



Aleris International Receives Court Approval of “First Day Motions”

Court Authorizes Continued Payment of Employee Wages and Benefits, Payment to Vendors and Suppliers for Post-Petition Goods and services, and other Actions to Allow Business to Operate as Usual

Interim Approval Granted for Access to Portion of DIP Facility

BEACHWOOD, OH -- February 13, 2009 -- Aleris International, Inc. announced today that the U.S. Bankruptcy Court has granted the relief the Company requested in a series of court filings known as “First Day Motions.” The orders issued by the Court will help the Company continue to operate its business during the reorganization proceedings.

As part of its voluntary filing of petitions for reorganization under Chapter 11 for it and its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiaries, Aleris filed First Day Motions to support its employees and vendors and suppliers, together with its customers and other stakeholders. Among other things, the Court granted approval for the Company’s request to continue payment of wages and health and welfare benefits to employees and to pay vendors and suppliers for goods and services provided on or after the filing date of February 12, 2009.

Judge Brendan Shannon of the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware today also granted interim approval for the Company to access \$150 million of its new \$1.075 billion debtor-in possession (DIP) financing, including a new \$500 million term loan. The DIP credit facility includes a \$575 million revolving credit facility, which replaces the Company’s previous revolving credit facility, and will be used for the Company’s normal operating and working capital requirements, including employee wages and benefits, supplier payments, and other operating expenses during the reorganization process.

A hearing for final approval of the First Day Motions has been scheduled for March 11, 2009. The Company’s First Day Motions were granted, pending, among other things, review by the Creditors’ Committee, which is expected to be formed during the week of February 20, 2009, and subsequent approval by the Court.

Steven J. Demetriou, Aleris Chairman and CEO, said, “We are pleased to have received initial approval for our DIP facility and other first-day motions, which will enable us to transition into Chapter 11 with minimal disruption and to maintain normal operations as we move forward.”



The Aleris Chapter 11 case was filed on February 12, 2009, in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Delaware. The case number is 09-10478, with the Honorable Brendan Shannon presiding. More information about Aleris's restructuring is available at www.Aleris.com/restructure. Court filings and claims information are available at www.kccllc.net/Aleris.

About Aleris

Aleris International, Inc. is a global leader in aluminum rolled products and extrusions, aluminum recycling and specification alloy production. Headquartered in Beachwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, the Company operates over 40 production facilities in North America, Europe, South America and Asia, and employs approximately 8,400 employees. For more information about Aleris, please visit our Web site at www.Aleris.com.

Safe Harbor Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

Forward-looking statements made in this news release are made pursuant to the safe harbor provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These include statements that contain words such as "believe," "expect," "anticipate," "intend," "estimate," "should" and similar expressions intended to connote future events and circumstances, and include statements regarding future actual and adjusted earnings; future improvements in margins, processing volumes and pricing; overall 2008 operating performance; anticipated effective tax rates; expected cost savings; success in integrating and anticipated synergies resulting from Aleris's recent acquisitions, including the acquisition of the downstream aluminum businesses of Corus Group plc; its future growth; the anticipated economic environment in 2008; and future benefits from acquisitions and new products. Investors are cautioned that all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and that actual results could differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties would include, without limitation, Aleris's levels of indebtedness and debt service obligations; its ability to effectively integrate the business and operations of its acquisitions; further slowdowns in automotive production in the U.S. and Europe; the financial condition of Aleris's customers and future bankruptcies and defaults by major customers; the availability at favorable cost of aluminum scrap and other metal supplies that Aleris processes; the ability of Aleris to enter into effective metals, natural gas and other commodity derivatives; continued increases in natural gas and other fuel costs of Aleris; a weakening in industrial demand resulting from a decline in U.S. or world economic conditions, including any decline caused by terrorist activities or other unanticipated events; future utilized capacity of Aleris's various facilities; a continuation of building and construction customers and distribution customers reducing their inventory levels and reducing the volume of Aleris's shipments; restrictions on and future levels and timing of capital expenditures; retention of Aleris's major customers; the timing and amounts of collections; currency exchange fluctuations; future write-downs or impairment charges which may be required because of the occurrence of some of the uncertainties listed above; the difficult conditions in the capital, credit, commodities, automobile and housing markets and in the current economy; and other risks listed in Aleris's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including but



not limited to Aleris's annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007, and quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008, particularly the section entitled "Risk Factors" contained therein.

U.S. Media Contacts:

Kekst and Company
Ruth Pachman, 212-521-4891
David Lilly, 212-521-4878

###