

## Opta Minerals Inc. Reports First Quarter Results for Fiscal 2009

WATERDOWN, ONTARIO--(CCNMatthews – May 7, 2009) - Opta Minerals Inc. (TSX:OPM), a vertically integrated provider of custom process solutions and industrial mineral products for use primarily in the steel, foundry, loose abrasive cleaning, water jet cutting and municipal water filtration industries, today announced results for the three months ended March 31, 2009. All figures are reported in U.S. dollars and in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), except where otherwise noted.

Revenues for the three months ended March 31, 2009 decreased 31% to \$14.7 million, from \$21.4 million in 2008. Gross profit for the quarter decreased by 56% to \$2.5 million or 16.7% of revenues versus \$5.6 million or 26.0% of revenues in 2008.

David Kruse, President and CEO of Opta Minerals noted “Both ourselves and our customers continue to face an extremely difficult global economic environment. The order books of our steel customers remain low. Continued uncertainty surrounding steel and abrasive consuming industries such as automotive, construction, infrastructure and shipyard activity make it very difficult to forecast beyond a very short horizon.

As the economy deteriorated in the fourth quarter of last year, we implemented cost saving measures to realign operations to the current customer demand. Included in these measures was a workforce reduction, as well as an adjustment to the cost sharing of health benefits with employees. Further cost saving measures have been implemented during the quarter that are expected to reduce annual operating costs by \$2.3 million. During the quarter we also consolidated the operations in Quebec into one facility and have entered into a sale arrangement for one of the warehouses owned by the Company. We discontinued operations in Attica New York and sold assets from the operation in exchange for a release of the Company’s obligations under an existing lease and service agreement. For 2008, the Attica operation generated a loss before tax expense of \$345,000.

We generated significant cash flow from working capital reductions in the last 6 months, including a substantial reduction in accounts receivable. We expect continued cash flow from further working capital reductions over the balance of 2009 which we expect will be generated largely from reductions in inventories.” For the three months ended March 31, 2009 cash flows from operating activities was \$2.7 million versus \$4.6 million in the first three months of 2008.

Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased \$0.6 million during the first quarter, from \$2.9 million or 13.6% of revenues for the first three months of 2008 to \$2.3 million or 15.4% of revenues in the first quarter of 2009. The increase relating to costs incurred by MCP acquired in the third quarter of 2008 of \$0.2 million were largely offset by a \$0.8 million decrease in overall administrative expenses, substantially all of which related to reduced professional fees incurred as well as reduced employee costs resulting from cost reduction measures put in place by management during the past six months.

EBITDA for the quarter decreased 78% from \$3.0 million in 2008 to \$0.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2009. These results reflect the impact of a dramatic slowdown in both the steel and abrasive industries that began in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Earnings (loss) before income taxes and interest (“EBIT”) for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$(0.2 million), as compared to \$2.0 million for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

Net loss for the three months ended March 31, 2009 was \$(0.3 million) or \$(0.02) per diluted common share, versus net earnings of \$1.1 million or \$0.06 per diluted common share for the three months ended March 31, 2008.

The Company continues to maintain working capital of \$13.5 million and total assets of \$95.2 million. The debt to equity ratio as at March 31, 2009 was 0.68 to 1.00. The Company has cash and available credit facilities of a further \$11 million.

Opta Mineral's President and CEO, David Kruse, plans to host a conference call at 10:00 AM Eastern Standard Time, on Monday, May 11, 2009 to discuss first quarter 2009 results and recent corporate developments. After opening remarks, there will be a question and answer period. This conference call can be accessed with the toll free dial-in number 1-(877) 852-6575 or (719) 325-4842, quote confirmation code 2495455. If you are unable to listen live, the conference call will be archived and can be accessed at the following replay numbers between May 11 and May 18, with the toll free dial-in number 1-(888) 203-1112 or (647) 436-0148 followed by pass code: 8335430.

Opta Minerals is a vertically integrated provider of custom process solutions and industrial mineral products for use primarily in the steel, foundry, loose abrasive cleaning, water jet cutting and municipal water filtration industries. The Company currently has production and distribution facilities in Ontario, Quebec, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, New York, France and Slovakia and one of the broadest product lines in the industry.

For further information, please contact:

**Opta Minerals Inc.**

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FOOTNOTES:

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Earnings before income taxes and interest (“EBIT”); and earnings before interest, income taxes, depreciation and amortization (“EBITDA”) as defined below, are both non-GAAP earnings measures that do not have standardized measures prescribed by GAAP, and therefore may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other publicly traded companies.

