continue to develop very successfully, the Adhesive Technologies business sector has been affected by the worldwide difficult situation of major industry segments.

According to preliminary figures the effects of the worldwide economic crisis have resulted in an organic sales decrease of around 7 percent. Operating profit (EBIT) declined from 320 million euros to about 215 million euros, while total sales increased by around 3 percent to about 3.25 billion euros. This increase is mainly due to the acquisition of the National Starch businesses.

Sales of the Adhesive Technologies business sector decreased organically by about 19 percent. Total sales increased by around 7 percent to about 1.46 billion euros due to the businesses acquired from National Starch, while operating profit (EBIT) decreased from 150 million euros to about 45 million euros. In contrast, the Laundry & Home Care business sector increased operating profit (EBIT) from 100 million euros to about 105 million euros. At 1.01 billion euros, sales were slightly below prior-year level. Organically, sales increased slightly. The Cosmetics/Toiletries business sector increased sales organically by a good 3 percent. With sales slightly up to about 720 million euros, operating profit (EBIT) also increased disproportionately from 87 million euros to around 90 million euros.

Henkel will inform in more detail on the development in the first quarter when publishing its Q1 report on May 6, 2009.