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Media Release

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Clariant strengthens its global business for the oil and mining industry; new global center opens in Houston, Texas

Muttenz, Switzerland, July 8, 2008 – Clariant has strengthened its business in the service-intensive oil, gas and mining industries by opening a new global center in Houston and appointing Christopher Oversby to head the global Business Unit.

"Oil and Mining services are strategically important sectors for Clariant. High global energy demand, combined with the trend towards producing heavier, and therefore more difficult to treat, crude has delivered double digit growth for Clariant's Oil Services in recent years," says Dr. Siegfried Fischer, division head for Functional Chemicals.

"High demand for metals and other minerals, as well as the increasing focus on environmental issues have also boosted sales from Clariant Mining Services, which have grown significantly in the last few years."

Underpinning the commitment to enhance its service-focused business, Clariant has opened a new global headquarters for the Chemical Management Solutions Business Unit in Houston, Texas. The facility features increased office capacity and laboratory facilities.

Furthermore, Christopher Oversby has joined Clariant from Baker Hughes to manage Clariant Oil Services and Clariant Mining Services. Oversby is a British citizen with a degree in chemistry and an MBA. He was at Baker Hughes for 24 years based in Europe, the Middle East and the US.

"Being located in Houston positions Clariant advantageously close to many of the major global energy companies. This will enable Clariant to accelerate growth in the strategically important North American energy market where the demand for our technologies and services continues to rise," says Oversby.

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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 more than 100 group companies, employs around 21,000 people. Headquartered in Muttenz near Basel, Switzerland, it generated sales of CHF 8.5 billion in 2007.

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 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.

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