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## News Release

July 3, 2014

### **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Completes Squeeze-Out of AZ Electronic Materials**

Darmstadt, Germany, July 3, 2014 – Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading company for high-tech products in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors, today announced that all remaining shares of AZ Electronic Materials (AZ) have been transferred to Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, on July 2, 2014. Holding 99.84% of the AZ shares already, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, had exercised its compulsory acquisition right (“Squeeze-Out”) on June 27, 2014.

On May 2, 2014, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, had announced the official completion of the AZ-acquisition, creating a leading solutions provider in the premium segment of high-tech materials and functional specialty chemicals. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, had made a recommended cash offer of 403.5 GBpence per AZ-share, totalling approximately € 1.9 billion to acquire AZ in December 2013,

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has already started the integration of AZ, which employs around 1,150 people worldwide, and expects all major steps of the integration to be completed by the end of 2014. During the integration AZ will be operated as a separate business unit of the company’s Performance Materials division, alongside the three existing business units Liquid Crystals, Pigments & Cosmetics and Advanced Technologies until a decision on the final set up has been taken.

With annual sales of approximately US-\$ 730 million (€ 530 million) in 2013, AZ is a leading high-tech materials supplier with a strong operational presence in Asia, accounting

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for almost 80 percent of the total group revenues. More than 80 percent of the AZ Group revenue is generated by products with a leading position in their respective markets. AZ materials are widely used in integrated circuits and devices, flat panel displays, and light-emitting diodes. As such, it is a critical partner to the leading global electronics players as its chemical technology allows them to enhance existing processes and innovate new products.

All Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, press releases are distributed by e-mail at the same time they become available on the EMD Group Website. In case you are a resident of the USA or Canada please go to [www.emdgroup.com/subscribe](http://www.emdgroup.com/subscribe) to register again for your online subscription of this service as our newly introduced geo-targeting requires new links in the email. You may later change your selection or discontinue this service.

### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany, is a leading company for innovative and top-quality high-tech products in the pharmaceutical and chemical sectors. Its subsidiaries in Canada and the United States operate under the umbrella brand EMD. Around 38,000 employees work in 66 countries to improve the quality of life for patients, to further the success of customers and to help meet global challenges. The company generated total revenues of € 11.1 billion in 2013 with its four divisions: Biopharmaceuticals, Consumer Health, Performance Materials and Life Science Tools. Merck KGaA of Darmstadt, Germany is the world's oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company – since 1668, the name has stood for innovation, business success and responsible entrepreneurship. Holding an approximately 70 percent interest, the founding family remains the majority owner of the company to this day.