

## CEMENTIR ENTERS THE CHINESE MARKET

Rome, November 17th 2004. \_ Cementir Group, managed by Francesco Caltagirone jr, continue to pursue its international expansion strategy by entering the Chinese market through its Danish subsidiary Aalborg Portland.

Aalborg Portland Group and the Chinese Authorities reached an agreement for the purchase of a 100,000 tons white cement plant from a state-owned entity. The new plant, located near the town of Anqing (approx. 700 km west of Shanghai) is now owned by Aalborg White Anqing, a newly incorporated Chinese company 70% controlled by Aalborg Portland and 30% by IFU, the Danish Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries.

The acquisition price is around \$7,5 millions, including assets purchase and the necessary investments to double production capacity.

Through Aalborg Portland, Cementir intends to develop its Chinese presence in order to improve its production capacity for white cement as well as starting grey cement production, too. After the reorganization process, the plant will have around 180 employees.

The objective of the acquisition is both to gain experience on the local market and create a platform for further growth in Chinese white cement and it is consistent with Cementir Group strategy of reinforcing its global leadership in white cement.

The Chinese white market is the world largest with annual consumption of approx. 2,3 million tons. corresponding to 20% of global consumption.

Aalborg Portland operates manufacturing plants in other emerging markets such as Egypt and Malaysia.

Contacts:  
Investor relations: [invrel@cementir.it](mailto:invrel@cementir.it)  
Tel: +39-06-45412213