

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, April 29, 2009

Imerys announces forthcoming launch of an approximately €250 million rights issue to optimize its financial structure

- **Forthcoming launch of an underwritten rights issue of approximately €250 million with issuance of preferential subscription rights, supported by controlling shareholders who will subscribe in proportion to their interests**

G rard Buffi re stated *"To optimize our financial structure and protect the Group's flexibility, the Board of Directors approved the forthcoming launch, subject to market conditions, of a rights issue of approximately €250 million through issuance of preferential subscription rights. We are pleased that the Group's controlling shareholders have committed to subscribe to their pro rata share of the rights issue."*

The Board of Directors has approved in principle a fully underwritten rights issue of approximately €250 million through an issuance of preferential subscription rights to optimize the Group's financial structure by reducing its net debt.

This operation will be launched soon subject to market conditions. It adds a financial aspect to the operating measures taken by the Group since late 2008 to adapt its activities to an extremely deteriorated economic environment. With an approximately €250 million increase in shareholders' equity and a correlated reduction in net debt, Imerys is consolidating its balance sheet structure and improving its financial ratios. In this way, the Group is maintaining its financial flexibility and safeguarding all its room to maneuver with a view to seizing, when the time comes, strategic development opportunities.

The Pargesa-GBL group, Imerys' controlling shareholder since 1988, has committed to subscribe to the capital increase in proportion to its 57.9% holding in the company⁽¹⁾ for a total amount of approximately €145 million. The remainder is fully underwritten by a banking syndicate.

Financial diary:

Thursday, July 30 th , 2009	1 st half results 2009
Wednesday, November 4 th , 2009	3 rd quarter results 2009

The world leader in adding value to minerals, Imerys is active in 47 countries through more than 260 industrial and commercial sites. The Group achieved €3.4 billion in sales in 2008. Imerys mines and processes minerals from reserves with rare qualities in order to develop solutions that improve its customers' product performance and manufacturing efficiency. The Group's products have a great many applications in everyday life, including construction, personal care, paper, paint, plastic, ceramics, telecommunications and beverage filtration.

⁽¹⁾ Pargesa Netherlands BV: 27.39%;
Belgian Securities BV: 30.54% as on December 31, 2008.



More comprehensive information about Imerys may be obtained on its Internet website (www.imerys.com), under Regulated Information, including its document de référence filed under n° D.09-0192 on April 3, 2009 with the Autorité des marchés financiers (also available on the Internet website of the Autorité des marchés financiers, www.amf-france.org). Imerys draws the attention of investors to the risk factors set forth in section 4 of the document de référence.

Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements: *This document contains projections and other forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned that such projections and forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties (many of which are difficult to predict and generally beyond the control of Imerys) that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied.*

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