PRESS RELEASE

First-Quarter 2010 Sales

- **Sales holding up well, particularly in Cement, given exceptional weather conditions**
- **Strong rebound in activity in March, seems confirmed in April**
- **Strategic reinforcement in southern India with acquisition of Bharathi Cement**
- **Very solid balance sheet**

Paris La Défense, 5 May 2010: The Vicat Group (NYSE Euronext Paris: FR0000031775 – VCT) today publishes Q1 2010 sales of 398 million euros, down 6.2%. At constant scope and exchange rates, the sales decline was 5.6% compared with the corresponding period of 2009.

Consolidated sales by division:

(millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Cement	**214**	221	**-3.4**	-2.2
Concrete & Aggregates	**136**	152	**-10.5**	-10.3
Other Products & Services	**48**	52	**-6.0**	-6.6
Total	**398**	425	**-6.2**	-5.6

Commenting on these figures, the Management Board stated: *"Vicat has recorded strong volumes of activity in Q1, given exceptionally difficult weather conditions, particularly in Europe and the United States. Activity levels in the emerging countries remain solid, with a good performance in West Africa and confirmation of the strong recovery in Turkey. In Egypt, because of poor weather conditions and one-off issues, Vicat has experienced a slight dip in activity levels but will rapidly return to strong growth.*
On this basis, 2010 is likely to be a year of transition marked by continued strong growth in emerging countries and a gradual improvement in mature markets, where the first signs of recovery were seen in March, particularly in France and the Southeast region of the United States.
Finally, boosted by its healthy balance sheet, the Group has acquired a majority stake in Bharathi Cement in southern India. This acquisition, which complements its current joint venture, Vicat Sagar Cement, reinforces the Group's positioning in a market with high potential."

VICAT INVESTOR RELATIONS:
STÉPHANE BISSEUIL
TEL: +33 (0)1 58 86 86 13
s.bisseuil@vicat.fr

VICAT PRESS RELATIONS:
CLOTILDE HUET
CATHERINE BACHELOT-FACCENDINI
TEL: +33 (0)1 58 86 86 26
clotilde.huet@tbwa-corporate.com
catherine.bachelot-faccendini@tbwa-corporate.com

HEAD OFFICE
TOUR MANHATTAN
6 PLACE DE L'IRIS
F-92095 PARIS - LA DEFENSE CEDEX
TEL: +33 (0)1 58 86 86 86
FAX: +33 (0)1 58 86 87 84

A FRENCH REGISTERED COMPANY WITH SHARE CAPITAL OF 179,600,000 EUROS
EEC IDENTIFICATION : FR 92 - 057 505 539
RCS NANTERRE

In this press release, unless otherwise stated, all changes are expressed on an annual basis (2010 versus 2009), as well as at constant scope and exchange rates.

Consolidated sales for Q1 2010 amount to 398 million euros, down 6.2% compared with the corresponding period of 2009. At constant scope and exchange rates, sales fell 5.6%.
Over the same period, the Cement activity's sales held up best, recording a decline of 2.2% at constant scope and exchange rates, while Concrete & Aggregates and Other Products & Services activities recorded declines of 10.3%, and 6.6% at constant scope and exchange rates.

The breakdown of Q1 sales between the Group's various activities reveals once again a slight increase by Cement, which now accounts for 54% of consolidated sales compared with 52% at 31 March 2009, to the detriment of Concrete & Aggregates (34% of consolidated sales vs 36% at 31 March 2009). The Other Products & Services activity is stable (12% of consolidated sales at 31 March 2009 and 2010).

The decline in Group sales in Q1 2010 stems from very unfavourable weather conditions (particularly in Europe and the United States) and the still difficult climate of markets, notably in California and Italy. The Group's activity in Egypt in Q1 was affected by one-off events that do not undermine the dynamism of the market or the Group's ability to benefit from it in full. These elements were partly offset by the solidity of the Swiss and West African markets, and by confirmation of the strong recovery in Turkey.

Finally, note that the month of March 2010 was characterised by a significant pickup in activity, notably in France and the Southeast region of the United States, a trend that appears to be confirmed in April. All these factors support Vicat's outlook for the current year, which is likely to be marked by strong growth in emerging countries and a gradual return to a more favourable environment in mature markets, with the exception of Italy and California.

