

Colombes, January 21st 2010

Arkema sponsors the Chemstart'up Award which rewards innovation at the service of sustainable development

Arkema sponsors Chemparc, a public interest group in charge of development in the Lacq basin of SW France, for the first edition of the Chemstart'up Award. With backing from *Fédération Française pour les Sciences de la Chimie* and *Union des Industries Chimiques*, this award is organized under the aegis of the French Ministry for Industry, and is directly linked to the Pierre Potier Prize.

As part of the launch of the Chemstart'up platform at the end of 2010 which will host fledgling innovative companies specializing in fine chemicals and in materials chemistry, the Chemparc public interest group is to reward a chemical company startup with genuine potential for industrial development and job creation.

Application dossiers will be selected by the judges of the Pierre Potier Prize, and the winning company will receive prize money of 100,000 euros funded equally by Chemparc and by Arkema. Prize money will be doubled if the industrial development of the project concerned materializes in the Lacq industrial basin. Companies eligible for the award should have been established within the past 5 years, and are invited to send in their applications to FFC (*Fédération Française pour les sciences de la Chimie*) by April 15 2010.

Arkema's backing of Chemparc is directly in line with its support of the expansion of eco-technologies as well as the development of young innovative chemical companies in the Lacq industrial basin.

Established in July 2003, the Chemparc public interest group aims primarily to develop manufacture in the Lacq basin. It comprises local authorities, the State, local Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the TOTAL group, UIC Aquitaine, and the LACQ Plus organization. www.chemparc.com

A global chemical company and France's leading chemicals producer, Arkema consists of three businesses: Vinyl Products, Industrial Chemicals, and Performance Products. Arkema reports sales of 5.6 billion euros. Arkema has 15,000 employees in over 40 countries and six research centers located in France, the United States and Japan. With internationally recognized brands, Arkema holds leadership positions in its principal markets.

Press Contacts Arkema:

Gilles Galinier Tel. : +33 1 49 00 70 07
Sybille Chaix Tel. : +33 1 49 00 70 30

Email : gilles.galinier@arkema.com
Email : sybille.chaix@arkema.com

Press Contact Chemparc:

Michel Niel Tel. : +33 5 59 92 75 04

Email : michel.niel@chemparc.com