

## Media Release

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Department  
Corporate Communications / Investor Relations

### **Innovative SIG barrier technology for PET bottles proves its industrial capability in production with Eckes-Granini**

**In addition to its carton packaging arm for beverages and food products (SIG Combibloc Division), SIG is unremittingly expanding its superior range of production and filling systems for plastic bottles (SIG Beverages Division) under the concept of its “value added bottling” strategy. A key part in this strategy is the innovative barrier technology from SIG Plasmax, the most important long-term growth driver of the future for the division. In the course of this year, three further pilot units were installed with notable customers; Since April, Eckes-Granini, one of the leading producers of fruit juices in Europe, has been producing PET bottles with the new, invisible PLASMAX barrier, at Henniez’s facility in Switzerland. For several months now, production of the coated bottles for the brands “granini” and “hohes C” has been operating smoothly and at full speed. In the meantime, over five million bottles have been produced for the Swiss market. Eckes-Granini are impressed and convinced of the industrial capability of the PLASMAX equipment under full production conditions.**

Dr. Peter Nagel, Senior Vice President and responsible for product development of the Eckes-Granini Group stated, “The barrier quality and high uptime availability of our PLASMAX unit has exceeded our expectations.” Pius Bernhardsgrütter, Head of Development, Eckes-Granini S.A. emphasises the easy handling of the system, “Our employees were able to operate the machine independently within a very short time”. The performance under industrial production conditions for Eckes-Granini S.A. is a major step forward in achieving successful commercialization of the innovative PLASMAX technology. A further two pilot units ordered this year were put into operation, one with Rexam and the other with a third large customer in the USA.



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### **Further details on PLASMAX technology**

In the PLASMAX process, an extremely thin transparent coat of glass is applied to the internal surface of PET bottles. Despite having a minimal net weight, the coated plastic bottles are provided with the properties of their glass counterparts. The internal barrier coating prevents the ingress of oxygen and in the case of carbonated soft drinks and beer it also prevents the exgress of CO<sub>2</sub>. This benefit maintains the appearance and taste of the filled product and ensures a significantly longer shelf life than that of the currently widespread PET bottles without barrier protection. Plastic bottles from the PLASMAX process are "crystal clear" and fully recyclable. Moreover, PLASMAX technology is highly economic: total cost of ownership is lower than with comparable barrier technologies – often significantly so.

For further details, please contact:

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SIG is a global provider of packaging solutions. Its product range includes the manufacture of cartons for beverages and food products, as well as machinery for the aseptic and non-aseptic filling of packages (SIG Combibloc division). In the PET sector, equipment for the production, coating and filling of plastic bottles completes the product spectrum (SIG Beverages division). In 2005, the approximately 4,800 employees generated annual net sales (continuing business) of EUR 1.2 billion. The company has its registered office in Neuhausen am Rheinfall (Switzerland) and the SIG share is listed on the Swiss Exchange SWX (SIGN, security no. 1202249).

#### **Cautionary statement regarding forward-looking statements**

This communication contains statements that constitute "forward-looking statements". In this communication, such forward-looking statements include, without limitation, statements relating to our financial condition, results of operations and business and certain of our strategic plans and objectives. Because these forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual future results may differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the statements. Many of these risks and uncertainties relate to factors which are beyond SIG's ability to control or estimate precisely, such as future market conditions, currency fluctuations, the behavior of other market participants, the actions of governmental regulators and other risk factors detailed in SIG's past and future filings and reports filed with the SWX Swiss Exchange and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and posted on our websites. Readers are cautioned not to put undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only of the date of this communication. SIG disclaims any intention or obligation to update and revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.