



## Press release

### Rio Tinto Minerals' natural solutions for high performance coatings

24 February 2011 - Toulouse – At this year's European Coatings Show 2011, Rio Tinto Minerals, the world leader in talc and borates applications and science, will be showcasing the sustainable and technical advantages of its high aspect ratio and ultrafine talcs, as well as its unique range of *Plastorit*<sup>®</sup> extenders.

Luzenac products are naturally occurring minerals that reduce the overall environmental impact of your paints and coatings formulations

The new, ultrafine *Luzenac Jetfine*<sup>®</sup> range has been developed using proprietary, micronizing technology which produces highly lamellar talcs with a high specific surface area. *Jetfine*<sup>®</sup> 1A is a natural, inert free flowing talc powder with a top cut of 5µm and a median particle size of 1µm. Thanks to its fineness and high specific surface, *Jetfine*<sup>®</sup> 1A supports prime pigment dispersion and improves hiding power. Fineness of *Jetfine*<sup>®</sup> 1A talc also enables its use in decorative emulsion paints without diminishing gloss.

*Luzenac High Aspect Ratio (HAR)*<sup>®</sup> talcs are the ideal solution for enhancing barrier properties in protective coatings. *HAR*<sup>®</sup> talcs result from a proprietary delamination process which dramatically increases lamellar shape and aspect ratio, consequently *HAR*<sup>®</sup> talc provides unparalleled barrier properties and significantly improves corrosion resistance. *HAR*<sup>®</sup> is a natural, inert, free-flowing talc and is available in high-density, dust-free micro-beads for easy dispersion.

*Plastorit*<sup>®</sup> is an inert, functional mineral extender for high-performance coatings. By virtue of its mineralogical composition - a unique, natural coalescence of mica, chlorite and quartz - *Plastorit*<sup>®</sup> provides excellent wetting properties and low viscosity build up which enables VOC reduction by up to 30%. Its pronounced lamellar shape supports the barrier effect, thereby improving anti-corrosion properties and durability in high specification coatings.

#### About Rio Tinto Minerals

Rio Tinto Minerals is the acknowledged world leader in developing industrial minerals - building blocks for life and for products that contribute to better living - and in developing solutions to build its customers' businesses.

The organization encompasses 2,200 people working at 35 facilities on five continents to serve more than 5,000 customers worldwide. It supplies 20 percent of global demand for talc under the *Luzenac* brand and 40 percent of global demand for refined borates under the *Borax 20 Mule Team*<sup>®</sup> brand. Talcs enhance performance in applications such as paper, paints, plastics, ceramics, personal care products, agriculture and pharmaceuticals. Borates are key ingredients in fiberglass, glass, ceramics, detergents, agricultural nutrients and wood preservatives.

Rio Tinto Minerals offers an unparalleled range of talcs and related functional minerals for paints and coatings that improve end product performance, lower formulation costs and add value and functionality.