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PRESS RELEASE

STAHL AFRICA OPENS ITS DOORS

Addis Ababa, 4th February 2013 – In the presence of the Ethiopian Minister of Trade, Mr Mekonnen Manyazewal, the Netherlands Ambassador, Mr Hans Blankenberg and many other dignitaries and customers, Stahl Africa opened its doors on Saturday 2nd February 2013 in Akaki Kality, 20 kms south of Addis Ababa.

Huub van Beijeren, Stahl's CEO: "Part of the rapid development in the economy of Ethiopia is due to continued growth in its leather and shoe manufacturing industry. As a global player in the chemical industry for leather products, we see that our customers for global shoe brands enter the expanding Ethiopian shoe manufacturing market. For Stahl is it a logical conclusion that this is the right time to provide a high level of local technical advice and training facilities. After all, this is what Stahl does: we provide service and support to customers on a local level. We are very proud and happy that the Ethiopian government and other local authorities embraced our vision and supported us wholeheartedly with our plans."

The Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Hans Blankenberg, expressed his pleasure that yet another Dutch company has taken the decision to invest in Ethiopia. "In the past four years I have seen many companies from the Netherlands coming to Ethiopia. Ethiopians know us for our contribution to the horticultural sector and most recently two large beer brewers Heineken and Bavaria have made substantial investments in Ethiopia. It pleases me very much that now also the leather sector in Ethiopia will be able to benefit from Dutch knowledge and expertise".

Stahl is a customer-focused company that specialises in providing high quality chemicals, dyes and coatings for leather, as well as flexible and non-flexible substrates for performance coatings, textiles and related products. Stahl's objective is to achieve the highest customer service level through on-time delivery of innovative quality products and processes while operating safely and in harmony with the environment. Today, Stahl operates eight manufacturing sites and some 30 strategically located technical service laboratory facilities world-wide and employs some 1,250 people in more than 28 countries - many of whom are engaged in basic research and development of new products and processes. More than one quarter of them are dedicated technical experts based at application laboratories offering top-level local custom-made service wherever our customers are located throughout the world. Stahl strongly believes that research is a sound base for the future and it therefore invests more in research and development than any other company in the industry.

For more information:

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