



# PRESS RELEASE

CAR REFINISHES

## **Akzo Nobel completes first multi-shop operation conversion to waterborne**

### **California Company praises the process**

**(Pasadena, CA)**- The first multi-shop operation conversion to waterborne is now complete. Holmes Bodyshop Group in southern California recently finished making the transition in all eight of its locations. The company began with its Riverside location a year ago, then made the decision to convert the other sites ahead of schedule as well. All California body shops are required to implement waterborne paint technology by the end of 2009.

“We were very pleased with the process and the results,” said Steve Morris, Chief Operating Officer for Holmes Bodyshop Group. “The technical team from Akzo Nobel really prepared us well and that made a huge difference. We were a little nervous, not knowing what to expect, but it was really uneventful. The process was complete and it was business as usual.”

Holmes Bodyshop Group has been in business for more than thirty years. The company has headquarters in Pasadena. The other seven shops are in the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys.

Akzo Nobel has a technical staff assisting all of its customers during the entire conversion process, everything from identifying specific equipment needs, to the actual installation, and follow-up training. “We understand that this is a big change for them”, said Akzo Nobel’s Director of Marketing Tim Loden. “It’s something different. We want to make it as easy and seamless as possible. So far, our customers seem very pleased with both the process and the products.”

“We like the fact that Akzo Nobel had three people physically here with us for several days,” Morris says. “They were here until our painters were comfortable, and in most cases that took even less time than we thought.”

“It’s something all body shops in California are going to have to do in the next couple of years,” Loden says. “It’s great to see owners taking action now, rather than waiting. It could be difficult to get everyone done if they wait until the last minute.” Akzo Nobel is

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offering special promotions for those companies who make the switch to the more environmentally friendly products now.

Holmes Autobody Group is now ahead of the game. “Really, we converted early for two reasons,” Morris says. “If we waited until closer to the deadline, we knew there would be a big rush and were worried about availability. Also, this product is so much better for the environment, for the air we breathe. We care about that, it’s important to us as a company.”

Note to editors

Akzo Nobel is a Fortune Global 500 company and is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. It is also the Chemicals Industry leader on the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes and Akzo Nobel is included on the FTSE4Good Index. Based in the Netherlands, we are a multicultural organization serving customers throughout the world with coatings, chemicals and human and animal healthcare products. We employ around 62,000 people and conduct our activities in these four segments, with operating subsidiaries in more than 80 countries. Consolidated revenues for 2006 totaled EUR 13.7 billion. The financial results for the third quarter will be published on October, 23, 2007.

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