

PRESS RELEASE

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Imerys Steps Up Development on French Clay Brick Market

Imerys today announced its intention to invest €100 million by the end of 2011 in its clay brick production assets. This ambitious program includes:

- Production capacity extension for rectified bricks in the Gironde-sur-Dropt (Gironde, France) and La Boissière du Doré (Loire Atlantique, France) units;
- Construction of two new plants in Southeastern and Northern France.

The capacity extensions and the new unit in the South of France should come on stream gradually in 2008 and 2009. The Northern project should be operational by 2011.

This capital expenditure is essential to meet high growth on the French bricks market (especially Monomur bricks⁽¹⁾), which is likely to be at least + 5% per annum over the next five years. Clay products are replacing concrete-blocks in single-family housing and are developing in new market segments like multi-family housing and tertiary construction.

Implementing this capital expenditure program will enable the Group to continue its growth in building materials and consolidate its leadership on the French clay brick market through a stronger industrial network and a broader product range.

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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(1) Monomur is a distributed insulating construction system

