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Grupa Azoty in FTSE Emerging Markets

Following a semi-annual review of the FTSE indices, on March 4th 2015 Grupa Azoty S.A. was selected to feature in the prestigious FTSE Emerging Markets index.

The company stock will be listed in the index starting from March 23rd 2015.

"The inclusion of Grupa Azoty in FTSE Emerging Markets confirms that we have consistently pursued our strategic vision of international expansion. This achievement, reflecting our global ambitions, is a result of Grupa Azoty's successes on the fertilizer and chemical markets," said Paweł Jarczewski, President of the Grupa Azoty Management Board.

The FTSE Emerging index is part of the FTSE Global Equity Index Series (GEIS), which includes large and mid cap securities from advanced and secondary emerging markets. With a universe of 911 companies from all over the world, including 30 CEE names, FTSE Emerging provides investors with a comprehensive means of measuring the performance of the most liquid companies in emerging markets. Its aggregate net market capitalisation is close to USD 3,400bn. The FTSE indices are listed on the London Stock Exchange.

"Inclusion of a company in the international FTSE indices has a clearly positive effect on its price, trading volume, and visibility on foreign markets. We estimate that about USD 80bn of ETF assets are linked to FTSE indices, which are now to be joined by Grupa Azoty. The changes will be made after the trading session on March 20th 2015. We anticipate demand for Grupa Azoty stock at the close of trading on that day to reach some PLN 70m. We have been expecting that the company will be included in the FTSE indices, and this may have contributed to its price growth over the past weeks," said Maciej Marcinowski, an analyst of Dom Maklerski Trigon.

The Grupa Azoty's strategy provides for further business expansion and value building based on three pillars: organic growth, mergers and acquisitions, and Operational Excellence Programme. Over the next five years the company intends to spend PLN 7bn on the implementation of 68 investment projects in all areas of its business. The investment programme is expected to open up new areas of activity for Grupa Azoty, develop the product portfolio in all business segments, increase production capacities, improve efficiency, and strengthen the distribution base.

Grupa Azoty also plans to embark on M&A activity. Based on research, a number of potential acquisition targets have been identified. These projects will be significant value growth drivers for Grupa Azoty and will enable the company to achieve the levels of financial performance indicators assumed in its strategy.

Grupa Azoty S.A. has been listed on the Warsaw Stock Exchange since 2008, and since 2013 it has been a constituent of the new WIG30 index. Since 2009, the Company has also been included in the RESPECT Index,

the first CSR-focused index in Central and Eastern Europe, and since 2013 – in the MSCI Emerging Markets index. The company's full-year financial results for 2014 will be published on March 16th 2015 (Monday).