



/ MEDIA RELEASE

ARCHROMA GRANTS PATENT LICENSE TO BLANKOPHOR

- Patent application by Archroma for its innovative process using "improved optical brightening compositions" is now final
- Blankophor GmbH closes a license agreement with Archroma for the European Patent EP 2 260 145 B1

Reinach, 4 May 2015 – Archroma, a global leader in specialty chemicals, today announced that it has entered a license agreement with Blankophor GmbH for Archroma's patented "improved optical brightening compositions".

The improved optical brightening technology was developed by Archroma combining magnesium salts with optical brighteners. Papers treated with this process present enhanced brightness and whiteness levels, offering consumers a more pleasurable writing and printing experience. The patent covers mixed salts of most of the common paper optical brighteners containing magnesium cations.

The agreement recognizes Archroma as the sole owner of the European patent after it has become final, and grants a license to Blankophor GmbH as the first licensee to use the patented process.

Valerie Diele-Braun, President of Archroma's Paper Solutions, comments: "The patent recognizes once more the commitment of Archroma to the development of innovative solutions designed to meet the needs of our customers and, ultimately, the expectations of end users".

Dr. Bernd Hauschel, Head of Technology and Intellectual Property at Blankophor GmbH, adds: "Even though we have a different view on the decision of the European Patent Office, we do respect their decision after we lost the opposition case against Archroma's patent. For this reason, we decided to enter into a license agreement to avoid any infringement of the Archroma patent in the context regarding our products. We also like our patents to be respected."

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Archroma is a global color and specialty chemicals company committed to innovation, world-class quality standards, high service levels, cost-efficiency and sustainability. Archroma is headquartered in Reinach near Basel, Switzerland, and operates with approximately 3000 employees over 35 countries. Through its three businesses: Textile Specialties, Paper Solutions and Emulsion Products, Archroma delivers specialized performance and color solutions to meet customer needs in their local markets. Archroma helps people fulfill their desire for products that appeal to their emotions and senses for a greater life experience, by developing beauty- and performance-improving technologies applied to everyday products. Products enhanced, colors enhanced, performance enhanced – “Life enhanced”.

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