



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Esmark Facility Severely Damaged in Fire

Bridgeview, Illinois-Based Electric Coated Technologies' Electro galvanizing Capacity To Be Shifted To Its Larger Sister Plant in East Chicago, Indiana to Serve Customers

CHICAGO HEIGHTS, ILL., January 29, 2008 – Esmark Incorporated today confirmed that its Electric Coated Technologies, Inc. (ECT) steel processing plant was severely damaged in a fire late last night. Four employees were on-site when the fire broke out and were safely evacuated. The cause of the fire is not known at this time and Bridgeview fire officials are investigating.

The Bridgeview ECT facility housed two electro galvanizing processing lines producing approximately four thousand tons per month of steel and employed approximately 30 employees.

James P. Bouchard, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Chicago Heights-based Esmark, said, “We’re thankful that none of our employees were injured in the fire and want to express our sincere appreciation to the Bridgeview Fire Department and other local fire departments who responded so quickly for their efforts. The extreme winter weather conditions we experienced last night made for a very serious situation, and we’re grateful that no firefighters were injured.”

Bouchard said that the steel processing capacity from the Bridgeview plant is being immediately transitioned to its larger sister, the ECT facility in East Chicago, Ind., which has one of the largest non-automotive electro galvanizing processing lines and sufficient capacity to absorb the Bridgeview plant’s capacity after the addition of certain equipment. The East Chicago ECT facility is currently producing approximately 8,000 tons-per-month and has the capacity to process approximately 15,000 tons of steel-per-month.

Bouchard further explained, “We are in the process of contacting all of our customers to advise them of our plans to mitigate any disruptions and fulfill customer orders by transitioning production to the flagship ECT facility in East Chicago as well as to expedite replacement materials with our major suppliers, including from Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel. ECT Bridgeview carried approximately 7,200 tons of Just-In-Time material at the plant and replacement tonnage is being re-ordered.

-more-

Obviously, this situation will temporarily further constrict supply of Non-Automotive EG products in an already very tight market, but with the support of our customers, suppliers and Wheeling-Pittsburgh, as well as our use of all available resources, including insurance coverage, we will transition production and alleviate any long-term impact or material effect on our ability to service our customers moving forward.”

ECT management will be meeting with ECT Bridgeview employees Thursday morning to discuss interim staffing plans and possible shifting of some line operations employees to the East Chicago facility. “We’re going to do everything we can to ease the burden this fire has caused,” Bouchard said.

Bouchard added that the decision on whether to rebuild the Bridgeview plant or permanently house all electrogalvanizing line production at ECT’s East Chicago facility will be determined pending the outcome of the fire investigation and assessment with insurance providers.

About Esmark Incorporated:

Esmark Incorporated is a vertically integrated steel producer and distributor, combining steel production capabilities through both blast furnace and electric arc furnace technologies with the just-in-time delivery of value-added steel products to a broad customer base concentrated in the Ohio Valley and Midwest regions. Currently headquartered in Wheeling, West Virginia, the Company is a producer of carbon flat rolled products for the construction, container, appliance, converter/processor, steel service center, automotive and other markets. The company's products include various sheet products such as hot rolled, cold rolled, hot dipped galvanized, electrogalvanized, black plate and electrolytic tinplate. More information about Esmark can be found at www.esmark.com.

###

Media Contact: Bill Keegan, Edelman, 312.927.8424 (mobile), bill.keegan@edelman.com

Investor Relations Contact: Dennis Halpin, 304-234-2421 (office) or 304.650.6474 (mobile), dhalpin@esmark.com