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Proposed future of the Soveplast Chantonnay industrial site

The management of Soveplast's Chantonnay facilities (France / Vendée) has today presented to the Works Council a project for the future of its activities designed to restore the site's competitiveness by optimizing its organization and investing into the development of new products.

The competitiveness of Soveplast's Chantonnay industrial site is being adversely affected primarily by the complexity of its production range which is undermining its results, as the corresponding manufacturing costs can no longer be passed on to sales prices in today's highly competitive markets.

Under these conditions, in order to restore the competitiveness and ensure the long-term future of the site, plans are being drawn up to close down those productions with the weakest margins. Meanwhile, high added value activities would see their profitability boosted by development investments and by the introduction of a targeted sales policy.

Additionally, to reduce operating costs, the central services of the Chantonnay site would be merged with those of the nearby Sablé-sur-Sarthe site.

The project would result in the loss of 28 jobs on the Chantonnay site. The management is committed to drawing on all necessary resources to promote the redeployment, internally or externally, of all employees affected by job losses.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Arkema's Alphacan Pipes and Profiles Business Unit, Soveplast produces PVC profiles for the manufacture of window shutters, window blinds, and garage doors.

A world-class chemical concern, Arkema combines three strategically related, integrated businesses: Vinyl Products, Industrial Chemicals and Performance Products. With operations in more than 40 countries and 18,400 employees, the company reported revenue of €5.7 billion in 2005. Leveraging six research centers in France, the United States and Japan and internationally recognized brands, Arkema holds leadership positions in each of its principal markets.

CONTACTS :

Frédéric Gauvard
Sophie Fouillat

Tel. : +33 1 49 00 82 53
Tel. : +33 1 49 00 86 37

Fax : +33 1 49 00 50 24
Fax : +33 1 49 00 50 24

E-mail : frederic.gauvard@arkema.com
E-mail : sophie.fouillat@arkema.com