1. Geographical analysis of consolidated sales at 31 March 2010

1.1. France

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Consolidated sales	**173**	192	-10.0	-10.0

Consolidated sales in France at 31 March 2010 were down 10% at constant scope.

This sales decline stems from particularly very unfavourable weather conditions in regions where the Group operates (Rhône-Alpes and the Southeast), combined with a still deteriorated construction market that nevertheless now appears to have bottomed out.

By activity:

- The Cement activity's consolidated sales fell 9.8% at constant scope. The quarter was characterised by a 3.4% decline in volumes, affected by exceptionally poor weather conditions in January and February. Selling prices fell, mainly because of an unfavourable mix stemming from a strong increase in export sales. In the domestic market, the Group noted a slight pressure on prices, particularly in the northeast of France because of imports from Germany and Luxembourg, even if these remained limited. Note, finally, that the trend reversed during March, with a return to growth, a development that appears to be confirmed in April.

- Consolidated sales at the Concrete & Aggregates division have seen a trend similar to that of Cement, being down 9% at constant scope. Volumes of concrete fell by 5% and volumes of aggregates by 9%. After a particularly difficult start to the year, and in line with the trend noted in Cement, March saw a solid recovery in volumes and healthier selling prices. This market has benefited from the gradual stabilisation of the construction & public works sector and a catch-up effect in projects that had been suspended at the beginning of the year on account of the poor weather.
- In Other Products & Services, consolidated sales fell 12.7%. The Building Chemicals activity was down 8%, while the Transport business declined by 26% under the combined impact of the current macro-economic climate and weather conditions.

In a still tense market environment, the Group has managed to protect its market share and remains confident in its ability to capture growth, as indicated by the improvement observed in March, which seems to be confirmed in April.

1.2. Europe (ex France)

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Consolidated sales	**52**	51	+0.8	-1.9

Consolidated sales at 31 March 2010 for Europe ex France were up 0.8%. At constant scope and exchange rates, sales were down 1.9%.

In Switzerland, although Q1 2010 was marked by still more severe winter conditions than in 2009, the Group's consolidated sales grew by 9.0%.

- In Cement, sales recorded a strong rise of 30%. This performance was essentially achieved by deliveries to some major underground construction sites unaffected by the poor weather. Selling prices were down slightly on account of the nature of the building sites that were delivered and an adverse regional mix stemming from the very difficult weather conditions at the start of the year.
- In Concrete & Aggregates, consolidated sales fell by close to 10% because of weather conditions. Selling prices were slightly down for reasons identical to those that apply for the Cement activity.
- The Precast activity had a good start to the year, with increased volumes. Consolidated sales grew by 13%.

In Italy, sales fell 49%, affected by a sharp decline in volumes on account of the deterioration of the macro-economic environment as well as poor weather conditions at the start of the year.
Also, against this backdrop of a drop in volumes, competitive pressures increased severely, leading to a significant reduction in selling prices.

1.3. United States

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Consolidated sales	**35**	51	-31.4	-27.1

Activity in the United States remained affected by the difficult macro-economic climate, which was compounded by poor weather conditions in the first two months of the year. As a result, consolidated sales fell 27.1%. Nevertheless, although the situation in California remains particularly difficult, the Southeast region saw a more favourable trend in the first quarter, with a return to growth in volumes in both Cement and Concrete.

- In Cement, consolidated sales fell 22%, affected by a pronounced volume decline (-13%). This fall in volumes remained significant in California because of the weather conditions and the economic climate, though there was a slight catch-up effect in March. The Southeast region, on the other hand, saw a return to growth in volumes, with an acceleration in March which seems to be confirmed in April. Selling prices fell sharply on account of an unfavourable comparison base in both California and the Southeast, but also as a result of a more competitive environment in California.
- In Concrete, consolidated sales fell 29%, mainly because of a continued sharp decline in volumes in California stemming from the economic climate and unfavourable weather conditions, while volumes were stable in the Southeast throughout the quarter and recorded solid growth in March. In this context, selling prices remained on a downward trend, more noticeably in California than in the Southeast.

While the performances recorded in the first quarter confirm that the situation remains very difficult in regions where the Group is present, it should nevertheless be noted that there was a noticeable improvement in March, particularly in the Southeast, and that the rate of distribution of Federal aid accelerated significantly in March, notably in California and Georgia.

