

# Press Release

Frankfurt, 4 April 2017

## **Dr. Andreas Buhr, Almatris Global Technical Director Refractories, is awarded Theodore J. Planje – St. Louis Refractories Award**

The Theodore J. Planje – St. Louis Refractories Award is presented annually “for the purpose of recognizing and honoring distinguished achievement in the refractories field.” Dr. Buhr was honored to join this select group of refractory leadership this past March, at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium on Refractories, St. Louis Section.

The 2017 Planje Award recognizes Dr. Buhr for his important achievements in the research of high alumina refractories and for developing the best alumina refractory solutions for customers’ challenging high temperature environments. Dr. Buhr brings strong leadership to Almatris’ product development and technical application support with teams in Europe, Americas and Asia. He has authored near 85 papers on refractories and his leading-edge refractories research continues to develop enhanced alumina products at Almatris.

Dr. Buhr presented to the gathered audience on “Mineralogy in Refractories” and the continued value of phase diagrams in research excellence. He in turn took the opportunity to honor his PhD thesis advisors -- Eduard Woermann and Manfred Koltermann -- who guided his development as a young researcher of high alumina castables.



Dr. Jeffrey Smith, Missouri University of Science & Technology, presents Almatis' Dr. Andus Buhr with the 2017 Planje Award

### About Almatis

With more than 100 years of alumina expertise, Almatis is the world leader in the development, manufacture and supply of premium alumina and alumina-based products. As a fully integrated, global alumina producer, Almatis serves its customers with 1,150 employees from sixteen strategically located sales, research and manufacturing sites. Almatis offers the most comprehensive alumina product portfolio in the industry, including: tabular aluminas, calcined and reactive aluminas, polishing aluminas, calcium aluminate cements, brown sintered alumina, spinels and others. Across our core markets—refractories, ceramics and polishing - our products are used in a wide variety of industries including iron and steel, cement, non-ferrous metal, ceramic, automotive, polishing and electronics. Previously part of Alcoa, Almatis is owned since September 2015 by OYAK, the first and largest private pension fund in Turkey.

### About OYAK

OYAK is the first and largest private pension fund in Turkey and a leading holding group with strategic investments in profitable and growth sectors. OYAK has c. 300,000 members and a workforce of approximately 28,000 employees. Through the ownership of Erdemir, OYAK is the largest steel producer in terms of capacity in Turkey and third largest in Europe. OYAK is one of the largest players in construction materials in Turkey and leads the market in the cement and concrete sector. Through its partnership with Renault since the 1970s, OYAK is producing, exporting and distributing Renault vehicles in Turkey and has the largest market share of domestic passenger vehicle sales. Through

its partnership with German energy group Steag, OYAK is producing 5% of Turkish electricity demand. Through ownership of Chemson Group and Akdeniz Kimya, OYAK is the global leader in the PVC stabilizer industry. With the recent acquisition of Almatis Group, OYAK became the global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of premium alumina and alumina-based products. In addition, several other subsidiaries operate in various key sectors including logistics, mining, agricultural chemicals and technology. For further information visit [www.oyak.com.tr](http://www.oyak.com.tr)