

Press Release

NANOTECHNOLOGY PROOFS POTENTIAL FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ELECTRONICS AND WIRES

Zurich, Switzerland – October 1, 2007 – Alcan Inc. (NYSE, TSX: AL) announced today that it will launch in its Engineered Products Division a strategic R&D partner program focusing on electrical cables. For that purpose, Alcan establishes a

"Global Electronics & Wire Initiative".



The goal of the initiative is to define key properties for the next generation of metal-based cables. In a second step, a joint R&D program will develop and explore corresponding new cable technologies. The initiative is managed by Dr. Horst Adams, VP New Technologies at Alcan, Montreal, Canada.

"These new cables will have improved:

- Conductivity
- Ampacity
- High frequency properties
- Mechanical properties

This will make products more profitable and competitive by extending the application range of metal-based cables." said Dr. Horst Adams, VP New Technologies, Alcan Engineered Products.

"Nanotechnologies are developing extremely fast and are expected to stimulate the development of a wide range of new, exciting materials in the coming years," he added.

Nano-particle reinforced metals will provide fascinating new electrical and mechanical characteristics. The focus program will enhance its member's capability to produce a whole range of new high-performance composite materials for electronics applications, high speed data transmission, and even electrical power transmission cables, requiring outstanding and superior technical characteristics.

"The technologies now becoming available expand the scope for electronics design. With this new technology our members can convert many standard products into high-performance products. By functionalizing and effectively dispersing nano-particles in metals we have already demonstrated substantial improvements in material properties" highlighted Dr. Adams.

This strategically focused R&D activity enables our members to meet the growing demand for "quantum leaps" in material property improvements by industrial customers and will allow to secure their long-term market position, contributing to their customer's success and to the positioning of our members at the leading edge of high performance electronics and cables technology.

Current members of the initiative are:

Avertronics INC, USA
Sunonwealth Electric Machine Industry Co., Ltd, South Korea
Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs
Highlight Tech. System Corp., Taiwan
US Institute for Information Technology
Vanguard International Semiconductor Corporation, USA
German Institute of Energy Research
Taiwan National Tsing Hua University
Familyever Biotech Co., Ltd., Singapore
Motorola Technology Research Institute, USA
National Chengchi University, Taiwan
Elite Semicondustor Memory Technology Inc, Taiwan
China Key National Productivity Center
Hitachi, Japan
Sumitomo Electric, Japan
Furokawa, Japan
Panasonic, Japan
LS Cable, South Korea

Alcan is a multinational, market-driven company and a global leader in aluminum and cable technologies. With world-class operations in primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum as well as cables, automotive, aerospace applications, bauxite mining and alumina processing, today's Alcan is well positioned to meet and exceed its customers' needs for innovative solutions and service. Alcan employs approximately 100,000 people and has operating facilities in 55 countries and regions.