



Herrliberg, 20 February 2001

MEDIA INFORMATION

EMS owns more than 98 % of AXANTIS

Successful conclusion of the extended offer period

On 19 February 2001 EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING AG, Domat/Ems (EMS), owns 98.87 % of AXANTIS HOLDING AG, Riedholz (AXANTIS). The take-over of AXANTIS by EMS, which was initiated by public purchase offer on 6 December 2000, has thus been successfully concluded.

In response to the public purchase offer of CHF 330 per share submitted by EMS to the AXANTIS shareholders on 6 December 2000, a total of 814'802 shares had been offered for sale by close of the regular offer period on 31 January 2001. A total of 391'845 shares were subsequently and additionally offered for sale in the extension period from 6 to 19 February 2001. EMS hence owns 1'708'460 shares, corresponding to 98.87 % of the outstanding shares. Following the sale of its own shares on the market AXANTIS now no longer owns any of its own shares.

EMS had made the take-over of AXANTIS contingent upon at least 67 % of the outstanding shares being offered. This figure has been exceeded by a wide margin. The take-over bid has been successful. The official final result of the public purchase offer will be published on 23 February 2001.

EMS thus assumes management responsibility at AXANTIS. As previously announced, the existing board of directors will resign on the occasion of the AXANTIS general meeting on 15 March 2001. EMS will propose the election of Messrs Christoph Blocher, Peter Matter and Albert Sommerauer – all of which are members of the EMS-CHEMIE HOLDING board of directors – to the board.

For EMS, the acquisition of AXANTIS provides an interesting supplementation of the group's Performance Polymers business. Whilst EMS activities currently focus on polyamides and polyester, AXANTIS will in future concentrate on refined cellulose and biochemical derivative products. EMS is of the opinion that the reorientation hitherto pursued by AXANTIS is basically sound, and will continue this process in a target-oriented manner. AXANTIS will be operated as a new, additional and independent unit within the Performance Polymers division. From a current viewpoint, the take-over of AXANTIS will not cause any dilution of EMS profits.

It is now clear that EMS will hold an interest in AXANTIS exceeding 98 %. The focus is now on integration of AXANTIS into EMS within the company-law framework, and on its delisting. As soon as the relevant decisions have been taken, EMS will outline the next steps in respect of integration under applicable company law and the strategic alignment of AXANTIS.

The financial media conference of the EMS Group on the business year 2000 will take place in Zurich on 23 March 2001, 12.30 p.m. at the Swissôtel Zurich, Schulstrasse 44, Marktplatz/Oerlikon, 8050 Zurich.