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Press Release

December 5, 2008

Gerhard Abel Appointed President of PetroChem Inspection Services

Peabody, Massachusetts / Houston, Texas. TÜV SÜD America Inc. announced the appointment of Mr. Gerhard Abel to the position of President of its PetroChem Inspection Services Division. Mr. Abel will oversee the daily operations and drive strategic initiatives in order to achieve future growth.

"Gerhard has demonstrated within our North American operations that he is able to successfully manage operations and help businesses to grow profitable while developing new services," stated Karsten Xander, President & CEO, TÜV SÜD America Inc. "We are confident that he will further build and service PetroChem's customer base, and lead the company into its next phase of development."

Mr. Abel has previously held the positions of Director of TÜV's Industry Division and Vice President of the Management Service Division. His accreditations include Authorized Inspector under the German Pressure Vessel Ordinance, Tester and Certifier for PED and TPED, and he is an EWF-SFI Certified Welding Engineer.

In addition to Mr. Abel's new responsibilities, he will continue to function as Vice President for Inspection Services, TÜV SÜD America and President of TÜV SÜD Industry Services Inc.

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About PetroChem Inspection Services

PetroChem Inspection Services, Inc., a subsidiary of TÜV SÜD America, has been synonymous with quality inspection services in the refining and petrochemical industries for over 30 years. As a provider of visual inspection, both on-stream and turnaround, PetroChem is one of the largest employers of API Inspectors in the United States. In addition, PetroChem provides a full range of tank inspection services and comprehensive non-destructive testing such as ultrasonic, magnetic particle, radiographic, and eddy current. For more information, please visit www.petrochemintl.com.

About TÜV SÜD America

TÜV SÜD America Inc., a subsidiary of TÜV SÜD AG, Munich, Germany, is a leading globally recognized testing and certification organization. TÜV's Auditing Division provides management system certification services to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, AS9100, ISO 13485, Safe Quality Food (SQF), and more. TÜV's Testing Division offers Electrical and Mechanical Product Safety, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing, Environmental Testing, NRTL and SCC certification, CE Marking assistance, Restricted Substance Services, International Compliance Services, and more. TÜV SÜD America also provides a diverse suite of services as a European Union Notified Body for the In Vitro Diagnostic, Medical Device, and Active Implantable Medical Device Directives, along with CMDCAS services, FDA 510(k) and third-party inspections. The company's Industry Division offers a full suite of services for pressure equipment manufacturers and materials producers exporting products to the European Community. Globally, TÜV SÜD has over \$1.5 billion sales and 13,000 employees at over 600 locations worldwide.