

**Clariant**

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## **Media Release**

Clariant International Ltd

### *Clariant Acquires Rite Systems/Ricon Colors to Strengthen Masterbatches' North American Position*

**Muttenz, Switzerland, July 10, 2008** – Clariant, a world leader in specialty chemicals, announced today that it has acquired the combined companies of Rite Systems, Inc. and Ricon Colors Inc., leading U.S. masterbatches suppliers with both liquid and solid masterbatches technology. The purchase substantially strengthens Clariant Masterbatches' market position in North America, a region offering important growth opportunities and a technologically demanding customer base. Terms of the agreement, that transferred the businesses effective July 1, were not disclosed.

Founded in 1987 and with yearly sales of approximately USD 50 million, Rite Systems and Ricon Colors employ approximately 150 people. They operate from three strategically located plants in the U.S. in: West Chicago, Ill.; Mooresville, N.C.; and Chino, Calif.; a European operation is based in Vienna, Austria. The company's portfolio comprises about two-thirds liquid and one-third solid masterbatches.

“Rite Systems/Ricon Colors is an excellent partner to expand our product and service offering in North America, especially for our customers in the packaging and consumer goods market segments,” comments Dominik von Bertrab, Head of Clariant Masterbatches. “In particular the excellent knowledge of Rite Systems in the field of liquid masterbatches is a perfect addition to Clariant's current capabilities. We are now in an even better position to offer our customers all the products and services they need to compete successfully in the plastics market.”

“Further, Rite's outstanding reputation in liquid color will allow us to leverage this new competence into other regions where Clariant enjoys strong market positions such as Europe, Asia and Latin America.” Dominik von Bertrab is convinced that “combining Rite's strong technology base in liquid with Clariant's extensive geographic reach will make this acquisition a truly winning combination for our customers.”



Clariant Masterbatches Division

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Clariant – Exactly your chemistry.

Clariant is a global leader in the field of specialty chemicals. Strong business relationships, commitment to outstanding service and wide-ranging application know-how make Clariant a preferred partner for its customers.

Clariant, which is represented on five continents with over 100 group companies, employs about 21,000 people. Headquartered in Muttenz near Basel, Switzerland, it generated sales of CHF 8.5 billion in 2007.

Clariant's businesses are organized in four divisions: Textile, Leather & Paper Chemicals; Pigments & Additives; Functional Chemicals; and Masterbatches.

Clariant is committed to sustainable growth springing from its own innovative strength. Clariant's innovative products play a key role in its customers' manufacturing and treatment processes or else add value to their end products. The Company's success is based on the know-how of its people and their ability to identify new customer needs at an early stage and to work together with customers to develop innovative, efficient solutions.

[www.clariant.com](http://www.clariant.com)