

Imerys announces improved results in 1st half 2015

- **Revenue: €2,057m (+11.9 %), - 3.9% decrease on comparable basis⁽¹⁾, with a relative improvement in activity in 2nd quarter**
- **Positive contribution of S&B's integration and exchange rates**
- **Firm operating margin at 13.3%**
- **+ 11.0% growth in net income from current operations at €175m**
- **Sound cash flow generation at €141m**

Imerys' Board of Directors, meeting today under Gilles Michel's chairmanship, reviewed the Group's financial statements for the first half ended June 30, 2015.

Consolidated results (€ millions)	1 st half 2015	1 st half 2014	% change on current basis
Revenue	2,057.3	1,837.9	+ 11.9%
Current operating income ⁽²⁾	274.0	247.7	+ 10.6%
<i>Operating margin</i>	13.3%	13.5%	- 0.2 point
Net income from current operations, Group's share ⁽³⁾	174.7	157.5	+ 11.0%
Net income, Group's share	145.2	131.5	+ 10.4 %.
Financing			
Paid capital expenditure	121.5	106.6	+ 14.0%
Current free operating cash flow ⁽⁴⁾	141.4	105.7	+ 33.8%
Shareholders' equity	2 936.9	2 311.5	+ 27.1%
Net financial debt	1 487.9	878.0	+ 69.5 %
Data per share (euros)			
Net income from current operations, Group's share ^{(3) (5)}	2.22 €	2.06 €	+ 7.8 %

Chairman & CEO Gilles Michel commented:

"In the 1st half of 2015, Imerys recorded good performance in a contrasting environment. The Group benefited from the integration of S&B from March onwards and favorable exchange rate trends, but also from a positive price-mix effect in all its business groups, its efficient cost and cash management and its strategy of innovation and sectorial and geographic diversification. Given these results, and while sharp contrasts are likely to remain among its main markets, the Group is confident in its ability to generate firm growth in net income from current operations in 2015."

¹ Throughout this press release, "on comparable basis" means at comparable Group structure and exchange rate.

² Throughout this press release, "Current operating income" means operating income before other operating revenue and expenses. On a comparable basis, current operating income decreased - 7.1%.

³ Group's share of net income before other operating revenue and expenses net.

⁴ Current free operating cash flow: EBITDA after deduction of notional tax, changes in working capital requirement and paid capital expenditure.

⁵ The weighted average number of outstanding shares was 78,736,146 in H1 2015 compared with 76,329,586 in H1 2014.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

Activity remained vibrant overall in North America in the 2nd quarter despite a slack start to the year and the sharp downturn in oil-related activities.

Although signs of a recovery appeared in Europe, driven in particular by consumer goods, the trend was more contrasting in industry, while the construction sector remained negative in France.

The dynamics of emerging countries were very different from country to country, with continued growth in India and Southeast Asia, recession in Brazil and a downturn in construction-related sectors in China.

RECENT EVENTS

On February 26, 2015 Imerys completed its acquisition of S&B. A global player and European player in bentonite (binders for foundry, sealing solutions, additives for drilling and for consumer products), S&B is also the world leader in continuous casting fluxes for the steel industry and in wollastonite (functional additives for polymers and paints) and provides perlite-based solutions for building materials and horticulture. The full integration of S&B, which is consolidated as of March 1, is progressing in line with the Group's expectations and should be effective from October 1. This acquisition, which will be accretive on Imerys' net income from current operations per share from 2015, should create value from 2018, with annual synergy run-rate estimated at more than €25 million, half of which should be achieved in 2016.

In addition, the Group continued its development and signed on May 7, 2015 an exclusive agreement with Solvay to acquire its PCC (precipitated calcium carbonates) division comprising 4 plants in Europe (Germany, Austria, France and the United Kingdom). This business serves mainly the automotive (polymers), building (paints, coatings, sealants) and consumer goods markets (health & beauty, agriculture, etc.) through specialty applications. It generated €59 million revenue in 2014.

The conclusion of this transaction remains subject to the approval of the relevant regulatory authorities and to consultation with employee representatives; it should take place in the second half of the year.

EVENTS SINCE JUNE 30, 2015

The half-year consolidated financial statements as of June 30, 2015 were closed by the Board of Directors at its meeting on July 29, 2015. No significant event is to be reported between the closing date and that of the Board of Directors meeting.

OUTLOOK

Imerys will continue to operate in a contrasting economic environment. The Group will benefit from healthy demand trends in several regions such as the USA, India and Southeast Asia and in sectors that continue to show growth, such as automotive and consumer goods. On the contrary, some of its markets will remain depressed (paper, construction in France), while visibility on ceramic proppants markets for non-conventional oil exploitation remains limited.

In this context, the Group will actively manage its costs and cash, while keeping its production assets flexible. It will further implement its growth strategy and benefit from the first synergies with S&B.

Given this environment and the performance achieved in the first half, Imerys is confident in its ability to generate firm growth in net income from current operations in 2015.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

At its meeting on July 29, 2015, following the recommendation made by the Appointment and Compensation Committee, Imerys' Board of Directors decided to appoint as new director of the Company Laurent Raets, in charge of Investments at Groupe Bruxelles Lambert, in succession to Olivier Pirotte, Group Chief Financial Officer as from June 1, 2015, for the remainder of his term of office i.e. until the end of the Shareholders' General Meeting to be held in 2016. In accordance with the law, his appointment will be submitted to the approval of the next Shareholders' General Meeting.

