



News Release

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Criterion Catalysts & Technologies L.P.

Announces Long Term Alumina Supply Agreement with Southern Ionics

(Houston, February 27, 2006) Criterion Catalysts & Technologies L.P. and Southern Ionics Incorporated announced the completion of a 10-year specialty alumina supply agreement. This agreement will cover 30 million pounds annually of specialty alumina. The alumina will supply Criterion's previously announced new world scale hydroprocessing catalyst plant. The new manufacturing plant is scheduled for completion in 2007.

This supply agreement and the construction of the new catalyst plant are part of the ongoing Criterion plans to address the dramatic increase in high quality hydroprocessing catalyst requirements to produce clean fuels. "Criterion has committed significant investment with Southern Ionics to configure their plant to produce the high quality, specialty alumina that we need" said Pat Laabs, President of Criterion. "We are pleased that Southern Ionics will join us as a valued supplier in this endeavor."

Criterion Catalyst & Technologies L.P. is a wholly owned affiliate of CRI/Criterion Inc. Criterion Catalysts & Technologies L.P. supplies total packages of catalysts, services and solutions for refineries and is a leading provider of hydroprocessing, reforming and specialty catalysts to the refining industry.

Southern Ionics is an innovator and leading manufacturer of specialty and intermediate inorganic chemicals based on aluminum, magnesium, sulfur and zirconium chemicals.

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