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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KPP, SEQUANA SA and BPIFRANCE have entered into binding agreements for the potential acquisition of Sequana and Bpifrance's 83.7% stake in Antalis by KPP

(This press release is a summary of the one written in Japanese)

Kokusai Pulp & Paper (HQ: Chuo-ku, Tokyo, CEO: Madoka Tanabe, TSE: 9274) (“KPP”) and SEQUANA SA (HQ: Paris, France, currently on a process of liquidation) (“Sequana”) have entered into a put option agreement on 31st March 2020, according to which KPP agreed, subject to certain condition precedents, to acquire 53,395,148 ordinary shares of Antalis SA (HQ: Paris, France, Euronext: ANTA) (“Antalis”) held by Sequana, representing approximately 75.2% of Antalis’ share capital and 82.5% of voting rights¹. The Sequana block would be acquired for a price per share equal to €0.10, subject to limited downward price adjustment on the closing date, as the case may be.

KPP and Bpifrance Participations (HQ: Paris) (“Bpifrance”) have also entered into a share purchase agreement on the same day, according to which KPP agreed to acquire, and Bpifrance agreed to sell, 6,064,946 ordinary shares (approximately 8.5% share capital and voting rights) of Antalis, for a price per share equal to €0.40, subject only to the effective transfer of the shares held by Sequana to KPP.

The exercise of the put option by Sequana is subject to the release of opinions by Antalis’ European Works Council, the issuance of a court order by the Supervisory Judge (appointed by the Commercial Court of Nanterre to supervise the liquidation of Sequana), as well as other customary conditions precedent. The effective transfer of the Sequana shares in Antalis will then be subject, in particular, to the clearance of any recourse on the court order above mentioned, in accordance with Article L.642-19 of the French Commercial Code, as well as the receipt of a release of pledges from Bpifrance Participations and Impala Security Solutions BV on Antalis shares currently held by Sequana. The transaction is not subject to the approval of the French, European or foreign competition authority in charge of merger control.

[1] Based on a capital composed of 71,000,000 shares and 129,513,239 voting rights as of 29 February 2020.

Concurrently to the binding agreements mentioned previously, a restructuring agreement has been signed between KPP, Antalis and the lenders of Antalis' existing syndicated credit facility on 31st March 2020, providing for a the refinancing of € 100 million of the outstanding facility amount, and the write-off of the remainder. For reference, the syndicated credit facility amount as of 31st December 2019 was € 287.1 million. This write-off is conditional notably on the closing of the acquisition by KPP of Sequana's and Bpifrance' shares held in Antalis.

After closing of the transaction as the case may be, KPP would file a simplified mandatory tender offer with the AMF, on the remaining shares it will not hold after the effective transfer to KPP of the shares held by Sequana and Bpifrance, for a price per share equal to €0.73. The tender offer would be followed by a squeeze-out launched at the same price, to complete delisting procedure, if the legal requirements are met.

Purpose and Background of the Transaction

With our management philosophy of establishment of recycling-based society and contribution to promoting education, culture and industry, we operate our business in Japan as well as Asia Pacific. During the "business development period" in our second mid-term management plan, we are professing to pursue sustainable growth by acquiring external resources (inorganic growth).

Antalis is one of the largest paper distributors in Europe, and they are distributing paper and paper-related products in 41 countries, mainly in Europe, including South America and Asia Pacific as a leading company. Their strength is in packaging business, high growth business post graphic paper, as well as visual communication business (sign and display), and they are reforming business portfolio and investing in e-commerce business.

We concluded to agree this Put Option Agreement and Share Purchase Agreement based on following expectations; a greater complementary relationship between Antalis with business base in European countries and KPP with base in Asia Pacific; and synergies in product development and branding improvement with Antalis. By having Antalis under our group and the combination of the trade business of KPP's international business and Antalis's paper distribution business, we expect this will contribute to strengthening competitiveness with expansion. We will work hard to achieve sustainable growth by as well as in Asia Pacific, global business expansion including in Europe.