



## Press release

Düsseldorf, December 15, 2006

### Phenion in the Life Science Center Düsseldorf

## Henkel opens competence center for skin research

Phenion GmbH & Co KG is Henkel's new competence center for skin research. The aim of Phenion is to investigate the interactions of substances with the human skin. To equip it to do so, Henkel has merged its skin and hair research and dermatological studies with the activities that Phenion has carried out up to now in Frankfurt am Main, concentrating these pooled resources in the Life Science Center in Düsseldorf-Bilk. Phenion will also use the insights it gains to promote the development of alternatives to animal testing.

Düsseldorf – At an official ceremony on December 14, Phenion inaugurated its new facilities in the Life Science Center Düsseldorf, situated on Merowingerplatz. Among other methods, the company uses a proprietary complex model of the human skin as a basis for developing new in-vitro methods (test tube tests). Henkel uses such methods to develop new products that come into contact with the skin. In-vitro methods are needed worldwide as alternatives to animal testing to assure the safety of products and raw materials. In addition to the skin model, Phenion employs numerous other biological models, including various cell culture systems. These are supported by dermatological studies with volunteers to study the efficacy and skin compatibility of products. Through cooperations with leading research groups around the world, Phenion works proactively as an industrial reference center to promote the implementation of various test strategies based on alternatives to animal testing.

Phenion's move to the Life Center Düsseldorf has made it possible to concentrate all Henkel's activities in the field of skin research and the development of alternative methods at one location. A total of 50 specialists work at Phenion. The close proximity to Henkel experts in product development and product safety in Düsseldorf-Holthausen and to the neighboring biotechnology companies in the Life Science Center and the universities located in the region is unique and will assure successful cooperation between the researchers.

"With our new competence center for skin research we are setting clear signals," stated Prof. Dr. Ulrich Lehner, Chairman of the Management Board of Henkel KGaA. "We have not only created ideal conditions for future product innovations, but we are also fulfilling our responsibility toward society by accelerating the development of alternatives to animal testing."

"The key factors for successful research are a clear vision and a strategy to match it, excellent staff and excellent cooperation between all parties involved, and also an excellent infrastructure. We have established all of these conditions here at Phenion in the Life Science Center Düsseldorf," said Dr.



Wolfgang Gawrisch, Chief Technology Officer Research/Technology of Henkel KGaA and Chairman of Phenion's Board of Directors.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Minister for Innovation, Science, Research and Technology in North Rhine-Westphalia, emphasized: "The competence center is a genuine gain for North Rhine-Westphalia. And the fact that it has been opened here is a high recognition of our region as a research location. This encouraging signal provides added confidence in the competitiveness of North Rhine-Westphalia as a place of innovation."

Joachim Erwin, Lord Mayor of Düsseldorf, the state's capital, judged the inauguration of Phenion to be "a major proof of trust and a clear commitment to Düsseldorf as a life science location."

Prof. Dr. Dr. Thomas Hartung, Head of the European Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM), reported in his speech at the inauguration of Phenion: "As part of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, ECVAM is responsible for validating alternative test methods. In 2006 alone, we validated nine such methods."

Prof. Dr. Horst Spielmann, Head of the German Centre for Documentation and Evaluation of Alternatives to Animal Experiments (ZEBET), outlined in his speech the sometimes arduous path from the development of human skin models to their acceptance as alternatives to animal testing.

Phenion – Henkel's competence center for skin research and development of alternatives to animal testing – was founded in 2001 as a biotechnology research company in the form of a public-private partnership between Henkel KGaA, the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, and six Frankfurt-based professors. In 2006, Phenion was expanded to incorporate the skin and hair research activities and dermatological studies from Henkel Research and is now a 100-percent research company of Henkel.

"Henkel – A Brand like a Friend". Henkel is a leader with brands and technologies that make people's lives easier, better and more beautiful. Henkel, a Fortune Global 500 company, operates in three strategic business areas – Home Care, Personal Care, and Adhesives, Sealants and Surface Treatment. In fiscal 2005, Henkel generated sales of 11.974 billion euros. More than 50,000 employees work for Henkel worldwide. People in approximately 125 countries around the world trust in brands and technologies from Henkel.

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