DETAILED REVIEW OF THE GROUP'S RESULTS

INCREASE IN REVENUE TO €2,057 MILLION

<i>Quarterly data (unaudited)</i>	2015 Revenue <i>(in millions of euros)</i>	2014 Revenue <i>(in millions of euros)</i>	Change <i>(% prior year)</i>	Change on comparable basis <i>(% prior year)</i>	Of which volume effect	Of which price-mix effect
1 st quarter	973.6	904.1	+ 7.7%	- 4.5%	- 5.9%	+ 1.3%
2 nd quarter	1,083.7	933.8	+ 16.1%	- 3.3%	- 4.8%	+ 1.5%
1st half	2,057.3	1,837.9	+ 11.9%	- 3.9%	- 5.3%	+ 1.4%

- **Integration of S&B and positive impact of exchange rates**
- **Improvement in activity on comparable basis in Q2**

Revenue for the 1st half of 2015 amounts to €2,057.3 million, an + 11.9% increase on a current basis compared with the same period in 2014. This improvement results from:

- A positive Group structure effect of + €143.2 million (+ 7.8%), which mainly includes the consolidation since March 1, 2015 of S&B and, to a lesser extent, bolt-on acquisitions in Monolithic Refractories (Termorak in Finland – February 2014) and Carbonates (Kinta Powdertech in Malaysia – July 2014). This structure effect is net of the divestment of four calcium carbonate units in January 2014;
- A positive exchange rate effect of + €147.4 million (+ 8.0%), related to the appreciation of many currencies against the euro.

At comparable Group structure and exchange rates, revenue for the 1st half of 2015 shows a - 3.9% drop compared with the same period in 2014. Volumes decreased by - 5.3% (- €97.8 million) compared with a high basis of comparison in the 1st half of 2014. Excluding ceramic proppants, comparable change in revenue improved from - 3.5% in the 1st quarter to - 1.3% in the 2nd.

The price/mix effect was positive in every business group and represents + 1.4% for the Group as a whole (+ €26.7 million).

REVENUE BY GEOGRAPHIC DESTINATION (CURRENT CHANGE)

(€ millions)	Revenue H1 2015	% Change H1 15 vs. H1 14	% of consolidated revenue H1 15	% of consolidated revenue H1 14
Western Europe	901.8	+ 7.8%	44%	46%
<i>of which France</i>	241.3	- 1.3%	12%	13%
USA / Canada	508.0	+ 19.4%	25%	23%
Emerging countries	548.1	+ 13.9%	26%	26%
Other (Japan/ Australia)	99.4	+ 5.2%	5%	5%
Total	2,057.3	+ 11.9%	100%	100%

Sales grew in every region, except for France where the 1st quarter of 2014 was marked by strong activity in clay roof tiles. The Group benefited from the rise in the US dollar, as well as from the integration of S&B's activities.

CURRENT OPERATING INCOME UP + 10.6%

Non-audited quarterly data (€ millions)	2015	2014	% Change	% Change on comparable basis
1 st quarter	123.2	117.3	+ 5.0%	- 9.0%
Operating margin	12.7%	13.0%	- 0.3 point	
2 nd quarter	150.8	130.4	+ 15.7%	- 5.5%
Operating margin	13.9%	14.0%	- 0.1 point	
1st half	274.0	247.7	+ 10.6%	- 7.1%
Operating margin	13.3%	13.5%	- 0.2 point	

- **Improved current operating income in all business groups, excluding ceramic proppants**
- **Positive impact of exchange rates and the product price/mix**
- **Fixed and variable costs, general expenses under control**

Current operating income, at €274.0 million in the 1st half of 2015, rose + 10.6% compared with the same period in 2014. It includes a favorable exchange rate effect of €24.1 million, reflecting the appreciation of the US dollar against several currencies, and a Group structure effect of €19.9 million, which includes the contribution of S&B.

At comparable Group structure and exchange rates, current operating income decreased - 7.1% compared with 1st half 2014. This drop reflects the impact of lower sales volumes (- €48.5 million) and the positive contribution of management measures:

- Improved variable costs (+ €12.2 million);
- Stable fixed costs and general expenses;
- Evolution of product price/mix (+ €20.0 million).

Consequently, the Group's **operating margin** remains sound at 13.3%.

NET INCOME FROM CURRENT OPERATIONS UP + 11.0%

Net income from current operations rose + 11.0% to €174.7 million (€157.5 million in 1st half 2014). It takes the following items into account:

- Financial expense for - €23.5 million (- €27.9 million in 1st half 2014), comprised of the three following items:
 - net interest expense on financial debt for - €26.7 million in the 1st half of 2015 (compared with - €20.1 million in 1st half of 2014). This increase is mainly due to the rise in average financial debt over the period, relating to the acquisition of S&B (€1,379 million in 1st half of 2015 against €893 million in 1st half 2014);
 - net financial cost of pension charges and other changes in provisions for - €7.0 million in the 1st half of 2015 (compared with - €5.2 million one year earlier);
 - the net impact of foreign exchange and financial instruments corresponds to gains of + €10.2 million in the 1st half of 2015 (compared with expense of - €2.7 million in 1st half 2014).
- A current tax charge of - €74.1 million (- €62.1 million in 1st half 2014). The effective tax rate increased, as expected, to 29.6% (28.3% in 1st half 2014), reflecting the change in the geographic distribution of the business mix.

NET INCOME

Other operating income and expenses, net of tax and net income of assets held for sale totaled - €29.5 million in the 1st half of 2015 (compared with - €26.0 million in 1st half 2014) with 2 components:

- - €25.9 million in restructuring costs after tax, corresponding to the adjustment of the Oilfield Solutions activity to a downturn on the ceramic proppant market (- €3.6 million) and the integration of S&B (- €8.4 million).
- Acquisition costs of - €3.6 million after tax;

After taking other operating income and expenses, net of tax, into consideration, the **Group's share of net income** totaled €145.2 million in the 1st half of 2015 (€131.5 million in 1st half 2014).

