

For Immediate Release

Opta Minerals Inc. Announces new Specialty Abrasive

Waterdown, Ontario, April 14, 2008 – Opta Minerals Inc. (Opta) (**TSX: OPM**) today announced that it has commenced production and supply of a new specialty abrasive for the North American Market. Powerblast is a staurolite abrasive used in new steel applications, shipbuilding, ship repair and bridge maintenance to remove rust, mill scale, and weathered coatings. Powerblast is a dense clean abrasive that meets the most stringent industry and military specifications and offers significant advantages to other products due to its low dust generation, lower labor costs through faster, more efficient cleaning and its uniform blasting pattern.

Opta has entered into a three year exclusive supply arrangement for staurolite with a large multinational mining company who recently expanded operations in the United States. This business is expected to add an incremental \$2.25 million in revenue per year at margins consistent with the Company's current abrasive operations. Powerblast will be broadly available to customers in Canada and the United States through Opta's distribution network of 14 production and distribution facilities.

David Kruse, President and Chief executive Officer of Opta Minerals said, "We offer one of the broadest ranges of industrial minerals and abrasives in the industry. Our customers use these products for a wide range of applications to maximize their efficiency. Powerblast is an extremely efficient and productive product that meets some of the industry's most stringent specifications. Strong interest and demand for this product has been received by a wide range of current and new customers. We are very excited about its future growth potential in North America and abroad".

About Opta Minerals Inc.

Opta Minerals Inc. is a vertically integrated producer, manufacturer, distributor and recycler of silica-free loose abrasives, roofing shingle granules, 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, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, New York and Kosice Slovakia and one of the broadest product lines in the industry.

Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements included in this press release may constitute "forward-looking statements". These forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to references to business strategies, competitive strengths, goals, capital expenditure plans, business and operational growth plans and references to the future growth of the business. These forward looking statements are based on certain assumptions and analyses made by the Company in light of its experience and its interpretation of current conditions, historical trends and expected future developments as well as other factors that the Company believes are appropriate in the circumstance. However, whether actual results and developments will agree with expectations and predications of the Company is subject to many risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to; general economic, business or market risk conditions; competitive actions by other companies; changes in laws or regulations or policies of local governments, provinces and states as well as the governments of United States and Canada, many of which are beyond the control of the Company. Consequently all forward-looking statements made herein are qualified by these cautionary statements and there can be no assurance that the actual results or developments anticipated by the Company will be realized.

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