1.4. Turkey and Kazakhstan

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 December 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Consolidated sales	**32**	23	+40.9	+36.1

Consolidated sales in Turkey amounted to 32 million euros, representing a strong increase of 36%. Volumes were driven by a positive base effect, favourable weather conditions and a marked recovery in activity that began at end 2009 and has accelerated throughout the first quarter and which seems confirmed in April. Sales prices also benefited from this renewed activity.

- In Cement, the Group recorded an increase in volumes of more than 25% compared with the first quarter of 2009. Thus, in Q1 2010, volumes destined for the domestic market grew by 33% while export volumes (mainly for the Mediterranean region) fell slightly. Prices applied in the Turkish market increased during the period, but with sharp variations between regions, with the Konya region recording a solid rise in selling prices, while competitive pressures remained strong in the Ankara market. On this basis, sales for the Cement activity rose 30% at constant scope and exchange rates during the period.
- In Concrete, volumes were up 54%, benefiting – like the Cement activity – from a more favourable comparison base and good weather conditions. In a still very competitive market, prices recorded a slight decline in the quarter, particularly impacting the Ankara region, with selling prices in the Konya region achieving a solid rise. On this basis, consolidated sales for the Concrete activity rose 46% at constant scope and exchange rates compared with Q1 2009.

1.5. Africa and Middle East

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Consolidated sales	**107**	108	-0.8	+2.0

Sales for the Africa and Middle East region amounted to 107 million euros, up 2.0%.

- In Egypt, consolidated sales came in at 48.8 million euros, representing a slight fall of less than 1% at constant scope and exchange rates. This decline can be fully explained by a 6% contraction in volumes. Exceptional precipitation levels disrupted power production in the country and forced the government to introduce restrictions for industrial companies. Moreover, sales and production was temporarily slowed by the commissioning of the new FLS cement mill, which will increase the full-year capacity of the Sinai Cement plant. This commissioning, which came ahead of schedule, reinforces the development strategy of the "Performance 2010" plan, which is aimed at extracting the maximum benefit from the region's strong dynamism, and will enable the Group to rapidly return to strong sales growth.
  Selling prices remained buoyant during the first quarter, offsetting the unfavourable volume effect.
- In West Africa, sales grew by around 5% compared with the corresponding period of 2009. The arrival of new milling and bagging capacity, and the commissioning of the new kiln under the "Performance 2010" plan enabled the company to fully satisfy increased demand in the region as a whole. Thus, after a slow pickup in activity in the first months of the year, volumes of cement sold increased by more than 6% during the period with an acceleration in March which seems to be confirmed in April. In a construction market that is now driven by public works policies, the quality labels (EC and ISO9001) recently won by the Group represent a competitive advantage, facilitating sales to the major projects awarded to multinationals.
  Average selling prices fell slightly, reflecting an unfavourable geographical mix, with a strong growth in volumes exported, at lower prices, partly offset by a slight increase in prices in the domestic market.
  In Aggregates, volumes grew strongly by around 14%, benefiting from the dynamism of the region. On the other hand, prices were noticeably lower reflecting an unfavourable comparison base stemming from the gradual decline recorded over the last 12 months. On this basis, sales for this activity declined by more than 5%.

2. Q1 2010 sales by division

2.1. Cement

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Volume (kt)	3,209	3,192	+0.5	
Operational sales	251	259	-3.1	-2.0
Intragroup sales	(37)	(38)		
Consolidated sales	214	221	-3.4	-2.2

Consolidated sales for the Cement activity fell by 3.4% or 2.2% at constant scope and exchange rates. Volumes grew slightly over the period (+0.5%).

2.2. Concrete & Aggregates

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Concrete volume (in thousands of m^3)	1,450	1,395	+3.9	
Aggregates volume (kt)	3,701	3,766	-1.8	
Operational sales	143	157	-9.1	-9.0
Intragroup sales	(7)	(5)		
Consolidated sales	136	152	-10.5	-10.3

Consolidated sales for the Concrete & Aggregates business fell by 10.5% or 10.3% at constant scope and exchange rates. Volumes of Concrete delivered rose by 3.9% during the period, while volumes of Aggregates declined by 1.8%.

2.3. Other Products & Services

(in millions of euros)	**31 March 2010**	31 March 2009	Change (%)	
			Published	At constant scope and exchange rates
Operational sales	62	66	-4.8	-5.3
Intragroup sales	(14)	(14)		
Consolidated sales	48	52	-6.0	-6.6

Consolidated sales for the Other Products & Services activity fell by 6.0% or 6.6% at constant scope and exchange rates.

