

## PRESS RELEASE

### **LESS IS MORE WITH OPACARB® 3000 PCC**

Brussels – June 1, 2007 - Specialty Minerals Inc. (SMI) has set a new standard for precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC) coating technology with Opacarb® 3000 PCC. Available initially in Europe, Opacarb® 3000 PCC brings cost reductions and improved printability for coated paper producers, thanks to the extended coating formulation possibilities it offers.

Strategic use of Opacarb® 3000 PCC allows the reduction or elimination of high glossing clays, less use of optical brighteners and binders, and reduced calendering pressure/lower nip loads. Users can therefore choose to achieve higher gloss, a more controlled surface structure, plus higher brightness and opacity, or maintain these characteristics at their existing levels at a considerably lower cost.

Opacarb® 3000 PCC is complementary to Opacarb® A40 and Opacarb® A60 PCC in Specialty Minerals' portfolio of PCC coating products for woodfree, mechanical and board applications. It owes its performance to the narrowest particle size distribution, which has produced a very fine pigment with perfect rheology.

“The introduction of this more advanced, more highly evolved Opacarb product extends papermakers' opportunities to excel in the coated paper market. This is

a premium product, yet it is still able to deliver manufacturing savings for paper companies,” said Riitta Mynttinen, SMI Vice President, Europe and Global Coating Business.

The launch of Opacarb® 3000 PCC emphasizes SMI’s strength in customer-focused research and development, which has established its product leadership position. The ability to bring such a high-performance PCC to the market is based on SMI’s state-of-the-art merchant PCC facility built in Walsum, Germany, in 2004. The facility ensures the availability of high-quality coating PCC products for the European market.

Long years of experience, the right people in the right places and the knowledge that the right minerals strategy matters, have made SMI the leading performance company in paper coating and filler PCC technology.

Specialty Minerals Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Minerals Technologies Inc., a resource- and technology-based organization that develops and produces performance-enhancing minerals, mineral-based and synthetic mineral products for the paper, steel, polymer and other manufacturing industries on a worldwide basis.

Contact details:

Liesbeth Hermans

Global Marketing Communications Manager

Specialty Minerals Inc.

+32 2 712 53 07 [liesbeth.hermans@mineralstech.com](mailto:liesbeth.hermans@mineralstech.com)