FIRM CURRENT FREE OPERATING CASH FLOW

(€ millions)	H1 2015	2014	H1 2014
EBITDA	381.2	673.8	338.4
Change in operating working capital requirement (WCR)	(38.3)	(48.9)	(57.4)
Paid capital expenditure	(121.5)	(241.5)	(106.6)
Current free operating cash flow*	141.4	244.1	105.7
Paid financial expense (net of tax)	(10.5)	(21.0)	(20.0)
Other WCR items	11.1	4.4	8.5
Current free cash flow	142.0	227.5	94.2

* including subsidies, value of divested assets and miscellaneous

1,0

5,3

1,4

- **Ratio of operating working capital requirement to annualized sales to 23.1%**
- **Further selected development capital expenditure**

The change in operating working capital requirement (- €38.3 million) improved in comparison to the 1st half of 2014 (- €57.3 million). At 23.1% as of June 30, 2015, the ratio of **operating working capital requirement** ⁽⁶⁾ to annualized sales in the last quarter increased marginally compared with the same period in 2014 (22.4%)

Paid industrial **capital expenditure** totaled €121.5 million in the 1st half of 2015. The booked amount (€97.7 million) represents 86% of depreciation expense, in line with the 1st half of 2014 (89%).

In this context, Imerys generated healthy **current free operating cash flow** (€141.4 million in the 1st half of 2015, compared with €105.7 million one year earlier).

SOUND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE MAINTAINED

(€ millions)	30 June 2015	31 December 2014	30 June 2014
Paid dividends	(132.6)	(125.3)	(123.7)
Net debt, end of period	1,487.9	869.9	878.0
Average net debt of the period	1,379.3	922.3	893.1
Shareholders' equity	2,936.9	2,470.5	2,311.5
EBITDA	381.2	673.8	338.4
Net debt / shareholders' equity	50.7%	35.2%	38.0%
Net debt / EBITDA ⁽⁷⁾	2.1x	1.3x	1.3x

- **Increase in net financial debt compared with December 31, 2014, relating to the acquisition of S&B**
- **Robust financial ratios**

During the 1st half of 2015, the Group's **net financial debt** increased by + €618 million to €1,487.9 million as of June 30, 2015, mainly due to the acquisition of S&B, which was finalized in late February 2015 and paid in cash and in shares.

During the period, Imerys generated €142.0 million in current free cash flow ⁽⁸⁾ exceeding the €132.6 million paid out for the dividend.

As regards financing, Imerys' **total financial resources** stood at €2.9 billion as of June 30, 2015, with average maturity 4.8 years.

Imerys' financial indebtedness ratios remain sound: net debt represents 51% of shareholders' equity, and 2.1 times EBITDA. Imerys long-term credit rating assigned by Moody's is "Baa-2" with a stable outlook. The short-term rating is "P-2", also with a stable outlook.

⁶ Continuation of factoring contract signed on July 23, 2009 under which transferred receivables are deconsolidated, with the risks and benefits related to receivables transferred to the factor bank. €51.9 million in receivables was factored as of June 30, 2015.

⁷ EBITDA rolling 12 months.

⁸ Current free operating cash flow after financial expense and other working capital requirement items.

REVIEW BY BUSINESS GROUP

REVENUE BY BUSINESS GROUP

(€ millions)	H1 2015	H1 2014	% Change on current basis	Group Structure %	Exchange rates %	% Change on comp. basis
Revenue by business group (€ millions)	2,057.3	1,837.9	+ 11.9%	+ 7.8%	+ 8.0%	- 3.9%
Energy Solutions & Specialties	636.0	624.2	+ 1.9%	- 0.6%	+ 6.5%	- 4.1%
Filtration & Performance Additives	525.1	324.9	+ 61.6%	+ 46.6%	+ 11.9%	+ 3.2%
Ceramic Materials	592.4	582.1	+ 1.8%	- 0.9%	+ 6.6%	- 4.0%
High Resistance Minerals	330.3	328.9	+ 0.4%	+ 0.4%	+ 8.9%	- 8.9%
Holding & Eliminations	(26.5)	(22.2)	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.	n.s.

Energy Solutions & Specialties

(31% of consolidated revenue in 1st half 2015)

Quarterly data (unaudited) (€ millions)	2015	2014	Change on current basis %	Change on comparable basis %
1 st quarter revenue	312.5	303.2	+ 3.1%	- 4.7%
2 nd quarter revenue	323.5	321.1	+ 0.8%	- 3.5%
1st half revenue	636.0	624.2	+ 1.9%	- 4.1%
Current Operating Income	64.4	72.1	- 10.7%	- 17.1%
<i>Operating margin</i>	<i>10.1%</i>	<i>11.5%</i>	<i>- 1.4 point</i>	
Booked capital expenditure	39.0	35.2	+ 10.8%	
<i>as a % of depreciation expense</i>	<i>157%</i>	<i>129%</i>		

The **Energy Solutions & Specialties** business group's revenue totaled €636.0 million in the 1st half of 2015, a - 4.1% decrease at comparable Group structure and exchange rates compared with the same period in 2014. This change is mainly due to the slump on the ceramic proppants market in the United States as a result of lower oil prices. Excluding proppants, the business group's revenue increased + 0.6% in the 1st half of 2015 on a comparable basis.

On a current basis, the + 1.9% rise in the business group's revenue from the 1st half of 2014 mainly corresponds to a positive exchange rate impact for + €40.9 million.

Sales of **Carbonates** which mainly serves the consumer goods, construction, board & packaging and paper markets, continued to benefit from the development of specialty applications (plastic films, polymers, etc.).

The **Monolithic Refractories** activity, which serves high-temperature industries (steel, metallurgy, power generation, incineration, foundry, cement, petrochemicals, etc.), benefited from healthy activity in Asia and firm markets in Europe.

The **Graphite & Carbon** activity's sales on the electronics and automotive markets (Lithium-ion batteries, high conductivity polymers) continued to grow in the 1st half of 2015.

The **Oilfield Solutions** activity had a negative impact on the Group's current operating income of approximately -€11 million in the 1st half (-€7 million in 2nd quarter 2015). Imerys completed the adjustment measures needed in light of the sharp fall in demand on the US ceramic proppants market. The commercial, industrial and technical organization in place protects the Group's capacity to take advantage of an upturn in demand, which today remains uncertain.