3. Development of Group financial situation at 31 March 2010

3.1 Trend in operating profitability

The Group points out that the first quarter is not historically representative of its performance over the full year. Q1 is normally impacted by the seasonal nature of this industry, especially this year, given exceptionally poor weather conditions. It should also be noted that, while January and February were down compared with the corresponding period of 2009, the Group recorded a significant rebound in activity levels in March, which seems to have been confirmed in April.

Concerning the outlook for 2010, the Group confirmed at its AGM the expected trends it had communicated with its FY 2009 results publication.
Thus, 2010 should be a transitional year. Emerging-market countries should continue to generate strong momentum, whereas the environment is likely to remain tough in certain mature markets. Movements in selling prices will continue to remain very contrasted between geographical zones. First-half performance will be affected by the severe weather conditions seen at the start of the year. The second half should bring a gradual improvement in business levels in certain mature markets, particularly France and the United States.

Vicat is maintaining its productivity gains efforts and its fixed costs control policy. The Group is set to fully benefit from its “Performance” plans, and in particular from:

- the improved performance generated by its new industrial facilities
- lower fuel prices and increased use of alternative fuels
- the end of external purchases of clinker and cement in Switzerland and Senegal following capacity increases that were completed in 2009.

Finally, the Group has stated that the reduction in capital expenditure after the end of the Performance 2010 plan should result in increased free cash flow relative to 2009.

3.2 Balance sheet trend

After the acquisition of 51% of the capital of Bharathi Cement Company Limited, the Vicat group's balance sheet remains very healthy. Group gearing improved to 29.1% at 31 March 2010, vs 31.4% at 31 December 2009.

Given the low level of the Group's net debt, the existence of covenants does not represent a risk for the Group's financial standing and balance sheet liquidity. Vicat keeps well within the ratio limits set by the covenants in its loan contracts.

4. 2010 outlook by geographical region

As regards 2010, the Group wishes to provide the following information about its various markets:

- **In France**, the Group expects gradual stabilisation in volumes in 2010, particularly cement, with price conditions that could remain stable at best. The initial effects of the stimulus plan announced by the French government should have a very gradual impact on the construction industry in general, particularly infrastructure, while residential new builds should benefit from the tax incentives introduced in 2009. Meanwhile, non-residential construction is likely to see a further decline over the full year. The Group should benefit from more favourable purchasing prices for conventional fuels and the continuation of its policy of using more alternative fuels.
- **In Switzerland**, conditions should remain favourable on the whole, with the Group capitalising on the continuation of major infrastructure projects. The increase in the Reuchenette plant's kiln capacity at the end of the first half of 2009 marked the definitive end to purchasing of clinker from external sources and enables the Group to increase its use of alternative fuels. Lastly, the Group will benefit from more favourable purchasing prices for the conventional fuels it uses, and continue its policy of using more alternative fuels.
- **In Italy**, the Group expects market conditions to remain particularly difficult in 2010. Against this backdrop, Vicat should benefit from favourable purchasing conditions for clinker.
- **In the United States**, the lack of visibility on both economic conditions and potential investments by States prevents the Group from formulating any forecasts for 2010, which is nevertheless expected to remain difficult. While the implementation of the stimulus plan at national level could have a substantial effect on the Group's markets, the location, type and timing of investments are still uncertain. Nevertheless, it is appropriate to note that there was a perceptible improvement in March, particularly in the Southeast region, and that the rate of distribution of Federal aid accelerated significantly during March, particularly in California and Georgia.
- **In Turkey**, the gradual improvement is expected to continue, particularly in terms of volumes. However, continuing fierce competition could again have an unfavourable impact on selling price trends. Despite this, the modernisation of the Group's production facilities as part of the "Performance 2010" plan gives it the possibility of producing at low cost. The Group should also be able to increase its use of alternative fuels significantly.
- **In Egypt**, local market conditions should remain favourable in terms of both volumes and prices. However, the comparison base for volumes will be much less favourable than in 2009, with the increased capacity of the Sinai Cement plant already fully factored in for the year. Vicat therefore expects sales to develop in line with the market.

