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“ARLANXEO: A Strong Global Player in Synthetic
Rubber”

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Good morning everyone,

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I would now like to give some more details about the Business unit set up of ARLANXEO and about some of the key products we are going to highlight on the K trade fair in October.

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Value-creation

At ARLANXEO we serve a wide range of industries. Each with its own specific demands in terms of performance, aesthetics, durability and environmental impact. We set out to deliver value for each of our customers and their customers by addressing key market trends whilst at the same time delivering key benefits for processors and end-users.

Innovation

We create this value through innovation: by giving our customers access to new product, solutions and global brainpower, they can achieve a competitive edge, enabling them to become trend-setters and innovators in their markets, creating and delivering value. A win-win situation!

At K 2016, ARLANXEO will be highlighting a number of our innovations – and we will be demonstrating to our customers in the various industries how they can benefit from our most recent developments. Today, I would like to briefly focus on a few of these innovations. Each one of these will be featured in our media kit – so no need to write it all down. One of our key industries is the automotive business, however the coming slides will show you the scope is much wider than that.

Product portfolio

ARLANXEOS' business is combined in the two Business units: High Performance Elastomers and Tire & Specialty Rubbers as Jan Paul mentioned before. Let me start with the elastomers.

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We are one of the leading suppliers of High Performance Elastomers (short HPE), with a broad portfolio of technical rubbers. Essentially we offer NBR: Nitrile Butadiene Rubber and EVM: Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Rubber, HNBR: Hydrogenated Nitrile Butadiene Rubber, CR: Chloroprene Rubber, EPDM: Ethylene Propylene Diene Rubber in a wide range of brands and grades. These products are used in a broad variety of industrial applications.

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From our global asset base we serve the global demand of the rubber processing industries.

Today, I would like to highlight the following three product-ranges from our business unit High Performance Elastomers:

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Levapren®

Our Levapren® product range consists of halogen-free ethylene-vinyl acetate synthetic rubbers (EVM), that can cope with the continuously more demanding requirements – and well able to withstand high temperatures. Key industries include Automotive, Machinery, Building & Construction, Wire & Cable and Sports Goods.

At K 2016, we will be introducing Levapren 500 and Levapren 700 compounds. These have been specially formulated for sheathing high voltage cables – 500 volts or higher. They contain no halogens, so if there is a fire, they do not emit the highly corrosive hydrochloric acid gas normally released by halogen-based materials in a fire. This makes these compounds ideal for, for instance, wind turbine cable applications, where they can help to protect large installations and considerable investments.

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Therban

Therban hydrogenated acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (HNBR) elastomers can withstand high temperatures and aggressive substances and can meet the particular requirements of fuel-saving engine and car body designs as well as those in the oil exploration industry, where elastomers must weather aggressive environments, explosive decompression and high mechanical stresses.

We have launched a new generation of Therban for low temperature applications. Therban LT extends the operational window to well below -40°C, making it ideal for use in applications in cold regions or in cold media. A good example is the oil and gas exploration industry. At K2016, the first two products in the range will be formally introduced: Therban LT 1707, a fully saturated grade, and Therban LT 1757, a partially saturated grade. Both offer the ability to fulfil stringent low temperature requirements, while at the same time delivering the high performance of all Therban products in even the most extreme environments.

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Baymod N

ARLANXEO has a broad portfolio ranging from linear to highly pre-crosslinked powder NBR products. Baymod® N is a family of powdered nitrile rubbers that are compatible with a number of different base polymers. They are used as plasticizers and as modifiers they are quick and simple to use in conventional processing.

At K 2016, we will introduce their benefits in applications such as gaskets, brake pads and especially PVC modification, where - in contrast to standard plasticizers - NBR powder acts as non-extractable plasticizer and increases an article's shelf life. Our world-class Baymod NXL 3361 offers improved color stability and extrusion properties compared to standard products.

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After introducing the High Performance Elastomers business unit I would now like to come to our Tire & Specialty Rubbers business. Here we offer a broad portfolio of versatile rubbers primarily for tire applications. They are used in, for example, the inner liners (the airtight layers) of tires as well as for the tread, side walls and other tire components. But we also offer innovative solutions for non-tire industries. Our synthetic rubber is for example used in chewing gum, sports and golf balls, hoses and conveyor belts.

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With our Tires and Specialty Rubbers we also have a global footprint and are represented with production sites in all key regions.

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Since the introduction of tire labelling in the European union 2012 and other global labelling initiatives for labelling tires in terms of fuel efficiency, wet grip and noise, tire manufacturers are focusing on the improvement of the tire performance not only to fulfil the labelling requirements but also to improve the labels of their tires. Therefore the use of high performance and functionalized rubbers in their tread compounds is essential.

We have developed a new technology for the production of functionalized solution rubbers. This new technology is for both styrene butadiene rubber (S-SBR) and functionalized butadiene rubber - in particular neodymium catalyzed butadiene rubber (Nd-BR) – and it increases the materials' interaction with fillers, helping to improve the dynamic properties of tire tread compounds. As the filler becomes more easily dispersed into the compound, a more elastic network is built up. This reduces the rolling resistance and thus improves the fuel economy of the tire. In some cases traction properties can also be enhanced.

Our new functionalized solution rubbers offer immediate benefits to the tire industry. However, in the longer term they can be adopted for use in other applications where excellent dynamic properties are required, for example in conveyor belting, anti-vibration and sport shoe soles applications.

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These are just some of the examples of the way ARLANXEO works with its customers and applies its R&D resources to deliver solutions. I'm looking forward to show you these and additional solutions on our booth on the K 2016. Thank you very much and....

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...see you at the K 2016!

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