



## News Release

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### Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, CFO Matthias Zachert to Join Lanxess

- **Zachert appointed as CEO of Lanxess AG**
- **Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Executive Board Chairman Karl-Ludwig Kley: “The company’s transformation process continues unabated.”**

Darmstadt, Germany, January 26, 2014 – Matthias Zachert (46), Group Chief Financial Officer of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has informed the Chairman of the Family Board, Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, as well as the Chairman of the Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, Executive Board, Karl-Ludwig Kley, that he has received the offer to be appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Lanxess AG, Cologne, Germany. He therefore asked for an early release of his duties. Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, will accept his request. The effective date will be announced in due course.

Zachert has been a member of the company’s Executive Board since June 2011. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp regretted his departure: „We are losing a proven expert who during his three years at Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has realigned the global finance organization and played a significant role in our transformation program ‚Fit for 2018.‘ We very much regret that Matthias Zachert will leave the company, but understand his decision in light of the attractive assignment.”

Kley added: „I thank Matthias Zachert very much for the successful and collegial cooperation, which all of us would have liked to continue. He has significantly contributed to further developing Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in a positive way. His transparent capital market communication has clearly helped boost investor trust in

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## News Release

our company. Matthias Zachert has earned great merit for our company. I wholeheartedly wish him luck and success in his new role at Lanxess. Our company will continue on its chosen path. The transformation process continues unabated.”

„I would like to express my sincere thanks for the trust and good collaboration with the supervisory bodies as well as with my colleagues on the Executive Board“, Matthias Zachert said. „ Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a first-class company and I very much enjoyed contributing to the greatest change process in the company’s history of almost 350 years. I am convinced that the transformation over the coming years will continue to lead to success. It’s hard for me to leave Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.”

The company’s Board of Partners will decide about a successor for Matthias Zachert in due course.

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### **About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany**

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is a global pharmaceutical, chemical and life science company with total revenues of € 11.2 billion in 2012, a history that began in 1668, and a future shaped by approx. 38,000 employees in 66 countries. Its success is characterized by innovations from entrepreneurial employees. The company’s operating activities come under the umbrella of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, in which the Merck family holds an approximately 70% interest and shareholders own the remaining approximately 30%. In 1917 the U.S. subsidiary Merck & Co. was expropriated and has been an independent company ever since.

Worldwide there are two separate companies that bear the name “Merck”, the original Merck KGaA from Darmstadt, Germany, the oldest pharmaceutical and chemical company in the world, and the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. in the United States. The rights to the name and trademark MERCK



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in North America (USA and Canada) lie with Merck & Co., the former U.S. subsidiary, whereas Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, operates in North America under the umbrella brand EMD. In the rest of the world, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, owns the rights to the Merck name and trademark. This press release was distributed by Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany.