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FMC Lithium's new CLEAR lab and team. See story below.

SCS DRY ROOM INSTALLATION AROUND THE INDUSTRY

FMC Lithium Opens New R&D Facility

FMC Lithium has opened the Center for Lithium Energy Advanced Research, a new battery research and development facility at the company's Bessemer City, North Carolina plant. CLEAR is equipped with a state-of-the-art R&D dry room, allowing for testing of rechargeable lithium-ion battery components. It also will be used for development and demonstration of the company's new lithium battery materials, including its revolutionary SLMP™ stabilized lithium metal powder.

"FMC Lithium has been an active player in lithium-ion battery material technology ever since lithium-ion batteries emerged in the early 1990s," said Rakesh Sikand, division manager. "This new facility demonstrates our strong belief that lithium chemistry will play a major role in automotive electrification and allows us to work on accelerating the incorporation of FMC's newly developed materials into battery products. We look forward to making a difference together with our partners and customers in developing hybrid electric vehicles, plug-in electric vehicles and electric vehicles."

Sovema S.p.a Acquires Bitrode

Sovema S.p.a. of Verona, Italy, has acquired Bitrode Corp. of Fenton, Missouri.

Sovema is one of the world's largest and most diverse manufacturers of battery production equipment, particularly in oxide production, plate making processes, battery assembling and formation system. Bitrode Corp. is one of the world's most respected suppliers of electrical power conversion systems for EV/HEV battery testing, as well as production and test systems used in the manufacturing of batteries. By this acquisition, Sovema has expanded its role to become a single source supplier to battery manufacturers around the world.

In addition to the obvious synergies of combining the two companies in their traditional business lines, Sovema expects to expand its penetration into the North American equipment market, as well as to accelerate the company's capabilities in the EV/HEV test and production markets.

Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

Exide Promotes Dette

Exide Technologies has promoted Franz Josef Dette to president, Industrial Energy Europe. Reporting to executive vice president and chief operating officer E.J. O'Leary, Dette will be responsible for commercial and operational aspects of Exide's European Motive and Network Power businesses. He succeeds Joel Campbell, who was president, Industrial Energy Europe, since October 2006.

Since 2007, Dette served as vice president of operations for Exide Industrial Energy Europe in Budingem, Germany. From 2006 to 2007, he also served the division as director of operations. In 2003, Dette was appointed director of logistics for Exide Industrial Energy Europe in Manchester, U.K. Prior to that, he served as vice president of sales for Exide Motive Power Europe in Manchester. Dette has also held several managing director positions for Exide Technologies in Germany since 1998.

He holds a diploma of engineering in electronics from the Technical High School, Lippe, Germany (equivalent to a master's degree in engineering in the U.S.).