Current operating income decreased - 10.7% to €64.4 million (-€7.7 million). It improved + 4.6% to €75.5 million excluding ceramic proppants. It includes an impact from exchange rates of +€5.2 million and of Group structure for -€0.6 million. Current operating income reflects lower volumes, a positive price-mix effect, lower fixed costs and general expenses delivered by the adjustment measures implemented in response to lower demand on the ceramic proppants market.

Given these items, the business group's **operating margin** recorded a - 1.4 point decrease to 10.1%. Excluding ceramic proppants, it was 12.2%.

Capital expenditure in the 1st half of 2015 includes two new production units in India: a production line of Carbonates to serve the high value added coated board industry and the third Calderys' plant.

Filtration & Performance Additives

(25% of consolidated revenue in 1st half 2015)

Quarterly data (unaudited) (€ millions)	2015	2014	Change on current basis %	Change on comparable basis %
1 st quarter revenue	218.9	159.0	+ 37.6%	+ 2.8%
2 nd quarter revenue	306.2	165.8	+ 84.7%	+ 3.6%
1st half revenue	525.1	324.9	+ 61.6%	+ 3.2%
Current Operating Income	88.0	58.0	+ 51.6%	+ 5.9%
<i>Operating margin</i>	<i>16.8%</i>	<i>17.9%</i>	<i>- 1.1 point</i>	
Booked capital expenditure	21.5	13.3	+ 61.9%	
<i>as a % of depreciation expense</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>81%</i>		

The **Filtration & Performance Additives** business group's **revenue** totaled €525.1 million in the 1st half of 2015, a + 61.6% increase on a current basis due to a +€38.5 million positive exchange rate impact and the positive effect of changes in structure resulting from the integration of S&B for 4 months. S&B's bentonite and continuous casting flux activities are integrated into the newly created **Additives for Metallurgy** activity. Perlite-based solutions, wollastonite and S&B's other activities have joined the business group's existing activities.

Filtration & Performance Minerals markets showed healthy trends, particularly in North America and Europe. The activity's momentum was driven by the development of new applications (talc for polymers in the automotive sector, for example) and the extension of its offering into new segments (cosmetics, pharmaceutical specialties, recycled polymers). At comparable Group structure and exchange rates, revenue increased + 3.2% compared with the same period in 2014.

The new **Additives for Metallurgy** activity was fueled by steel, automotive, industrial equipment and construction markets that were varied from one side of the Atlantic to the other. S&B has major assets on Milos (several bentonite and perlite mines and processing sites) but only generates a very small portion of its revenue in Greece. The Group took preventive financial and operating measures to enable it to cope with any consequences of the Greek financial crisis and to run its local operations normally in the event of disruptions.

Current operating income, at €88.0 million, rose + 51.6% in the 1st half of 2015. It includes a significant structure effect (+ €19.6 million) and a favorable exchange rate effect (+ €6.9 million).

Operating margin was 16.8% (17.9% in 1st half 2014) and includes S&B.

Capital expenditure programs continued in the 1st half of 2015 in order to increase production capacities of Celpure™, a filtration agent for edible and pharmaceutical liquids (USA), and support developments in polymers (high shape factor talc for the automotive industry in France and the USA, ImerPlast™ plastic recycling solution in the UK).

Ceramic Materials

(28% of consolidated revenue in 1st half 2015)

Quarterly data (unaudited) (€ millions)	2015	2014	Change on current basis %	Change on comparable basis %
1 st quarter revenue	291.0	289.5	+ 0.6%	- 6.3%
2 nd quarter revenue	301.4	292.5	+ 3.0%	- 1.7%
1st half revenue	592.4	582.1	+ 1.8%	- 4.0%
Current Operating Income	106.8	104.4	+ 2.3%	- 5.0%
<i>Operating margin</i>	<i>18.0%</i>	<i>17.9%</i>	<i>+ 0.1 point</i>	
Booked capital expenditure	21.4	20.9	+ 2,7%	
<i>as a % of depreciation expense</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>50%</i>		

The **Ceramic Materials** business group's **revenue** totaled €592.4 million in the 1st half of 2015. The + 1.8% increase on a current basis compared with the 1st half of 2014 takes into account a + 38.7 million exchange rate effect.

At comparable Group structure and exchange rates, revenue decreased - 4.0% compared with the 1st half of 2014, primarily because of a high basis of comparison in France. Seasonal trends in the **Roofing** activity's sales in the first quarter were unusual, whereas early 2014 had benefited from particularly mild weather. Volumes, however, levelled out in the 2nd quarter compared with the same period the previous year. Single-family housing starts continued to decrease in France in the 1st half of 2015 and sales of clay roof tiles in the sector as a whole fell - 10% compared with the 1st half of 2014⁽⁹⁾.

Whereas the **Kaolin** activity was hit by the sharp slump on the paper market in the United States, specialty activities kept up a positive momentum in the 1st half, particularly in North America. Furthermore, the Group signed on June 8, 2015 an agreement with BASF to acquire its global paper hydrous kaolin business (PHK), including production site in Wilkinson County, Georgia, United States. This transaction, which is pending approval from the relevant regulatory authorities, would enable Imerys to optimize its production for the paper market. The operation is expected to be finalized during the third quarter.

The **Minerals for Ceramics** activity continued to benefit from its diversification and geographic repositioning strategy, and from firm business on its traditional markets.

⁹ French roof tiles & bricks federation (FFTB): June 2015 newflash

Current operating income rose + 2.3% to €106.8 million in the 1st half of 2015 (+ €2.4 million) and takes into account a + €7.7 million exchange rate impact. It reflects lower volumes, which was partly offset by the product price/mix effect and the decrease in variable costs.

The business group's **operating margin** amounted to 18.0% in the 1st half of 2015, a slight improvement from the 1st half of 2014 (17.9%).

Capital expenditure includes the increase in kaolin production capacity for the ceramics industry in Thailand to meet the increase in demand in Southeast Asia.

