

Cookson 

has divested its Hi-Tech
Ceramics filters business
to



The undersigned served as
financial advisor to Cookson
Group plc in this transaction



Süd-Chemie AG Acquires Hi-Tech Ceramics Business of Cookson Group plc

*Vetus Partners Advises One of the World's Leading
Materials Science Companies in a Corporate Carve-out
Divestiture to a Global Specialty Chemicals Company*

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CLEVELAND, January 5, 2009 – The investment bank of Vetus Partners announced today that its U.K.-based, publicly-traded client, Cookson Group plc ("Cookson") [LSE: CKSN], has sold its Hi-Tech Ceramics filters business ("Hi-Tech") to Süd-Chemie AG. Details of the transaction were not disclosed. Vetus Partners served as financial advisor to Cookson for the transaction.

Headquartered in Alfred, New York, Hi-Tech is one of the world's leading producers of technologically-advanced ceramic foam filters. Hi-Tech's highly engineered filtration solutions are used primarily by the foundry industry to improve casting quality, enhance productivity and output, reduce scrap and re-work costs, and reduce or eliminate the need for costly secondary finishing operations. Within the over \$275 million global ceramic filter industry, Hi-Tech has captured significant market share and is a recognized leader in the investment casting and steel foundry areas.

The divestiture of Hi-Tech was a condition attached to the European Commission's ("EC") antitrust approval of Cookson's acquisition of Foseco plc for approximately \$1.2 billion in April 2008. Tony Harrison, Group Head of Treasury and M&A at Cookson, said "the Hi-Tech divestment presented a number of challenges ranging from the need to develop extensive carve-out financial analyses to executing a global marketing approach to strategic and private equity buyers – all within a tight timeframe mandated by the EC. Maximizing value to Cookson while delivering on our EC commitments was further complicated by the global credit crunch, yet we were able to accomplish our goals."

Mr. Harrison added, "we appointed the investment banking team, led by Jay Greyson, Managing Director of Vetus Partners, as a repeat hire following their proven track record on a prior divestment of a Cookson-owned business. The team worked seamlessly and skillfully with cross-border legal

teams and Cookson to manage a complex transaction overseen by an EC-appointed Monitoring Trustee. Vetus Partners' global reach and expertise in complicated corporate carve-outs proved vital to the successful outcome of the divestment."

"The acquisition of Hi-Tech will significantly strengthen Süd-Chemie's product and solutions offering to the foundry industry," stated Jay Greyson, a Managing Director with Vetus Partners.

About Vetus Partners

The investment banking firm of Vetus Partners helps private and public companies maximize the value of their businesses by providing a comprehensive array of financial advisory services relating to sell-side M&A, debt and equity placements, corporate divestitures, and management buyouts. Vetus' investment bankers have served as financial advisors in a broad range of transactions, both domestic and cross-border, with an aggregate dollar volume exceeding \$2 billion. Over the past decade, the Principals of Vetus have represented dozens of companies and private equity clients. For more information please visit www.VetusPartners.com.

About Cookson Group

Cookson Group plc is a leading materials science company operating on a worldwide basis in the Ceramics, Electronic and Precious Metals markets. The Ceramics division is the world leader in the supply of advanced consumable products and systems to the global steel and foundry industries and a leading supplier of specialty products to the glass and solar industries. The Electronics division is a world leading supplier of advanced surface treatment and plating chemicals and assembly materials to the automotive, industrial, construction and electronics markets. The Precious Metals division is a leading supplier of fabricated precious metals (primarily gold, silver and platinum) to the jewelry industry in the US, the UK, France and Spain. For more information please visit www.cooksongroup.co.uk.

About Süd-Chemie AG

Süd-Chemie AG is a publicly traded specialty chemicals company headquartered in Munich, Germany and operating on a worldwide scale. The common denominator of all its products and innovations is the efficient and sparing use of natural resources to enhance the quality of life for humans and the environment. Süd-Chemie generated sales of €1.075 billion in 2007, approx. 80% of these outside Germany. In mid 2008, the group employed more than 6,100 people at 80 sales and production sites worldwide. For more information please visit www.sud-chemie.com.