Exclusivity agreement concluded between Henkel and Akzo Nobel

The Board of Henkel KGaA, Düsseldorf, Germany, notes the recent speculation regarding talks between Henkel and Akzo Nobel N.V., Arnhem, The Netherlands. Henkel confirms that on July 26, 2007 it has signed an exclusivity agreement with Akzo Nobel. Also Henkel and Akzo Nobel have negotiated an agreement about a back-to-back transaction, the signing of which is still pending. Under such agreement Henkel would acquire the adhesives and electronic materials businesses of National Starch and Chemical Company, Bridgewater, N.J., USA, a subsidiary of ICI plc, London, UK. It is intended - subject to approval by Henkel’s Shareholders’ Committee - to execute the back-to-back agreement immediately prior to the formal announcement of an offer by Akzo Nobel for ICI.

The adhesives/electronic materials business of National Starch had sales of 1.26 billion GBP (approx. 1.85 billion euros) in 2006.

Such a back-to-back-transaction is subject to the successful completion of a takeover of ICI by Akzo Nobel. There can be no certainty that such an offer will be made or a takeover will take place.

 Henkel KGaA