

PRESS RELEASE

## **Kuraray Expands Capacity at European PVB Film Manufacturing Facility**

### **Investment in Division TROSIFOL at production site in Troisdorf**

Kuraray Co., Ltd., in response to growing Europe-centered demand for the PVB (polyvinyl butyral) film marketed under the brand name TROSIFOL, has decided to expand the PVB film-production capabilities of its European subsidiary, Kuraray Specialities Europe GmbH (KSE, based in Frankfurt, Germany) by 9,000 tons per annum. Plant expansion at factory in Troisdorf, Germany, is planned for completion in July 2007.

Kuraray acquired the TROSIFOL PVB film business from HT Troplast AG, Germany, in December 2004, establishing an integrated manufacturing system at KSE for POVAL and MOWIOL, polyvinyl alcohol resin (PVA), and MOWITAL PVB resin and TROSIFOL PVB film; thereby strengthening the Company's downstream development of vinyl acetate and POVAL-related businesses.

PVB film is derived from PVA resin, which the Company became the first in the world to manufacture in 1958. PVB film's superior adhesive properties, excellent transparent qualities and high pliability give rise to special features. When used as an interlayer film in laminated safety glass, TROSIFOL PVB film makes glass shatter-resistant and is designed to prevent flying fragments in the event of a heavy impact. It is widely used for windows in the construction industry and in automobile windshields.

Kuraray Group is the leading company in construction industry applications, particularly in Europe. Kuraray is focused on bolstering and expanding its TROSIFOL PVB film business, engaged in creating new markets and developing new products that exactly meet the needs of the market, as well as strengthening the development system that maintains close links with customers.

## **Business**

KSE, Frankfurt, develops, manufactures and sells PVA resin, PVB resin and PVB film. With its approximately 500 employees KSE has a production capacity of 70,000 tons PVA per year and more than 25,000 tons PVB resin per year. There are manufacturing subsidiaries for PVB film TROSIFOL in Germany and Russia, marketing subsidiaries in China, the United States, Malaysia, India and Ukraine.

In fiscal year 2005, the Kuraray Group achieved total sales of some 3 billion Euros.

Accordingly, under the 10-Year Corporate Vision, Kuraray aims to become a diversified, specialty-chemical company of world renown, achieving sustainable growth through exciting innovation and outstanding earnings, and has set a target of one trillion Yen, which is equivalent to about 7 billion Euros in sales by 2015.

October 24, 2006

This text comprises 2,568 characters in 51 lines. You can also download it from the Internet at: [www.trosifol.com](http://www.trosifol.com)

Press contact:

Jörg Theesfeld, Head of Business Development & Marketing  
Kuraray Specialities Europe GmbH, Division TROSIFOL,  
Mülheimer Strasse 26, 53840 Troisdorf

Phone: +49 (0) 22 41 / 85-25 51

Fax: +49 (0) 22 41 / 85-27 88

E-mail: [info@kuraray-kse.de](mailto:info@kuraray-kse.de)

## **Background to TROSIFOL:**

The raw material for all TROSIFOL films is polyvinyl butyral (PVB). PVB has been in use as an interlayer in laminated safety glass since the middle of the Thirties. With added plasticizers, PVB – a resin in powder form – becomes sufficiently elastic for use as a safety glass film. The experience gained from the processing of this raw material since 1953 is one of the main reasons for the technical sophistication of TROSIFOL today. Thanks to ongoing research and development, TROSIFOL has become one of Europe's leading manufacturers of films for structural glazing. Today TROSIFOL operates a worldwide distribution network comprising several subsidiaries, agents and warehouse sites, and markets its products in over 70 countries. Production is carried out at the parent plant in Troisdorf near Cologne, Germany, and in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. Certified TROSIFOL is to ISO/TS 16949, DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 and DIN EN ISO 14001, the brand is now also making a big impression on the automotive OEM market. The TROSIFOL brand joined German Kuraray Specialities Europe GmbH (KSE, formerly Clariant/Hoechst AG), a company of internationally active Kuraray Co. Ltd., on 1st January 2005.