

Mülheim an der Ruhr, July 4, 2011

## **Brenntag Italy S.p.a. appointed as new distributor for Stepan in Italy**

Brenntag, the global market leader in chemical distribution, has been appointed as new distributor for Stepan, leader in the production of surfactants, as of July 1, 2011.

This new distribution agreement in Italy is another important step for Brenntag to strengthen the product portfolio with high qualified products. A special focus is put on the Cosmetics and Detergents markets, in which Brenntag in Italy is continuing to invest in terms of skilled human resources and equipment to support both customers and suppliers in common business development.

Ignazio Vullo, Managing Director at Brenntag in Italy: "Stepan is an important addition to Brenntag's product portfolio especially in the cosmetics and detergents industries. The cooperation is an excellent strategic fit and we strengthen our leading position in Italy. Stepan's customers now have access to the proven high level service and distribution know how of Brenntag."

### **About Brenntag**

Brenntag is the global market leader in full-line chemical distribution. Linking chemical manufacturers and chemical users, Brenntag provides business-to-business distribution solutions for industrial and specialty chemicals globally. With over 10,000 products and a world-class supplier base, Brenntag offers one-stop-shop solutions to about 160,000 customers. The value-added services include just-in-time delivery, product mixing, formulation, repackaging, inventory management, drum return handling as well as extensive technical support. Headquartered in Mülheim/Ruhr, Germany, the company operates a global network with more than 400 locations in nearly 70 countries. In 2010 the company realized global sales of EUR 7.6 billion (USD 10.1 billion) with more than 12,000 employees.

## **About Stepan**

Stepan is a leading merchant producer of surfactants, the key ingredients in consumer and industrial cleaning products and specialty products used in the food and pharmaceutical industry. The product portfolio incorporates a broad range of products to choose from including anionic, cationic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants. Stepan's expert team of sales, business management and technical service representatives have a thorough knowledge of their customers and markets. They are supported by a technical group of over 200 members who will respond to any questions whether it is a formulation recommendation, new application, regulatory compliance question or custom product development. Founded in 1932, over 1,600 employees, Corporate office in Northfield, IL, sixteen manufacturing locations worldwide, shipments available through direct and over 150 distribution locations, member of ACC's Responsible Care & CSPA Product Care program, commitment to Quality Improvement – ISO 9001: 2000 Certified, commitment to Compete Globally. In two decades, Stepan has grown from 5 plants and \$200 million to 16 plants in twelve countries with \$1.4 billion in revenue.

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