High Resistance Minerals

(16% of consolidated revenue in 1st half 2015)

Quarterly data (unaudited) (€ millions)	2015	2014	Change on current basis %	Change on comparable basis %
1 st quarter revenue	165.3	163.3	+ 1.2%	- 7.4%
2 nd quarter revenue	165.0	165.6	- 0.4%	- 10.4%
1st half revenue	330.3	328.9	+ 0.4%	- 8.9%
Current Operating Income	41.4	36.5	+ 13.6%	- 1.7%
<i>Operating margin</i>	<i>12.5%</i>	<i>11.1%</i>	<i>+ 1.4 point</i>	
Booked capital expenditure	14.1	19.0	- 25,8%	
<i>as a % of depreciation expense</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>138%</i>		

Revenue of the **High Resistance Minerals** business group, which mainly serves high-temperature industries (steel, foundry, glass, aluminum, etc.) and abrasive products, totaled €330.3 million in the 1st half of 2015, a - 8.9% decrease at comparable Group structure and exchange rates compared with the 1st half of 2014, particularly because of a high basis of comparison and the impact of lower steel production in North America. On a current basis, the + 0.4% increase in revenue compared with the 1st half of 2014 includes a positive exchange effect of + €29.4 million, in particular.

The **Refractory Minerals** activity was hit by the decrease in North American demand resulting from the slump in steel production. Furthermore, the activity divested a mineral processing plant in Newell, USA, at the end of June.

The **Fused Minerals** activity improved in relative terms in the 2nd quarter compared with the first three months of the year. It benefited from refocused activities in China and the gradual ramp-up of the Bahrain fused alumina plant.

The business group's **current operating income** totaled €41.4 million (including a + €4.5 million exchange rate effect) thanks to cost reduction efforts, refocusing on high value-added products in China and optimization of industrial assets.

In this context, the business group's **operating margin** improved by + 1.4 point to 12.5%.

The main development **capital expenditure** is a new production line in Austria for ultra-fine alumina for high-performance applications in abrasives.

Financial agenda 2015

October 30 (before market opening)	3 rd quarter 2015 results
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The above date is tentative and may change. Updates are available on the Group's website at www.imerys.com, in the *Investors & Analysts/Financial Agenda* section.

Conference Call

The press release is available from the Group's website www.imerys.com with access via the homepage in the *News* section.

Imerys is holding a conference call at 6:30pm (Paris time) today, to comment upon the 1st half 2015 results. The call will be webcast live on the Group's website at www.imerys.com.

The world leader in mineral-based specialty solutions for industry, with €3.7 billion revenue and 14,900 employees in 2014, Imerys transforms a unique range of minerals to deliver essential functions (heat resistance, mechanical strength, conductivity, coverage, barrier effect, etc.) that are essential to its customers' products and manufacturing processes.

Whether mineral components, functional additives, process enablers or finished products, Imerys' solutions contribute to the quality of a great number of applications in consumer goods, industrial equipment or construction. Combining expertise, creativity and attentiveness to customers' needs, the Group's international teams constantly identify new applications and develop high value-added solutions under a determined approach to responsible development. These strengths enable Imerys to develop through a sound, profitable business model.

More comprehensive information about Imerys may be obtained from its website (www.imerys.com) under *Regulated Information*, particularly in its *Registration Document* filed with the *Autorité des marchés financiers* on March 19, 2015 under number D.15-0173 (also available from the *Autorité des marchés financiers* website, www.amf-france.org). Imerys draws the attention of investors to chapter 4, "Risk Factors", of its *Registration Document*.

Warning on projections and forward-looking statements: *The declarations made in this document contain projections and 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.*

<u>Analyst/Investor relations:</u> Vincent Gouley: + 33 (0)1 4955 6469 finance@imerys.com	<u>Press contacts:</u> Vincent Gouley: + 33 (0)1 4955 6469 Raphaël Leclerc: + 33 (0)6 7316 8806
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1ST HALF 2015 RESULTS

APPENDIX

(Unaudited quarterly data)

1. CONSOLIDATED SALES BREAKDOWN

Quarterly change on comparable basis 2015 vs 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015		
	- 4.5%	- 3.3%		
Quarterly change on comparable basis 2014 vs 2013	Q1 2014	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014
	+ 5.0%	+ 3.7%	+ 3.9%	+ 0.1%

Revenue by business group (in € millions)	Q2 2015	Q1 2015	Q4 2014	Q3 2014	Q2 2014	Q1 2014
Energy Solutions & Specialties	323.5	312.5	315.5	338.9	321.1	303.2
Filtration & Performance Additives	306.2	218.9	165.4	167.8	165.8	159.0
Ceramic Materials	301.4	291.0	279.7	295.1	292.5	289.5
High Resistance Minerals	165.0	165.3	158.6	154.2	165.6	163.3
Holdings & Eliminations	(12.4)	(14.1)	(12.7)	(12.2)	(11.2)	(10.9)
Total	1,083.7	973.6	906.5	943.8	933.8	904.1

2. KEY INCOME INDICATORS

(in € millions)	Q1 2015	Q1 2014	Change
Revenue	973.6	904.1	+ 7.7%
Current operating income	123.2	117.3	+ 5,0%
Financial income	(11.0)	(14.7)	
Current tax	(33.0)	(28.9)	
Minority interests	(1.0)	(0.0)	
Net income from current operations, Group share	78.2	73.7	+ 6.1%
Other operating income and expenses, net	(9.7)	3.9	
Net income, Group share	68.5	77.6	- 11.7%

(in € millions)	Q2 2015	Q2 2014	Change
Revenue	1,083.7	933.8	+ 16.1%
Current operating income	150.8	130.4	+ 15.6%
Financial income	(12.5)	(13.2)	
Current tax	(41.2)	(33.2)	
Minority interests	(0.7)	(0.2)	
Net income from current operations, Group share	96.5	83.8	+ 15.2%
Other operating income and expenses, net	(19.8)	(29.9)	
Net income, Group share	76.7	53.9	+ 42.3%

