

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Petra Foods' new state-of-the-art cocoa processing plant in Hamburg starts full commercial production

- Transformed at a cost of €65 million, the facility's capacity is more than doubled to 110,000 metric tonnes
- Focuses on higher value-added customized finished cocoa ingredients for the European market – the largest consuming market for cocoa ingredients globally
- A significant step to better serve the Group's international and Europe based customers
- Received the ISO 22000 certification The highest certification for global food safety management standards

SINGAPORE – 11 June 2009 - Petra Foods Limited ("Petra Foods" or the "Group"), one of the world's major manufacturers and suppliers of cocoa ingredients and branded consumer confectionery products, announced that its new state-of-the-art cocoa processing plant in Hamburg, Germany has officially commenced full commercial production, after successfully completing trial productions which began in April 2009.

The new Hamburg facility is the conclusion of a two-year investment program amounting to €65million, which started soon after Petra Foods' acquisition of the plant in March 2007, where the Group leveraged on its vast industry experience and technical expertise to achieve the following: -

- 1. More than doubling of the processing capacity of the acquired cocoa ingredients factory to 110,000 metric tonnes (MT);
- 2. Using the Group's proprietary know-how and technology to transform the acquired plant's capabilities from low margin intermediate cocoa cake to a wide range of high quality finished cocoa ingredients demanded by global customers;
- The building of a new state-of-the-art cocoa powder plant to produce a full range of high quality cocoa powders; and
- Configured the plant's design such that it provides flexibility for the production of certified cocoa
  products, such as ICCO and Rain Forest Alliance, as well as specialized products from single
  origin beans.

In April 2009, the Hamburg plant attained the ISO 22000 certification, which is the highest certification for food processing.



#### Significant step to better serve the Group's international and Europe based customers

The commencement of the new Hamburg plant and its focus on higher value added customized cocoa ingredients will further strengthen the Group's positioning as a total service provider in the global supply chain of its international F&B customers. The Group now has eight processing facilities, with a total annual processing capacity of 370,000 MT, spread across three continents – Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Mr John Chuang, CEO of Petra Foods, said "Our significant capital and technical investment into the Group's new cocoa processing plant in Hamburg will bring exciting opportunities for synergies across our global network. From our Hamburg facility, we can work even closer with our global customers and respond faster to their needs. We can also reach new markets, optimize the burden of freight costs and balance our production capacities with the needs of our customers. All these will enable us to serve our customers better."

"However, just as significant for Petra Foods is the cost efficient manner in which we have achieved this milestone. Even with the start up losses incurred in the past two years, we believe our cumulative investment cost on a per-tonne basis will be much lower as compared with a Greenfield investment. The cost is also competitive against established players in Europe."

"Furthermore, our investment in the Hamburg plant shows our confidence in the long term demand potential of the chocolate market, not only in Europe but globally. Even during this current economic turmoil, we believe that, as a consumer product, chocolate confectionery is relatively crisis proof as it is an affordable product of indulgence. Once this crisis is over, we expect chocolate consumption to continue on its growth path"



#### **ABOUT PETRA FOODS LIMITED**

Listed on the SGX-ST since 5 November 2004, Petra Food Limited and its subsidiaries ("the Group") is one of the world's major manufacturers and suppliers for premium cocoa ingredients, namely cocoa powder, cocoa butter and cocoa liquor. The Group also manufactures and/or distributes branded consumer products, primarily chocolate confectionery products, for which it is the market leader in Indonesia.

The Group has two business divisions, Cocoa Ingredients and Branded Consumer.

#### Cocoa Ingredients Division

The Group manufactures and sells cocoa ingredients, under the "Delfi" brand, to over 30 countries worldwide. Its major customers are international food and beverage companies such as Nestlé, Cadbury, the Mars Group, Arnott's, A.B. Foods, Barry Callebaut and the Meiji Group.

#### **Branded Consumer Division**

The Group manufactures and/or distributes branded consumer products that are sold in over 17 countries including Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Australia, Thailand, the Philippines and China. Petra Foods has an established portfolio of chocolate confectionery brands which are household names in Indonesia including 10 master brands and 20 key sub brands and manufactures over 300 stock keeping units. Its flagship brands in Indonesia include "SilverQueen" and "Ceres" that were introduced in the 1950s and "Delfi" in the 1980s. In addition, the Group also distributes a well-known portfolio of third party brands in Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

Headquartered in Singapore, Petra Foods has seven cocoa processing facilities (located in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico and Germany), one cocoa butter facility (located in France), two chocolate confectionery production facilities (located in Indonesia and the Philippines) and a total staff strength of over 4.000.

Petra Foods was awarded the top spot in the annual Singapore Enterprise 50 Award in 2003. In addition, it was recognised as the "Best Newly Listed Singapore Company in 2004" in AsiaMoney's Best Managed Companies Poll 2004. Petra Foods was named the "Enterprise of the Year 2004" by the 20th Singapore Business Awards on 30 March 2005 and was named one of "Singapore's 15 Most Valuable Brands" in November 2005 by IE Singapore.

The Group is also a 2-time winner at the Singapore Corporate Awards, bagging a Silver award for its inaugural annual report in the "Best Annual Report/Newly Listed Company" category in 2006. More recently in April 2009, Petra Foods clinched a Gold award in the "Best Annual Report/ Companies with \$300 million to less than \$1 billion in market capitalisation" category.

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