



AN INNOVATION DRIVEN GROUP

CHRISTIAN JOURQUIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

WHEN ARCHIMEDES LEAPT OUT OF HIS BATH SHOUTING “EUREKA” (I’VE FOUND IT), EVERYONE LAUGHED. BUT BEHIND THIS 2 300 YEAR-OLD ANECDOTE LIES A REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC ADVENTURE: ARCHIMEDES HAD JUST DISCOVERED A NATURAL PHENOMENON WHICH WOULD LEAD HIM TO FORMULATE THE PRINCIPLES OF HYDROSTATICS.

NOT THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT INVOLVED... NO MORE THAN OBSERVING, ANALYSING, LOOKING FOR CONCEPTS, FORMULATING A HYPOTHESIS AND VERIFYING IT.

For 140 years we have been doing just that at Solvay. Even so, a new impetus was needed and was given a few years ago. Since then, the remarkable Solvay machine has moved into gear, and results are coming in fast – with our teams rising, as was to be expected, to the challenge. Wherever I go, I am impressed by the enthusiasm of our employees who are coming up

with new ideas in every field, with no holes barred: new products, new technologies, new sales techniques, new management approaches. The result is a rejuvenated Solvay which is going places.

This emulation, which should lead us to move ahead together, is an example of a salutary step forward of which we would like to see many more, in particular in Europe with its declining industrial fabric. It is innovation that will continue to create jobs and wealth, and enable us to pass down a richer heritage to future generations. It is also a message of hope that we send out to our younger members. The future becomes less threatening if you are able to constantly seize the opportunities of progress, if you have the courage to “dare the future”.

We shall soon be entering the decisive stages of the fourth Innovation Trophy. We can already talk of a tradition – well done everyone for your keenness and determination. I am as impatient as you are to know the winners – But will there be losers? Certainly not. It is in competing that we find the pleasure and – as I ardently wish – the recognition and gratitude of our fellow-employees.

Thank you for everything you are doing. Let’s share together this Passion for Progress® and once again, let’s dare the future.