

Press Release

Frankfurt/ Qingdao, 16 June 2006

Almatris celebrates the official opening of its newly expanded tabular alumina facility in Qingdao, China

- **State-of-the-art technology ensures supply of Premium Aluminas for growing Asian markets**
- **Further investments planned**

Almatris celebrates today the official opening of its expanded tabular alumina facility in Qingdao, China. The opening ceremony, attended by the Vice Mayor of Qingdao, members of the local government and trade organizations, as well as key customers, marks a milestone in the still young history of Almatris.

“With this new state-of-the-art plant, Almatris is now capable of producing and supplying our customers in mainland China and South East Asia even timelier and more efficiently with the quantity and quality they need”, Almatris CEO Oscar Groomes stated in his opening speech.

After the 18 USD million investment in the expansion, which includes two new tabular converters and a completely new tabular CD processing line, the facility now possesses a fully integrated production line for the manufacture of tabular alumina. The construction, planned and executed by Liaoning MEC Group. Ltd. and more than 20 Almatris experts from around the world, was completed in just fifteen months.

Also in Qingdao, China, Almatris is now planning to build an additional calcined alumina facility by 2007 to meet the increased demand for calcined alumina products used in refractory and technical ceramic applications.

The history of Almatris business activities in China goes back to 1998 when the Huangdao plant was established as a processing plant, manufacturing crushed and sized alumina products. In 2002 the Qingdao Almatris Trading Co. was

founded, aiming to provide the customers in China with a one-stop-service for all Almatis *Premium Aluminas*.

Beside its regional headquarters in Qingdao, Almatis opened a sales office in Shanghai in 2004 to respond to the rising market demand in Asia. Since then additional locations in Kaifeng, Wuhan and Guangzhou have been introduced. Qingdao Almatis Co. Ltd. employs a total of 140 people.

About Almatis

Almatis is the global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of high quality specialty alumina products. With about 800 employees in 18 locations worldwide, the company's products are used in a wide variety of industries, including steel production, cement production, non-ferrous metal production, plastics, paper, ceramics, carpet manufacturing and electronic industries. Almatis is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.

For photo materials please contact:
andreas.puetz@almatis.com