

## **Akzo Nobel to acquire Swiss Lack**

**Arnhem, the Netherlands, April 26, 2005 – Akzo Nobel's Decorative Coatings business has initiated the latest phase of its competitive European expansion strategy by signing an agreement to acquire Swiss Lack, Switzerland's leading paint company. The deal – which will see Akzo Nobel become the biggest coatings company in Switzerland – includes taking over Swiss Lack's brand portfolio, as well as its large commercial distribution network.**

Due to be completed by the end of 2005, the transaction comes several months after Akzo Nobel strengthened its extensive European market presence with similar acquisitions in Germany (e.g. wholesalers Timpe & Mock), and France. Given the increasingly competitive market, the latest deal represents a key acquisition which will further advance the Coatings group's determined plans for significant growth and obtaining leadership positions.

"This deal represents another important milestone in consolidating one of the fundamental cornerstones of our global strategy," explained Rudy van der Meer, Member of Akzo Nobel's Board of Management responsible for Coatings. "Expanding our European distribution network is critical to our success and, allied to the Company's other innovative expertise in the formulation, production and marketing of paint, it will ensure that we continue to strengthen our leading status in the industry."

Based in Reussbühl south of Zurich, Swiss Lack manufactures Switzerland's leading paint brand, Swiss Lack, and had estimated sales in 2004 of EUR 45 million. By taking over the business, Akzo Nobel will significantly increase its current share in the attractive Swiss market.

"The acquisition of Swiss Lack will not only boost the distribution network we already have in Switzerland, but will also more than double our current market share," added Leif Abildgaard, General Manager of Akzo Nobel's Decorative Coatings Europe business. "Having recently expanded our paint distribution network in Germany and France, this is a further step towards establishing a more significant presence for our company in other European markets."

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**Note for the editor**

Akzo Nobel, based in the Netherlands, serves customers throughout the world with healthcare products, coatings and chemicals. Consolidated revenues for 2004 totaled EUR 12.9 billion. The Company currently employs some 61,000 people in more than 80 countries. The financial results for the second quarter will be published on July 20, 2005.

Internet: [www.akzonobel.com](http://www.akzonobel.com); [www.swisslack.ch](http://www.swisslack.ch)

**Not for publication – for more information**

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**Safe Harbor Statement\***

This press release may contain statements which address such key issues as Akzo Nobel's growth strategy, future financial results, market positions, product development, pharmaceutical products in the pipeline, and product approvals. Such statements should be carefully considered and it should be understood that many factors could cause forecasted and actual results to differ from these statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, price fluctuations, currency fluctuations, developments in raw material and personnel costs, pensions, physical and environmental risks, legal issues, and legislative, fiscal, and other regulatory measures. Stated competitive positions are based on management estimates supported by information provided by specialized external agencies. For a more complete discussion of the risk factors affecting our business please refer to our Annual Report on Form 20-F filed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, a copy of which can be found on the Company's website.

\* Pursuant to the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act 1995.