

## Press Release

### **Metalor Technologies International SA (Metalor) boosts Asian footprint and acquires NECC's Coatings Division in Asia**

**PARIS/NEUCHATEL/TOKYO, March 8st, 2011** – Metalor Technologies International SA and NECC ([www.ne-chemcat.co.jp/eg](http://www.ne-chemcat.co.jp/eg)) have signed an agreement for the Metalor Group to acquire NECC's Coatings Division in Asia. The transaction is expected to be closed in a few weeks.

Headquartered in Tokyo, NECC's Coatings Division (2010 net sales-excluding precious metals-of JPY 4.7 billion/CHF 53 million) supplies the electronics industry with precious metals-based chemicals, and provides it with electroplating processes and equipment. It employs over 100 staff at sites in Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea and China. Metalor Group had already been the exclusive distributor of NECC Coatings products outside of Japan and Korea since 2002.

**Scott Morrison, CEO of Metalor**, commented: "This acquisition is highly complementary to Metalor Group's existing Advanced Coatings Division in terms of products, customers and geographical footprint, and will confirm Metalor's position as a leading supplier to the electronics and decorative precious metals plating markets".

**Joel Lacourte and Jean-Hubert Vial, respectively Managing Partner and Director at Astorg Partners**, declared: "The acquisition of NECC's Coatings Division is the new step of an ambitious build-up strategy, jointly conducted by Metalor's management and Astorg Partners, further to the acquisition of AMI Doduco Americas in December 2009."

**Kenji Kasuga, NECC Executive Group Vice-President**, added: "My team and I are very pleased to be joining the Metalor Group since our activity is at the heart of Metalor's business. We also look forward to being Metalor's direct presence in Japan and in Korea and to offering new products and services in these important markets."

**About Metalor** [www.metalor.com](http://www.metalor.com)

Founded in 1852 and headquartered in Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and controlled by Astorg Partners since October 2009, Metalor, is specialized in the field of precious metals and related advanced technologies.

Metalor employs approximately 1,600 people and operates 13 production facilities worldwide, of which 2 in Switzerland, 2 in France, 3 in China, 2 in Japan, 3 in the United States and 1 in Mexico. In 2010, the group generated net sales (excluding precious metals) of CHF 335.9 million and a consolidated EBITDA of CHF 75.3 million.

The Group operates through 3 divisions:

- **Refining** is specialized in recovering gold, silver, platinum group metals from a wide range of precious metal bearing materials. The division also provides analysis and evaluation services

through its worldwide network of specialized centers, as well as financing precious metals work-in-progress items from its clients collecting secondary scrap materials. MTI is a worldwide co-leader in the refining of precious metals of secondary origin.

- **Advanced Coatings** manufactures and supplies electrolytic and electroless precious metal plating products and processes for electroplating applications. These products and solutions are used in a variety of applications such as electronic components, semiconductors, and decorative markets such as jewelry.
- **Electrotechnics** provides world's leading groups with high-conductivity electrical contacts (circuit breakers, switches, relays, etc.) derived from silver alloys.

#### **About Astorg Partners** [www.astorg-partners.com](http://www.astorg-partners.com)

Astorg Partners is an independent fund management company, specializing in French mid-market buyouts. It currently manages over €2 billion of capital. Astorg Partners seeks to partner with successful and entrepreneurial management teams, to acquire businesses with attractive growth prospects, which Astorg will support through the provision of experienced governance and adequate capital. Astorg enjoys a distinct entrepreneurial culture, a lean and local decision-making body enhancing its reactivity, and a true commitment to its partnering management teams.

Although a multi-sector investor, Astorg has developed solid industry expertise in healthcare (Sebia, Pasteur-Cerba, Ethypharm) and professional services (Trescal, RLD, CIS, Geoservices, Staci, Webhelp, Gras Savoye).

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