

# PRESS RELEASE

Paris, April 2, 2007

## Public Bid for UCM Group PLC Successful

Following its recommended cash offer for UCM Group PLC launched on February 15, Imerys announces today that valid acceptances of the offer had been received in respect of 95.8% of UCM's issued share capital and that it will proceed with the compulsory acquisition of any UCM shares in respect of which acceptances have not been received by May 14, 2007.

With market estimated sales of €55 million in 2006, two sites in Great Britain and two in the United States, UCM Group PLC is one of the world's leading producers of fused zirconia for the refractories, advanced ceramics and automotive industries, and fused magnesia, which is primarily used in the manufacture of electrical heating elements. This acquisition enables Imerys to broaden its range of fused minerals, a segment in which it is already active through its subsidiary Treibacher Schleifmittel.

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*The world leader in adding value to minerals, Imerys is active in 45 countries through over 250 industrial and commercial sites. The Group achieved €3.3 billion in sales in 2006. 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.*

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