



PRESS RELEASE
May 1, 2007

HALLSTAR AND STEPAN REACH PRODUCT ACQUISITION AGREEMENTS

May 1, 2007 — Chicago — The HallStar Company, a Chicago-based specialty chemistry company, acquired the personal care ester product line owned by Stepan Company. Stepan, headquartered in Northfield, Illinois, acquired the HALLCOMID™ product line from HallStar.

The ingredients that HallStar is acquiring include esters that are used in a wide range of personal care products, including skin care, color cosmetics, hair care, sun care, and toiletries. The HallStar acquisition is an extension of HallStar's innovative personal care and specialty ester product lines, which include HallBrite® and Spectrasolv® sun care technologies; skin care ingredients that improve water balance, reduce inflammation, and promote healing; and other products that increase the effectiveness and utility of consumer products.

HALLCOMID™ products, which are being acquired by Stepan Company from HallStar, are used in agricultural crop protections formulations, coatings, and industrial cleaning products.

“The acquisition and divestiture are strong indicators that a new era for our company is in full progress,” said John Paro, HallStar President and CEO. “We are building on our considerable expertise in ester chemistry and moving forward in exciting directions.”

The acquired products will be carefully integrated into HallStar's existing infrastructure for sales, customer service, and manufacturing. HallStar has a strong customer interface in place to handle orders of the former Stepan ingredients. The products will be integrated into the HallStar manufacturing operations in Bedford Park, Illinois, over the next several months.

“The delivery, quality, and specifications of the acquired products will not change,” said Jim Savastano, HallStar Vice President of Sales and Marketing. “The acquisition allows us to be a more valued supplier to our current and future customer base.”

Current customers or distributors are being provided instructions on how to place orders. They will be supported and assisted throughout the transition of the product lines.

About The HallStar Company

The HallStar Company, based in Chicago, is a privately held corporation whose group companies focus on providing the “right chemistry” and innovative solutions for their customers and whose global network of distributors, representatives, and facilities span six continents.

HallStar Innovations Corp., the group’s research and development affiliate, has developed more than one hundred patents.

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