



Thiele Kaolin Company Enters into Agreement with Imerys Performance Minerals to Acquire Certain Kaolin Clay Assets in North America

Sandersville, GA, USA (July 27, 2021) - Thiele Kaolin Company and Imerys Performance Minerals jointly announce that they have entered into an agreement of sale, through which Thiele will acquire certain Imerys kaolin assets that primarily support the paper and board industry.

Through the sale, Thiele will acquire mineral resources, as well as certain manufacturing assets, primarily supporting hydrous kaolin but also including some calcination capability. These mineral and manufacturing assets are located in central Georgia, strategically situated near other Thiele assets. Imerys has retained assets in Sandersville, Georgia and remains committed to the middle Georgia mining community and its business in the region.

“This transaction supports Thiele’s future growth initiatives in global coated board and industrial products segments,” said J. Eric Tillirson, President & CEO, Thiele Kaolin Company. “These strategic assets enable Thiele to strengthen and expand our ability to deliver tailored mineral solutions that provide significant value for our customers, as we have done throughout our 75 year history.”

“We are sharpening our focus on value-added applications that leverage Imerys’ deep knowledge of minerals combined with our ability to innovate specialty formulations and environmentally-friendly technologies that address the unique needs of our customers and trends in the marketplace,” said Jim Murberger, Senior Vice President of Imerys Performance Minerals Americas. “Imerys remains committed to bringing new technologies into the markets we serve, and we look forward to working with Thiele to ensure a smooth transition for all.”

The transaction is expected to be completed early in the fourth quarter of this year, subject to customary closing conditions.

About Thiele

Thiele is a manufacturer and supplier of tailored mineral solutions to global industry and has been successfully serving customers for over 75 years. In support of these efforts, Thiele maintains state-of-the-art mining and manufacturing facilities in both the United States and Europe. With over 400 dedicated employees, Thiele seeks to provide customers with products and services that exceed expectations. For more information: www.thielekaolin.com

About Imerys

The world leader in mineral-based specialty solutions for industry, with €3.8 billion revenue and 16,400 employees in 2020, Imerys delivers high value-added, functional solutions to diversified industrial sectors, from processing industries to consumer goods. The Group draws on its knowledge of applications, technological expertise and its material science know-how to deliver solutions based on beneficiation of its mineral resources, synthetic minerals and formulations. These contribute essential properties to customers' products and performance, including refractoriness, hardness, conductivity, opacity, durability, purity, lightness, filtration, absorption and repellency. Imerys is determined to develop responsibly, in particular by fostering the emergence of environmentally-friendly products and processes. For more information: www.imerys.com

-X-

Thiele Contact:

Allen Sexton
Vice President Sales, Marketing and Technical Service
Thiele Kaolin Company
520 Kaolin Road, Sandersville, GA 31082
Ph. (478)552-3951
allen.sexton@thielekaolin.com

Imerys Contact:

Melissa Noebes
Communications Director
Imerys Performance Minerals Americas
100 Mansell Court East, Roswell, GA 30076
Ph. (404)259-1136
melissa.noebes@imerys.com