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**Flint Ink and XSYS Print Solutions Agree to Merge
Under Sponsorship of CVC**

- Flint Ink, XSYS and CVC creating stronger player in the inks industry
- Combined group with revenues of approximately US\$ 2.6 billion (€2.1 billion)
- Management teams of Flint Ink and XSYS enthusiastic on prospects of merged group
- Dave Frescoln, currently CEO of Flint Ink, to become CEO of the new group

Ann Arbor, MI, Stuttgart, and Frankfurt – American-owned Flint Ink Corporation (“Flint Ink”) of Ann Arbor, MI, and XSYS Print Solutions (“XSYS”), based in Stuttgart, Germany, have agreed to merge. The merged group will rank among the largest ink companies in every region it serves, with an employee base of 8,000 and combined revenues of approximately US \$ 2.6 billion (€2.1 billion), based on 2004 figures.

Flint Ink is the largest privately-owned ink manufacturer in the world. XSYS Print Solutions was formed by the merger of BASF Printing Systems and ANI Printing Inks following their respective acquisitions at the end of 2004 by funds advised by CVC Capital Partners (“CVC”), a leading independent private equity firm.

Completion of the transaction remains subject to approval, where necessary, by regulatory and competition authorities, but subject to receiving such approvals, it is expected to be finalized on or around 30th September 2005. The new company will be jointly owned by CVC funds and the management of both companies.

Flint Ink and XSYS employees were notified of the agreement earlier today.

Management teams from the participating companies are enthusiastic about the prospects of the merged group. Dave Frescoln, currently chief executive officer of Flint Ink, will become CEO of the new group. Peter Koivula, CEO of XSYS, will become Vice Chairman of the new company, with special Board responsibilities for strategic matters and the relationship with major customers at a senior level. Howard Poulson, non-executive Chairman of XSYS, will assume the same function within the combined group.

Dr. Christian Wildmoser, Managing Director of CVC, commented: “By building the second largest ink manufacturer in the world, Flint Ink, XSYS and CVC are creating a stronger competitor better placed to serve customers in a fragmented market, where size is of critical importance for the success of the business. We are continuing to globalise the businesses following the needs of our customers in the printing industry. The transaction will significantly strengthen the combined group’s positions in each of its core inks segments. The two companies have a perfect regional fit with regard to operations in North America

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and Europe as well as a complementary product mix. Flint Ink's presence in Asia means that the merged entity will have a strong presence in the world's growth markets. The transaction puts the combined group in an excellent position to further drive growth to the benefit of customers, employees and shareholders."

Banc of America Securities advised Flint Ink on the transactions. Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan advised XSYS. The debt facilities to support the merger of the combined group have been arranged by CIBC World Markets and JP Morgan as Joint Mandated Lead Arrangers and Bookrunners.

Shearman & Sterling represented Flint Ink, Sullivan & Cromwell and Clifford Chance represented XSYS and CVC, White & Case acted for the Schmidt/Kalden families.

Notes to the editors

Flint Ink

Founded in 1920, Flint Ink offers a comprehensive range of flexographic, sheetfed, web offset, gravure, UV/EB curable and digital and specialty printing materials and equipment. Headquartered in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, the corporation's business is organized into North America, Latin America, Asia, India/Pacific, Flint-Schmidt (Europe), CDR Pigments & Dispersions and emerging business units. The Flint Ink group operates nearly 100 facilities worldwide, employs approximately 4,500 people, and had sales in excess of US \$1.41 billion for 2004.

Flint-Schmidt

Flint-Schmidt, headquartered in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, is a European leader in manufacturing high-quality printing inks. The company was founded in 2002 by merging the European operations of Flint Ink Corp. (Ann Arbor, MI, USA, founded 1920) and Druckfarbenfabrik Gebr. Schmidt GmbH (Frankfurt, Germany, founded 1873), both privately held corporations. From 13 production sites in eight European countries, Flint-Schmidt serves customers in the fields of publication gravure, heatset, sheetfed, news ink, liquid packaging inks, metal decorating inks and dispersions. The company employs approximately 1,200 employees and has annual sales of over € 400 million.

XSYS Print Solutions

XSYS Print Solutions develops, produces and markets printing inks, printing plates and pigments/resins for the graphics and packaging industry. The XSYS group has 60 fully-owned subsidiaries in 30 countries, and a wide network of distributors covers another 50 countries. The group, headquartered in Stuttgart/Germany, employs 3 600 people worldwide and sales for 2004 were US \$1.072 billion (€ 900 million).

CVC Capital Partners

CVC Capital Partners is a leading independent private equity firm in Europe and Asia, specialising in leveraged buy-outs. Founded in 1981 as Citicorp's European private equity arm, in 1993 CVC completed its own management buy-out and has since been independently owned by its management. CVC closed its most recent European fund of US\$ 4 billion in 2001 and currently has total funds under management of over US\$ 11 billion. CVC has 12 offices in Europe.

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Since 1981, CVC has acquired over 220 companies for a total consideration of more than €61.9 billion. CVC's current portfolio of 38 companies has a combined transaction value of €36 billion, with a combined turnover of €32.2 billion operating in 25 countries and employing over 224,000 people. In May 2005, CVC closed its second Asian Pacific fund raising US\$ 1.975 billion. CVC now has offices throughout the Asia Pacific region. Its current portfolio in the region consists of 12 companies.

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