<i>(in € millions)</i>	S1 2015	S1 2014	Variation
Revenue	2,057.3	1,837.9	+ 11.9%
Current operating income	274.0	247.7	+ 10.6%
Financial income	(23.5)	(27.9)	
Current tax	(74.1)	(62.1)	
Minority interests	(1.7)	(0.2)	
Net income from current operations, Group share	174.7	157.5	+ 11.0%
Other operating income and expenses, net	(29.5)	(26.0)	
Net income	145.2	131.5	+ 10,4%

1. GLOSSARY

Throughout this press release:

- the term "**on a comparable basis**" means: "at comparable Group structure and exchange rates";
 - Restatement of the foreign exchange effect consists of calculating aggregates for the current year at the exchange rate of the previous year. The impact of exchange rate instruments qualifying as hedging instruments is taken into account in current data.
 - Restatement of Group structure effect of newly consolidated entities consists of:
 - for entities entering the consolidation scope in the current year, subtracting the contribution of the acquisition from the aggregates of the current year,
 - for entities entering the consolidation scope in the previous year, subtracting the contribution of the acquisition from January 1 of the current year, until the last day of the month of the current year when the acquisition was made the previous year;
 - Restatement of entities leaving the consolidation scope consists of:
 - for entities leaving the consolidation scope in the current year, subtracting the departing entity's contributions from the aggregates of the previous year as from the first day of the month of divestment,
 - for entities leaving the consolidation scope in the previous year, subtracting the departing entity's contributions from the aggregates of the previous year;
- the term "**Current operating income**" means operating income before other operating income and expenses;
- the term "**Net income from current operations**" means the Group's share of income before other operating revenue and expenses, net;
- the term "**Current free operating cash flow**" means EBITDA after deduction of notional tax, changes in working capital requirement and paid capital expenditure and including subsidies, value of divested assets and miscellaneous (see change in net financial debt in the appendix to this press release);
- the term "**Current free cash flow**" means Current free operating cash flow less financial expense (net of tax) and other working capital requirement items (see change in net financial debt in the appendix to this press release).

APPENDIX:
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS OF JUNE 30, 2015

The Board of Directors met on July 29, 2015 to close the financial statements for the first half ended June 30, 2015. The audit reports are included in the first-half financial report available on the Internet site www.imerys.com (Finance section/ Regulated Information / Periodic Information) or by request (e-mail : finance@imerys.com, tel. : + 33 (0)1 49 55 64 01).

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Revenue	2,057.3	1,837.9	3,688.2
Current income and expenses	(1,783.3)	(1,590.2)	(3,193.6)
Raw materials and consumables used	(665.6)	(601.9)	(1,199.4)
External expenses	(545.1)	(491.5)	(1,010.3)
Staff expenses	(431.5)	(381.1)	(746.4)
Taxes and duties	(28.7)	(23.9)	(47.3)
Amortization, depreciation and impairment losses	(113.4)	(100.5)	(209.5)
Other current income and expenses	1.0	8.7	19.3
Current operating income	274.0	247.7	494.6
Other operating income and expenses	(42.4)	(28.7)	(59.8)
Gain or loss from obtaining or losing control	(5.9)	54.4	58.9
Other non-recurring items	(36.5)	(83.1)	(118.7)
Operating income	231.6	219.0	434.8
Net financial debt expense	(26.7)	(20.1)	(40.2)
Income from securities	4.5	3.0	6.8
Gross financial debt expense	(31.2)	(23.1)	(47.0)
Other financial income and expenses	3.2	(7.8)	(4.9)
Other financial income	136.0	52.9	122.9
Other financial expenses	(132.8)	(60.7)	(127.8)
Financial income (loss)	(23.5)	(27.9)	(45.1)
Income taxes	(61.2)	(60.4)	(117.4)
Net income of assets held for sale	-	1.0	1.0
Net income	146.9	131.7	273.3
Net income, Group share ^{(1) & (2)}	145.2	131.5	271.6
Net income, share of non-controlling interests	1.7	0.2	1.7

(1) Net income per share

Basic net income per share (in €)	1.84	1.72	3.57
Diluted net income per share (in €)	1.82	1.70	3.51

(2) Net income from current operations, Group share

Basic net income from current operations per share (in €)	2.22	2.06	4.15
Diluted net income from current operations per share (in €)	2.19	2.03	4.09
Other operating income and expenses net of income taxes, Group share	(29.5)	(27.0)	(45.7)
Net income of assets held for sale	-	1.0	1.0

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Non-current assets	4,284.4	3,182.1	3,341.5
Goodwill	1,738.1	1,053.2	1,106.8
Intangible assets	96.0	72.9	66.4
Mining assets	497.2	425.0	471.6
Property, plant and equipment	1,685.1	1,423.3	1,503.2
Joint ventures and associates	137.1	81.0	83.3
Other financial assets	30.1	25.8	26.0
Other receivables	39.0	41.6	37.8
Derivative financial assets	11.2	11.8	11.7
Deferred tax assets	50.6	47.5	34.7
Current assets	2,137.9	1,768.2	2,080.9
Inventories	781.8	631.8	670.0
Trade receivables	657.0	577.9	538.8
Other receivables	250.8	187.6	180.3
Derivative financial assets	4.2	5.9	6.1
Other financial assets ⁽¹⁾	21.1	35.7	29.3
Cash and cash equivalents ⁽¹⁾	423.0	329.3	656.4
Consolidated assets	6,422.3	4,950.3	5,422.4
Equity, Group share	2,907.8	2,287.3	2,444.4
Capital	161.0	153.5	151.8
Premiums	586.3	386.0	334.1
Reserves	2,015.3	1,616.4	1,686.9
Net income, Group share	145.2	131.4	271.6
Equity, share of non-controlling interests	29.1	24.2	26.1
Equity	2,936.9	2,311.5	2,470.5
Non-current liabilities	2,176.4	1,487.4	2,121.6
Employee benefit liabilities	285.3	279.1	306.5
Other provisions	279.3	250.5	258.4
Loans and financial debts ⁽¹⁾	1,500.8	893.2	1,494.3
Other debts	40.8	14.0	11.7
Derivative financial liabilities	3.6	0.5	7.6
Deferred tax liabilities	66.6	50.1	43.1
Current liabilities	1,309.0	1,151.4	830.3
Other provisions	20.9	20.4	24.3
Trade payables	492.2	435.4	411.9
Income taxes payable	67.8	56.2	3.0
Other debts	272.8	274.8	307.7
Derivative financial liabilities	15.9	4.4	14.6
Loans and financial debts ⁽¹⁾	436.4	355.7	66.9
Bank overdrafts ⁽¹⁾	3.0	4.5	1.9
Consolidated equity and liabilities	6,422.3	4,950.3	5,422.4
<i>(1) Positions included in the calculation of the net financial debt</i>	<i>1,487.9</i>	<i>878.0</i>	<i>869.9</i>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

