www.cnrs.fr

PRESS RELEASE I PARIS I March 1st, 2010

Creation of a Franco-American International Joint Research Unit devoted to soft matter

The French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Rhodia, and the University of Pennsylvania announce the creation of an International Joint Research Unit named COMPASS, for 'Complex Assemblies of Soft Matter.' This joint research unit will make it possible to facilitate collaboration between French and North-American researchers working in the field of soft matter. The aim of this unit is to develop innovative solutions in line with the foremost standards governing environmental protection and hygiene in the area of consumer goods or industrial formulations.

COMPASS is located at two neighboring sites: the University of Pennsylvania's Laboratory for Research on the Structure of Matter (in Philadelphia) and the Bristol Research and Technology Centre run by Rhodia in Bristol (Pennsylvania). The first site will bring together academics associated with the project along with their students, whose work will be devoted to the activities of the research unit and who may be jointly supervised by CNRS researchers. The Bristol site will host an average of 2 to 4 CNRS research scientists and their students (it is planned that each research scientist will supervise the equivalent of one PhD student during their tenure of about 3 to 4 years) in addition to 5 Rhodia researchers.

The joint research unit continues work initiated at the Complex Fluids Lab (Cranbury, New Jersey), a laboratory located in North America devoted to studying complex fluids and their interfaces where the CNRS and Rhodia began working together on North American soil in 1996.

Personal hygiene, cosmetics and home cleaning are some of the industrial application areas targeted by this research unit. In the longer term, these approaches will be applied to the control of irrigation water drainage from soil, with a view to developing solutions to the issue of water resource preservation for agriculture. Other projects will also address novel printable electronic solutions for generation, energy transfer and storage.

…/…

www.cnrs.fr

*Founded in 1939, the **French national center for scientific research** is a public research institution. It produces knowledge and makes it available to serve society. With more than 32,000 employees, including 11,600 researchers, a 2009 budget worth 3.367 billion euros (of which 607 million are CNRS-generated), distribution throughout France, CNRS produces science in all fields of knowledge, relying on its 1200 research and service units. As France's main interdisciplinary research institution, CNRS covers the entire range of scientific fields, from mathematics, physics, information and engineering sciences and technologies, nuclear and high-energy physics, earth sciences and astronomy, chemistry, the life sciences, humanities and social sciences, and environmental sciences. Many eminent researchers have worked, at some point in their career, in CNRS research labs. With 16 Nobel laureates and 9 Fields prize winners, CNRS has a long tradition of excellence.*

***Rhodia** is an international chemical company resolutely committed to sustainable development. As a leader in its businesses, the Group aims to improve its customers' performance through the pursuit of operational excellence and its ability to innovate. Structured around six Enterprises, Rhodia is the partner of major players in the automotive, electronics, flavors and fragrances, health, personal and home care markets, consumer goods and industrial markets. The Group employs around 13,600 people worldwide and generated sales of €4.03 billion in 2009. Rhodia is listed on Euronext Paris.*

For more information, please visit our website www.rhodia.com

Contacts information

CNRS I Jean-François Baumard ☏ **33-1 44 96 40 96** I jean-françois.baumard@cnrs-dir.fr
CNRS press officer I Cécile Pérol ☏ **33-1 44 96 43 90** I cecile.perol@cnrs-dir.fr
Press Rhodia I Lamia Narcisse ☏ **33-1 53 56 59 62** I lamia.narcisse@eu.rhodia.com