

## PRESS RELEASE

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## SERVING THE ENVIRONMENT: MOSS MAT ABSORBS PARTICULATE MATTER POLLUTION

Arnhem, the Netherlands (September 2007)

An innovation from building products specialist Colbond will cut pollution and reduce costs on major roads. Colbond has developed a moss mat called Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss that absorbs airborne fine particulates and improves air quality while requiring minimal maintenance.

Every day, our air is becoming more and more polluted by industry and vehicular traffic. Although the full extent of the damage is not yet known, it is now proven that airborne particulates pose a health hazard that causes illnesses in a large number of people.

Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss absorbs fine particulates from the air through natural electrostatic attraction. The giant surface of the mat, which is composed of tiny moss leaves, is negatively charged, whereas particulate matter mainly has a positive charge. As a result, fine particulate matter is captured, metabolised and converted into phytomass without residues. In addition, organic particulate matter, such as tyre grit, is decomposed by the large number of bacteria living in a biofilm on the surface of the leaves.

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The moss mat, developed in co-operation with Wolfgang Behrens Systementwicklung and Dr. Jan-Peter Frahm from the University of Bonn, will soon see extensive use in areas affected by particulate pollution. For example, it will be installed alongside heavily travelled motorways and planted on concrete troughs on central reservations.

The effectiveness of the new Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss mat has been proven first in laboratory and field studies at the Nees Institute of Biodiversity at the University of Bonn and also in road trials recently.

At the end of August 2007 a test field was created along the A562 motorway in Germany with the help of Bonn's motorway maintenance authority. "Even though we've already field-tested the moss mat, this was a special day for us," said Christian Schmidt, Colbond Manager Sales & Marketing. "Up until now, we'd only installed the mat in large fields. But by installing the mat on a narrow central reservation, much focus was on its handling and installation properties. We're very pleased with the installation and see a big future for Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss."

Engineer Frank Laufenberg, head of the Bonn's motorway maintenance authority also had positive things to say about the moss mat. "Compared to other types of vegetation, whose surfaces don't absorb fine particulates from the air, the mat's ability to improve air quality is obviously a huge advantage. But as a public agency, we're also interested in the financial benefits offered by Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss. Whereas conventional vegetation requires a lot of maintenance, such as frequent mowing, moss mats are nearly maintenance-free."

Since the mat can be installed both horizontally and vertically, its potential applications are virtually unlimited. This will almost certainly lead to a rapid increase in the number of surfaces where the moss is used to naturally reduce fine particulate pollution.

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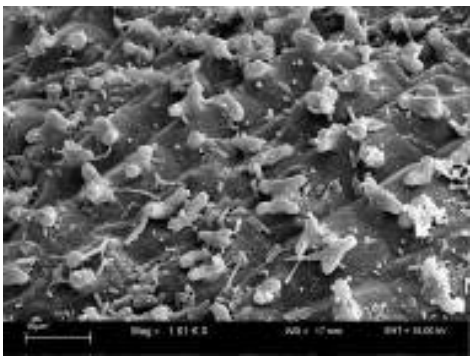
Photos attached:



**Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss after installation at A562 near Bonn (D)**



**Large surface for powerful absorption of particulate matter**



**Particulate matter captured on Enka<sup>®</sup>-Moss**

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*Colbond is a leading producer and supplier of high-quality synthetic nonwovens for flooring, automotive, and construction applications, and of three-dimensional polymeric mats and composites for civil engineering, building and industrial applications.*

*The company's production facilities are based in Emmen and Arnhem (NL), Obernburg (D), and Asheville (NC, USA). Regional sales offices are located all over the world. For product development and application research, the company maintains a Development and Application Centre at the Arnhem head office and a Development Laboratory in Asheville.*

*Colbond is part of the Technical Textiles Division of Low & Bonar. Listed on the London Stock Exchange, Low & Bonar employs more than 2,000 people worldwide.*

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