In addition to the table presented below, analyses on the change in the net financial debt:

- from current operating income to current free operating cash flow;
- and from current free operating cash flow to the change in net financial debt

are disclosed in Note 20 to the Condensed financial statements, Chapter 2 of the 1st Half Financial Report 2015.

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Cash flow from operating activities	221.5	165.9	434.3
Cash flow generated by current operations	320.7	276.2	654.0
Interests paid	(37.2)	(41.9)	(53.7)
Income taxes on current operating income and financial income (loss)	(31.7)	(59.9)	(150.9)
Dividends received from available-for-sale financial assets	0.2	-	(0.1)
Cash flow generated by other operating income and expenses	(30.5)	(8.5)	(15.0)
Cash flow from investing activities	(396.7)	(64.5)	(223.1)
Acquisitions of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	(121.5)	(106.6)	(241.4)
Acquisitions of investments in consolidated entities after deduction of cash acquired	(286.6)	(35.8)	(67.5)
Disposals of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	2.3	2.8	7.9
Disposals of investments in consolidated entities after deduction of cash disposed of	2.7	70.4	70.9
Disposals of available-for-sale financial assets	-	0.4	-
Net change in financial assets	2.3	1.4	0.5
Paid-in interests	4.1	2.9	6.5
Cash flow from financing activities	(61.6)	(122.8)	92.2
Capital increases and decreases in cash	47.6	24.9	(28.0)
Disposals (acquisitions) of treasury shares	(10.6)	(22.3)	(14.5)
Dividends paid to shareholders	(132.5)	(122.4)	(122.4)
Dividends paid to non-controlling interests	(0.1)	(1.3)	(2.8)
Acquisitions of investments in consolidated entities from non-controlling interests	-	-	(3.5)
Loan issues ⁽¹⁾	116.9	92.7	607.2
Loan repayments ⁽²⁾	(327.3)	(301.6)	(307.7)
Net change in other debts ⁽³⁾	244.4	207.2	(36.1)
Cash flow from assets held for sale	0.0	0.6	0.6
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(236.8)	(20.8)	304.0
(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Opening cash and cash equivalents	654.5	340.2	340.2
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(236.8)	(20.8)	304.0
Impact of changes due to exchange rate fluctuations	2.3	5.4	10.3
Closing cash and cash equivalents⁽⁴⁾	420.0	324.8	654.5
Cash	272.8	251.2	218.2
Cash equivalents	150.2	78.1	438.2
Bank overdrafts	(3.0)	(4.5)	(1.9)

(1) Of which as of June 30, 2015, €110.0 million bilateral credit lines utilization and in 2014, a €600.0 million bond issue as part of the Euro Medium Term Note program (EMTN) (Note 19.3).

(2) Of which as of June 30, 2015, the repayment for an amount of €314.6 million of the high yield bond of the S&B group (Note 13) and in 2014, a repayment of a bond issue of €300.0 million as part of the Euro Medium Term Note program (EMTN) (Note 19.3).

(3) Of which as of June 30, 2015, a 266.5 million commercial papers issue (163.0 million as of June 30, 2014).

(4) As of June 30, 2015, the position "Closing cash and cash equivalents" comprises a balance of €4.8 million (€1.0 million as of June 30, 2014 and €3.8 million as of December 31, 2014) not available for Imerys SA and its subsidiaries, of which €4.0 million (€0.9 million as of June 30, 2014 and €1.1 million as of December 31, 2014) with respect to foreign exchange control legislations and €0.8 million (€0.1 million as of June 30, 2014 and €2.7 million as of December 31, 2014) with respect to statutory requirements. As of June 30, 2015, foreign exchange control legislation applies in particular to the Greek entities controlled as a result of the S&B group acquisition (Notes 13 and 20).

NOTE A: CASH FLOW GENERATED BY CURRENT OPERATIONS

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Net income	146.9	131.7	273.3
Adjustments	246.6	205.0	413.8
Income taxes	61.2	60.4	117.4
Share in net income of joint ventures and associates	(3.7)	(2.9)	(4.6)
Dividends received from joint ventures and associates	3.8	0.9	1.7
Impairment losses on goodwill	0.5	30.1	30.1
Share in net income of associates out of the recurring business	-	0.4	1.9
Other operating income and expenses excluding impairment losses on goodwill	41.9	(1.8)	27.8
Net operating amortization and depreciation	113.2	100.3	209.2
Net operating impairment losses on assets	(0.8)	3.6	4.8
Net operating provisions	0.8	(5.7)	(20.5)
Net interest income and expenses	26.8	19.7	41.9
Share-based payments expense	3.7	4.8	9.5
Change in fair value of hedge instruments	0.5	(2.3)	(1.8)
Income from current disposals of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	(1.3)	(1.5)	(2.6)
Net income of assets held for sale	-	(1.0)	(1.0)
Change in the working capital requirement	(72.8)	(60.5)	(33.1)
Inventories	(25.7)	(42.5)	(56.3)
Trade accounts receivable, advances and down payments received	(33.1)	(70.4)	(15.0)
Trade accounts payable, advances and down payments paid	20.5	55.5	22.6
Other receivables and debts	(34.5)	(3.1)	15.6
Cash flow generated by current operations	320.7	276.2	654.0

