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Ciba Specialty Chemicals to Break Ground on New Office Building

SUFFOLK, VA, March 4, 2004 — Ciba Specialty Chemicals will host a groundbreaking ceremony today for a new twenty-six thousand (26,000) square-foot administrative, sales and R&D laboratories for their Water & Paper Treatment Business Segment.

Ciba currently employs 430 individuals in Suffolk, with an annual payroll of more than eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000.00) including benefits. This new three million five hundred thousand dollar (\$3,500,000.00) investment will house the North American headquarters of the Water and Paper Treatments business segment and secures over 100 of these jobs for the Suffolk community. The project will bring 8 new management jobs to the area.

“We are extremely pleased that Ciba Specialty Chemicals has chosen our community to maintain and grow their business,” said Suffolk Mayor E. Dana Dickens, III “they have been an outstanding corporate citizen for the last 6 years and we welcome their continued growth and prosperity.”

Bill Leber, Vice-President and head of the North American Water and Paper Treatment Business Segment stated, "This is a tremendous opportunity for our Suffolk site, its employees, and for the community. It improves the ability of our business to provide products, technical support, and services to our customers."

Ciba has been at their current location since 1998, which was previously owned by Allied Colloids. Their specialty chemicals add performance, protection, color and strength to textiles, plastics, paper, automobiles, buildings, home and personal care products, among others. Ciba Specialty Chemicals is active in more than 120 countries around the world and is committed to be a leader in its chosen markets. In 2003, the Company generated sales of \$4.9 billion and invested \$207 million in R&D.

AllFirst Construction will build, and own, the new building that Ciba will lease. AllFirst Construction is a leading local firm of industrial and general contractors specializing in working with Fortune500 companies, and oversaw construction of \$9 million dollars in 2003.



New Ciba Office and R&D Building

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