

## PRESS RELEASE

December 4th, 2013

### **AkzoNobel joins Together for Sustainability (TfS) to enhance global supply chain**

AkzoNobel has underlined its commitment to driving improvements throughout its global supply chains by signing up to the Together for Sustainability (TfS) initiative.

Founded in 2011, the purpose of TfS is to develop and implement a global audit program to assess and improve sustainability practices within the supply chains of the chemical industry.

The company has joined forces with the six existing members – BASF, Bayer, Evonik Industries, Henkel, LANXESS and Solvay – with the aim of building on established principles such as the United Nations Global Compact and the Responsible Care Global Charter.

“We already carry out extensive sustainability assessments in our own supply chains,” explained Ton Geurts, AkzoNobel’s Chief Procurement Officer. “But by integrating TfS into our existing strategy we will enhance our current processes and further improve the quality of our supply chains for the benefit of our customers.”

Added David Allen, AkzoNobel’s Head of Integrated Supply Chain: “As well as helping the company to strengthen its risk management processes and prioritize improvement areas, signing up to TfS will also make our supply chains more robust and enable us to expand more effectively in emerging markets. It will furthermore build on our number one ranking in the Materials industry group on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index.”

The TfS initiative involves independent experts carrying out assessments and audits of suppliers, avoiding the need for each of the members to conduct their own. Results and scorecard ratings are then shared within TfS on a web-based collaborative platform.

As well as avoiding double audits and assessments, other benefits include quality assurance, a reduction in the bureaucratic burden for suppliers and the lowering of risks in relation to sustainability requirements.

---

AkzoNobel is a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals. We supply industries and consumers worldwide with innovative products and are passionate about developing sustainable answers for our customers. Our portfolio includes well-known brands such as Dulux, Sikkens, International and Eka. Headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we are consistently ranked as one of the leaders in the area of sustainability. With operations in more than 80 countries, our 50,000 people around the world are committed to delivering leading products and technologies to meet the growing demands of our fast-changing world.

**Not for publication – for more information**

Corporate Media Relations:  
T +31 20 502 7833  
Contact: Paul Thomas

Strawinskylaan 2555  
1077 ZZ Amsterdam  
P.O. Box 75730  
1070 AS Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

T + 31 20 502 7833  
E [media.relations@akzonobel.com](mailto:media.relations@akzonobel.com)  
[www.akzonobel.com](http://www.akzonobel.com)