NOTE B: CASH FLOW GENERATED BY OTHER OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Other operating income and expenses	(42.4)	(28.7)	(59.8)
Adjustments	11.9	20.2	44.8
Impairment losses on goodwill	0.5	30.1	30.1
Other net operating amortization and depreciation	12.0	9.1	6.5
Other net operating provisions	(6.2)	24.2	34.5
Income from non-recurring disposals of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	0.1	-	-
Income from disposals of consolidated investments and available-for-sale financial assets	(1.8)	(40.3)	(41.1)
Share in net income of associates out of the recurring business	-	0.4	1.9
Income taxes paid on other operating income and expenses	7.3	(3.3)	12.9
Cash flow generated by other operating income and expenses	(30.5)	(8.5)	(15.0)

CURRENT FREE OPERATING CASH FLOW

The current free operating cash flow is the residual cash flow resulting from current operating business and remaining after payment of current operating income taxes and operating capital expenditure, receipt of the disposal proceeds of operating assets and adjustment from cash changes in operational working capital requirement

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Current operating income	274.0	247.7	494.6
Operating amortization, depreciation and impairment losses ⁽¹⁾	113.4	100.5	209.5
Net change in operating provisions	(6.3)	(7.8)	(27.5)
Share in net income of joint ventures and associates	(3.7)	(2.9)	(4.6)
Dividends received from joint ventures and associates	3.8	0.9	1.8
Operating cash flow before taxes (current EBITDA)	381.2	338.4	673.8
Notional taxes on current operating income ⁽²⁾	(81.0)	(70.0)	(144.6)
Current net operating cash flow	300.2	268.4	529.2
Paid capital expenditures^{(3) & (4)}	(121.5)	(106.6)	(241.5)
Intangible assets	(7.2)	(3.4)	(8.3)
Property, plant and equipment	(72.4)	(71.0)	(188.9)
Overburden mining assets	(18.1)	(14.5)	(42.8)
Debts on acquisitions	(23.8)	(17.7)	(1.5)
Carrying amount of current asset disposals	1.0	1.3	5.3
Change in the operational working capital requirement	(38.3)	(57.4)	(48.9)
Inventories	(25.7)	(42.5)	(56.4)
Trade accounts receivable, advances and down payments received	(33.1)	(70.4)	(15.0)
Trade accounts payable, advances and down payments paid	20.5	55.5	22.5
Current free operating cash flow	141.4	105.7	244.1
<i>(1) Operating amortization, depreciation and impairment losses</i>	113.4	-	209.5
<i>Net operating amortization and depreciation (Appendix 1 of the consolidated statement of cash flows)</i>	113.2	100.3	209.2
<i>Finance leases depreciation (Appendix 3 of the consolidated statement of cash flows)</i>	0.2	0.2	0.3
<i>(2) Effective tax rate on current operating income</i>	29.6%	28.3%	29.2%
<i>(3) Paid capital expenditure</i>	(121.5)	-	(241.5)
<i>Acquisitions of intangible assets and property, plant and equipment (Consolidated statement of cash flows)</i>	(121.5)	(106.6)	(241.4)
<i>Finance lease acquisitions (Appendix 3 of the consolidated statement of cash flows)</i>	-	-	(0.1)
<i>(4) Recognized capital expenditures / asset depreciation ratio</i>	86.2%	(88.5)%	114.6%
<i>The recognized capital expenditures / asset depreciation ratio equals the paid capital expenditures (except for debts on acquisitions) divided by the increases in amortization and depreciation</i>			
<i>Increases in asset amortization and depreciation</i>	113.4	100.5	209.5

CHANGE IN NET FINANCIAL DEBT

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Current free operating cash flow	141.4	105.7	244.1
Financial income (loss)	(23.5)	(27.9)	(45.1)
Financial impairment losses and unwinding of the discount	6.1	5.0	10.9
Income taxes on financial income (loss)	7.0	7.9	13.2
Change in income tax debt	42.2	2.7	(36.6)
Change in deferred taxes on current operating income	0.1	(0.5)	17.1
Change in other items of working capital	(34.5)	(3.1)	15.5
Share-based payments expense	3.7	4.8	9.5
Change in fair value of operational hedge instruments	(0.7)	(0.4)	(1.0)
Change in dividends receivable from available-for-sale financial assets	0.2	-	(0.1)
Current free cash flow	142.0	94.2	227.5
External growth	(868.9)	(36.4)	(72.3)
Acquisitions of investments in consolidated entities after deduction of the net debt acquired	(868.9)	(36.4)	(68.8)
Acquisitions of investments in consolidated entities from non-controlling interests	-	-	(3.5)
Disposals	2.7	71.3	71.5
Disposals of investments in consolidated entities after deduction of the net debt disposed of	2.7	70.9	71.5
Disposals of available-for-sale financial assets	-	0.4	-
Cash flow from other operating income and expenses	(30.5)	(8.5)	(15.0)
Dividends paid to shareholders and non-controlling interests	(132.6)	(123.7)	(125.2)
Financing requirement	(887.3)	(3.1)	86.5
Transactions on equity	285.8	2.6	(42.5)
Net change in financial assets	2.6	1.0	0.3
Cash flow from assets held for sale	-	0.6	0.6
Change in net financial debt	(598.9)	1.1	44.9

(€ millions)	06.30.2015	06.30.2014	2014
Opening net financial debt	(869.9)	(885.4)	(885.4)
Change in net financial debt	(598.9)	1.1	44.9
Impact of changes due to exchange rate fluctuations	(19.1)	6.7	(29.4)
Impact of changes in fair value of interest rate hedges	-	(0.4)	-
Closing net financial debt	(1,487.9)	(878.0)	(869.9)