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Opta Minerals Inc. to complete \$18,000,000 Initial Public Offering of Units

WATERDOWN, ONTARIO, February 7, 2005 – Opta Minerals Inc. announced today that, in connection with its previously announced initial public offering, it has entered into an underwriting agreement with its parent company, SunOpta Inc., and a syndicate of underwriters led by Loewen, Ondaatje, McCutcheon Limited and including First Associates Investments Inc. and Canaccord Capital Corporation. Pursuant to the underwriting agreement, the underwriters have agreed to purchase and sell to the public an aggregate of 4,500,000 units to be issued by Opta Minerals at a price of \$4.00 per unit for total gross proceeds of \$18,000,000.

Each unit consists of one common share of Opta Minerals and one-half of a common share purchase warrant. Each whole common share purchase warrant will entitle the holder to purchase one common share of Opta Minerals at a price of \$5.00 for a period of two years from the date of closing.

The offering is expected to close on or about February 17, 2005. Opta Minerals has also granted to the underwriters an option, exercisable for a period of 30 days from the closing of the offering, to purchase up to 450,000 additional common shares at a price of \$3.99 per share and up to 225,000 additional warrants at a price of \$0.01 per half warrant, solely to cover over-allotments and for market stabilization purposes. If the over-allotment option is exercised in full, the total gross proceeds of the offering will be \$19,800,000.

Opta Minerals is currently a wholly-owned subsidiary of SunOpta, a public company listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq National Market. Prior to closing of the offering, SunOpta intends to complete an internal reorganization of its corporate and capital structure pursuant to which all of its interest in the assets and subsidiaries comprising its Opta Minerals Group will be transferred to Opta Minerals.

The common shares being offered have not been, nor will they be, registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and such common shares may not be offered or sold within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons absent registration or an applicable exemption from U.S. registration requirements. This press release does not constitute an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to buy, common shares or common share purchase warrants of Opta Minerals in the United States.

About Opta Minerals:

Opta Minerals is a vertically integrated producer, manufacturer, distributor and recycler of silica-free loose abrasives, industrial minerals, specialty sands and related products for use primarily in the foundry, steel, marine/bridge cleaning, roofing shingle and municipal water filtration industries. With its head office in Waterdown, Ontario, the Company also has production and distribution facilities in Ontario, Quebec, Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and New York and one of the broadest product lines in the industry.

About SunOpta:

SunOpta is an operator of high-growth ethical businesses, focusing on integrated business models in the natural and organic food markets. For the last six consecutive years, SunOpta was included in Profit magazine's 'Profit 100' list of the 100 fastest growing companies in Canada. SunOpta currently has three business units: the SunOpta Food Group, which specializes in sourcing, processing and distribution of natural and organic food products integrated from seed through packaged products; the StakeTech Steam Explosion Group that engineers and markets clean pulping systems using patented steam explosion technology; and the Opta Minerals Group. Each of these business units has proprietary products and services that give it a solid competitive advantage in its sector.

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