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Press release

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Antaria and Merck sign licensing agreement

Darmstadt, Germany – May 6, 2009 – Merck KGaA today announced it has executed a licensing agreement with Antaria Limited, Australia, for the exclusive worldwide rights to Antaria's plate-like alumina technology.

The technology from Antaria is used in Alusion[®], a functional filler that gives cosmetics soft focus properties, among other applications. Under the agreement, Merck has exclusive rights to manufacture and sell products using this technology in cosmetic and technical applications.

During the initial period of the license, Antaria will toll manufacture Alusion[®] and other products for Merck and also provide contract research and development on a fee-for-service basis.

Dr. Alois Seidl, responsible for Merck's global Pigments business said: "With Antaria's technology, we can significantly expand our portfolio in both the cosmetic functional fillers sector as well as in the core pearlescent pigments business. The partnership is very valuable to Merck and will be continually developed through further cooperation in research and development."

Bruce Cameron, Executive Chairman of Antaria stated: "We are delighted to partner with such an outstanding company as Merck, and their decision to invest in this technology demonstrates the quality of the creative ideas that Antaria can deliver. Merck's internationally recognised expertise in alumina based pearlescent pigments

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should secure worldwide recognition for Antaria's unique plate-like alumina technology."

About Antaria

Antaria Limited develops, manufactures and sells a range of advanced metal oxide powders and dispersions worldwide. Antaria's products are marketed under five parent brands, **ZinClear**[®] – broad spectrum, mineral-only UV filters in cosmetic emollients used for sunscreen, skincare, and pharmaceutical formulations that allow SPF 30+ sunscreens containing only zinc oxide as the UV absorber; **Alusion**[®] – plate-shaped particles used to enhance colour cosmetics formulations to mask wrinkles and fine lines; **AlPearl**[™] – alumina particles for industrial pigment applications; **Cercat**[™] – cerium oxide particle dispersion used in diesel fuel applications; and **NanoZ**[™] – zinc oxide additives that allow stable UV absorber performance for coatings and plastics.

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Merck is a global pharmaceutical and chemical company with total revenues of € 7.6 billion in 2008, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by 32,700 employees in 60 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. Merck's operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and free shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917 the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.