media release

January 25, 2010

Borealis distributes Student Innovation Award 2009

Borealis, a leading provider of chemical and innovative plastics solutions has selected the winners of its Student Innovation Award 2009. Launched in 2008, the award recognises the two most innovative research papers on polyolefins, olefins or melamine, one for a master's degree and one for a doctorate graduate. A monetary award of EUR 5,000 for the doctorate degree graduate and one of EUR 3,000 for the master's degree graduate winner is granted to the winners along with an award and certificate.

The 2009 Student Innovation Award for the master's degree graduate is awarded to **Matteo D'Amato** for his work on polymeric nanocomposite fibres. In his thesis, he studied the impact of introducing nanoparticles to polyolefin base high-performance fibres. Matteo D'Amato is Italian and graduated summa cum laude from the University of Trento last October.

The Innovation Award for the doctorate degree was given to **Amir Jabri**. His PhD thesis, which was sponsored by the Dutch Polymer Institute, was an experimental study of how the transition-metal catalysts used in polyolefin production function on a molecular level. Dr. Amir Jabri, a US citizen, graduated from the University of Ottawa, Canada in 2009 and currently works in the area of computational chemistry. He published his findings in the renowned scientific journals, "Angewandte Chemie" and in the "Journal of the American Chemical Society".

A jury composed of independent academics and Borealis representatives assessed the incoming abstracts and selected the winners from more than two dozen submissions. The jury's decision stated that the contributions of Mr. D'Amato and Dr. Jabri are characterized by a

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combination of beautiful experimental works with excellent theoretical explanations.

The Borealis Student Innovation Award is open to graduates throughout the world in the fields of chemistry, polymers or applications with a particular focus on polyolefins, olefins or melamine. The awardees were invited to present their theses during the Borealis Innovation Day event, which took place in Stenungsund, Sweden in January 2010.

Borealis ran a limited pilot programme during 2008, which proved to be successful and has led to the introduction of the full award scheme in 2009. One of the 2008 awardees now works for Borealis.

“At Borealis, we believe in our strategy which is based on value creation through innovation,” states Alfred Stern, Borealis Senior Vice President Innovation & Technology. “The Student Innovation Award is a programme which supports this strategy. As we nurture these young talents, we invest in the future of plastics and in the prospect of our whole industry.”

“I would like to thank all the nominees who applied for the Borealis Student Innovation Award,” says Christian Paulik, Manager for External Research and Funding at Borealis. “And of course, congratulations to the 2009 Student Innovation Award winners. Both of them have made an outstanding contribution to innovation and I am confident that their scientific work will have an impact on future research and product development.”

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v.l.n.r.: Alfred Stern, Borealis EVP Innovation & Technology; Matteo D'Aamato; Amir Jabri; Mark Garrett, Borealis Chief Executive

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Borealis is a leading provider of chemical and innovative plastics solutions that create value for society. With sales of EUR 6.6 billion in 2008, customers in over 120 countries, and 5,400 employees worldwide, Borealis is owned 64% by the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) of Abu Dhabi and 36% by OMV, the leading energy group in the European growth belt. Borealis is

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headquartered in Vienna, Austria, and has production locations, innovation centers and customer service centers across Europe and the Americas. Through Borouge, a joint venture between Borealis and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), one of the world's major oil companies, the company's footprint reaches out to the Middle East, Asia Pacific, the Indian sub-continent and Africa. Established in 1998, Borouge employs approximately 1,400 people, has customers in more than 50 countries and its headquarters are in Abu Dhabi in the UAE and Singapore.

Building on the unique Borstar® technology and their experience in polyolefins for more than 50 years, Borealis and Borouge provide innovative, value creating plastics solutions for the infrastructure (pipe systems and power and communication cables), automotive and advanced packaging markets. In addition, Borealis offers a wide range of base chemicals from melamine and plant nutrients to phenol and acetone.

Today Borealis and Borouge manufacture 4.4 million tonnes of polyolefins (polyethylene and polypropylene) per year. Borouge is currently tripling its polyolefins manufacturing capacity to 2 million tonnes per year (t/y) by mid-2010 and an additional 2.5 million t/y is scheduled for 2013. The companies continue to invest to ensure that their customers throughout the value chain, across the globe, can always rely on product quality, consistency and security of supply.

Borouge and Borealis are committed to the principles of Responsible Care® and proactively contribute to addressing the world's water and sanitation challenges through their Water for the World™ initiative.

For more information visit:
Borealis: www.borealisgroup.com
Borouge: www.borouge.com
Water for the World: www.waterfortheworld.net

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