	<b>For the three Months Ended March 31</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Net (Loss) Earnings for the Period</b>	(326)	1,099
Interest Expense	424	566
Provision for (recovery of) Income Taxes	(309)	338
Depreciation and Amortization	988	983
<b>EBITDA<sup>1</sup></b>	<u>777</u>	<u>2,986</u>
Add (subtract):		
Depreciation and Amortization	(988)	(983)
<b>Earnings before income taxes and interest<sup>2</sup></b>	<u>(211)</u>	<u>2,003</u>

**Notes**

- 1) The term “EBITDA” refers to earnings before deducting interest expense, provision for income taxes, depreciation and amortization. The Company believes that EBITDA is useful supplemental information as it provides an indication of the results generated by the Company’s main business activities prior to taking into consideration how those activities are financed and taxed and also prior to taking into consideration asset depreciation. EBITDA is not a recognized measure under Canadian GAAP, and accordingly, investors are cautioned that EBITDA should not be construed as an alternative to net earnings or loss determined in accordance with Canadian GAAP as an indicator of the financial performance of the Company or as a measure of the Company’s liquidity and cash flows. The Company’s method of calculating EBITDA may differ from other issuers and accordingly, EBITDA may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other issuers.

- 2) The term “EBIT” refers to earnings before income taxes and interest expense. The Company believes that EBIT is useful supplemental information as it provides an indication of the results generated by the Company’s main business activities prior to taking into consideration how those activities are financed or taxed. EBIT is a non-GAAP earnings measure that does not have standardized measures prescribed by GAAP, and therefore may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other publicly traded companies.

This press release may contain “forward-looking statements” which reflect the current expectations of management of the Company regarding the Company’s future growth, results of operations, performance, business prospects and opportunities. Wherever possible, words such as “may”, “would”, “could”, “should”, “will”, “anticipate”, “believe”, “plan”, “expect”, “intend”, “estimate”, “aim”, “endeavour”, “seek”, “predict”, “potential” and similar expressions have been used to identify these forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management’s current beliefs with respect to future events and are based on information currently available to management of the Company. Forward-looking statements involve significant risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Many factors could cause the Company’s actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements that may be expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, cancellations of or the failure to renew purchase orders; production and delivery issues; quality, pricing and availability of raw materials; compliance with environmental regulations; exchange rate fluctuations as well as the other risks identified in the “Risk Factors” section of the Company’s Annual Information Form and other public filings (copies of which may be obtained at [www.sedar.com](http://www.sedar.com)). Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements prove incorrect, actual results, performance or achievements may vary materially from those expressed or implied by this press release. These factors should be considered carefully and reader should not place undue reliance on the forward-looking statements. Although any forward-looking statements contained in this press release are based upon what management currently believes to be reasonable assumptions, the Company cannot assure readers that actual results, performance or achievements will be consistent with these forward-looking statements, and management’s assumptions may prove to be incorrect. These forward-looking statements are made as of the date of this press release and, other than as required by law, the Company does not intend, and does not assume any obligation, to update or revise these forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

## Opta Minerals Inc.

Consolidated Statements of Earnings

For the three month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars, except per share amounts)

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
	\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>	14,726	21,370
<b>Cost of goods sold</b>	12,268	15,815
<b>Gross profit</b>	2,458	5,555
<b>Selling, general and administrative expenses</b>	2,266	2,908
<b>Earnings before the following</b>	192	2,647
<b>Interest expense – net</b>	424	566
<b>Amortization of intangible assets</b>	437	428
<b>Stock compensation expense</b>	70	57
<b>Other income</b>	(171)	-
<b>Foreign exchange loss</b>	199	159
	959	1,210
<b>(Loss) earnings before income taxes and non-controlling interest</b>	(767)	1,437
<b>(Recovery of) provision for income taxes</b>	(309)	338
<b>Net (loss) earnings before non-controlling interest</b>	(458)	1,099
<b>Non-controlling interest share of net earnings (loss)</b>	(132)	-
<b>Net (loss) earnings</b>	(326)	1,099
<b>(Loss) earnings per share for the period</b>		
Basic and diluted	(0.02)	0.06

