



ABSTRACT I

“Innovation project STOICISM illustrating Resource Efficiency in the industrial minerals sector” Presentation to IMA Europe 2012 Conference

***Dr Deeba Ansari, Imerys
14 November 2012***

Project STOICISM – an FP7 European Funded Project

Deeba M. Ansari, David J. Moseley, Becky Hamer

In mid 2011 the European Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7) launched its bids for large projects under the umbrella of Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies (NMP) which included “NMP.2012. 4.1-1 New environmentally friendly approaches to mineral processing”. This call was initiated as a response to the shortage of some minerals on global markets. It was recognized through the EU Raw Materials Initiative and Europe 2020 that there was also a need to improve all raw materials efficiencies to remain as self-sufficient and self-sustaining as possible. The overall objective was clear: to develop new, innovative, clean and resource efficient mineral processing routes and technologies for better utilisation of mineral raw materials. It sought to address the whole processing chain from mined rock to high grade marketable material of one or more selected metallic, industrial or construction minerals.

In July 2011 Imerys, supported by their local consultants Beta Technology Ltd., decided to bid for the project and approached other potential consortium members with complementary skills to enable a project to be put forward for funding. Thus STOICISM was born. The Sustainable Technologies for Calcined Industrial Minerals project passed through two highly competitive rounds of bidding before being given the green light for funding in June 2012. Its aims are to reduce the carbon footprint of several calcined industrial minerals by re-assessing the whole supply chain. New technologies for energy production will be evaluated as well as novel beneficiation, drying and calcining techniques. The consortium includes a range of large industrial companies, SMEs, academic institutes and has, crucially, IMA Europe as the leader of the Working Group for the dissemination of the knowledge gained during the four year duration of the project. This should ensure that the whole of the industrial minerals sector may benefit from the fundamental research of the consortium.