- **In West Africa**, market conditions are expected to remain generally favourable but still closely linked to public authority investment in major infrastructure projects and the development of money transfers from the region's diaspora in other countries. The Group should also benefit from certain drivers. First of all, Vicat will be able to benefit fully from its increased capacity, finalised as part of the "Performance 2010" plan, allowing it to meet local and export demand without having to purchase clinker from external sources. It should also benefit from more favourable purchasing prices for the conventional fuels it will use. Lastly, the Group should be in a position to increase significantly the proportion of alternative fuels used.
- **In India,** the acquisition of a majority stake in Bharathi Cement, mainly via a private placement, has enabled the Group to significantly reinforce its positions in India, a market where cement consumption is growing strongly. This second major deal by Vicat complements the current joint venture, Vicat Sagar Cement. These partnerships will result in the emergence of two major players in southern India with an eventual total nominal capacity of more than 10 million tonnes. They will benefit from strong operational synergies and ambitious expansion plans.
- **In Kazakhstan**, the construction of a state-of-the-art plant with a capacity of 1.1 million tonnes is proceeding to plan, with start-up scheduled for the second half of 2010. Nevertheless, the impact on the Group's sales will not really be noticeable until 2011, as winter conditions in Kazakhstan mean that activity is highly seasonal in the country.

Against this backdrop, Vicat is determined to move forward cautiously with its growth strategy, capitalising on:

- a strong balance sheet;
- the effects of the "Performance 2010" investment plan, particularly lower production costs resulting from modernisation of the Group’s production facilities and the strengthening of its industrial and market positions;
- the effects of the "Performance Plus" plan (extension of "Performance 2010"), which will be maintained;
- and finally, successful development in Kazakhstan and India, where the Group’s projects are proceeding to schedule.

Conference call:

To accompany the publication of the Group's Q1 2010 sales, Vicat is organising a conference call that will be held in English on Thursday 6 May 2010 at 3pm Paris time (2pm London time, 9am New York time). To take part in the conference call live, dial one of the following numbers:

France:	+33 (0)1 70 99 42 85
UK:	+44 (0)20 7136 2055
US:	+1 212 444 0895

To listen to a playback of the conference call, which will be available until midnight on 14 May 2010, dial one of the following numbers:

France:	+33 (0)1 74 20 28 00
UK:	+44 (0)20 7111 1244
US:	+1 347 366 9565
Access code:	4836632#

Next publication:
4 August 2010: H1 2010 results

Investor relations contact:
Stéphane Bisseuil:
Tel: + 33 1 58 86 86 13
s.bisseuil@vicat.fr

Press contacts:
Clotilde Huet / Catherine Bachelot-Faccendini:
Tel: + 33 1 58 86 86 26
clotilde.huet@tbwa-corporate.com
catherine.bachelot-faccendini@tbwa-corporate.com

ABOUT THE VICAT GROUP

The Vicat group has **around 6,700 employees** working in three core divisions, Cement, Concrete & Aggregates and Other Products & Services, which generated **consolidated sales of €1,896 million** in 2009.
The Group **operates in eleven countries**: France, Switzerland, Italy, the United States, Turkey, Egypt, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Kazakhstan and India. Nearly 56% of sales are generated outside France.
The Vicat group is heir to an industrial tradition dating back to 1817, when Louis Vicat invented artificial cement. Founded in 1853, the Vicat group now operates **three core business lines**: **Cement**, **Readymix Concrete** and **Aggregates**, as well as related activities.

Disclaimer:
This presentation may contain forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements do not constitute forecasts regarding results or any other performance indicator, but rather trends or targets.
These statements are by their nature subject to risks and uncertainties as described in the Company's annual report available on its website (www.vicat.fr). These statements do not reflect the future performance of the Company, which may differ significantly. The Company does not undertake to provide updates of these statements.
Further information about Vicat is available at its website (www.vicat.fr).

Vicat Group – Financial Information – Appendix

Sales breakdown at 31 March 2010 by division and region

	Cement	Concrete & Aggregates	Other Products & Services	Intra-group sales	**Consolidated sales**
France	82	82	47	(39)	**173**
Europe (ex France)	26	17	14	(5)	**52**
United States	17	24		(5)	**35**
Turkey, Kazakhstan	24	16	1	(8)	**32**
Africa, Middle East	103	4			**107**
Operational sales	**251**	**143**	**62**	**(58)**	**398**
Intra-group sales	(37)	(7)	(14)	58	
Consolidated sales	**214**	**136**	**48**		**398**