# Opta Minerals Inc.

## Consolidated Balance Sheets

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

	March 31, 2009	December 31, 2008
	\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,374	1,377
Accounts receivable	7,869	9,133
Inventories	18,835	22,223
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	1,843	1,793
Assets held for sale	634	664
Income taxes recoverable	439	362
	<hr/> 30,994	<hr/> 35,552
<b>Property, plant and equipment – net</b>	16,316	16,664
<b>Intangible and other assets - net</b>	31,729	32,464
<b>Goodwill</b>	13,588	14,160
<b>Future Income Taxes</b>	2,540	2,406
	<hr/> 95,167	<hr/> 101,246
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Bank indebtedness	6,972	7,797
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,414	7,788
Current portion of long-term debt	4,105	4,097
Current portion of preference shares	37	38
	<hr/> 17,528	<hr/> 19,720
<b>Long-term debt</b>	18,696	20,594
<b>Other long-term liabilities</b>	2,965	3,095
<b>Future income taxes</b>	2,786	2,849
<b>Future income taxes on intangible assets</b>	9,380	9,695
	<hr/> 51,355	<hr/> 55,953
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>		
<b>Capital stock</b>		
Authorized: Unlimited number of common shares and preference shares without par value		
Issued		
18,008,095 (December 31, 2008 – 18,003,459) common shares	17,594	17,587
<b>Contributed surplus</b>	1,735	1,665
<b>Retained earnings</b>	21,336	21,662
<b>Accumulated other comprehensive income</b>	3,279	4,379
	<hr/> 43,944	<hr/> 45,293
<b>Non-Controlling Interest</b>	(132) -	
	<hr/> 95,167	<hr/> 101,246

## Opta Minerals Inc.

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

For the three month periods ended March 31, 2009 and 2008

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
<b>Cash provided by (used in)</b>		
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Net (loss) earnings for the period	(326)	1,099
Items not affecting cash		
Amortization of property, plant and equipment	551	555
Amortization of intangible assets	437	428
Non-controlling interest	(132)	-
Other income	(171)	-
Stock compensation expense	70	57
Future income taxes	(446)	(460)
Unrealized foreign exchange gain on long term debt	-	152
Realized foreign exchange gain on foreign operations	(224)	(75)
Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(6)
	<u>(241)</u>	<u>1,750</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital		
Accounts receivable	1,121	(21)
Inventories	3,137	2,909
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	(78)	131
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,124)	(376)
Income taxes recoverable	(82)	192
	<u>2,733</u>	<u>4,585</u>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(920)	(119)
Proceeds on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	18
Additional consideration paid on acquisitions	-	(7)
	<u>(920)</u>	<u>(108)</u>
<b>Financing Activities</b>		
Proceeds from issuance of common shares	7	12
Decrease in bank indebtedness	(482)	(326)
Proceeds from long term debt	733	3,075
Repayment of long term debt	(2,038)	(5,724)
	<u>(1,780)</u>	<u>(2,963)</u>
<b>Foreign exchange (loss) gain on cash held in foreign currency</b>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>54</u>
<b>(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents during the period</b>	(3)	1,568
<b>Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of period</b>	<u>1,377</u>	<u>2,336</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents – End of period</b>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>3,904</u>
<b>Supplemental cash flow information</b>		
Interest paid	558	761
Income taxes paid	196	649

## Opta Minerals Inc.

### Segmented Information

For the three months ended March 31, 2009

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

For the three month period ended March 31, 2009

	Mill and foundry products and services \$	Abrasive manufacturing and distribution operations \$	Unallocated \$	Total \$
External revenue by market				
Canada	2,192	800	-	2,992
U.S.	6,360	3,321	-	9,681
Europe	1,918	-	-	1,918
Other	125	10	-	135
Total revenue from external customers	10,595	4,131	-	14,726
Segment net earnings (loss) before interest expense and income taxes	(364)	72	(51)	(343)
Interest expense on long term debt				267
Interest expense				157
Recovery of income taxes				(309)
Non-controlling interest share of net earnings (loss)				(132)
Net loss				(326)
Total assets as at March 31, 2009	66,363	25,373	3,431	95,167
Amortization of property plant and equipment	336	200	15	551
Amortization of intangible assets	430	7	-	437
Goodwill and intangible assets as at March 31, 2009	38,966	6,351	-	45,317
Expenditures on property, plant and equipment	88	822	10	920

## Opta Minerals Inc.

### Segmented Information

For the three months ended March 31, 2008

(Expressed in thousands of U.S. dollars)

### For the three month period ended March 31, 2008

	Mill and foundry products and services \$	Abrasive manufacturing and distribution operations \$	Unallocated \$	Total \$
External revenue by market				
Canada	3,125	1,272	-	4,397
U.S.	10,999	3,829	-	14,828
Europe	2,108	-	-	2,108
Other	30	7	-	37
Total revenue from external customers	<u>16,262</u>	<u>5,108</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,370</u>
Segment net earnings (loss) before interest expense and income taxes	2,390	736	(1,123)	2,003
Interest expense on long term debt				388
Interest expense				178
Provision for income taxes				<u>338</u>
Net earnings				<u>1,099</u>
Total assets as at December 31, 2008	<u>70,806</u>	<u>27,198</u>	<u>3,242</u>	<u>101,246</u>
Amortization of property plant and equipment	<u>273</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>555</u>
Amortization of intangible assets	<u>415</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>428</u>
Goodwill and intangible assets as at December 31, 2008	<u>39,859</u>	<u>6,765</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,624</u>
Expenditures on property, plant and equipment	<u>5</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>119</u>