

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STERLING CHEMICALS RESCHEDULES FIRST QUARTER 2009 CONFERENCE CALL

HOUSTON, TEXAS -- Sterling Chemicals, Inc. (OTC Bulletin Board: SCHI) today announced it would reschedule its conference call with investors, analysts and other interested parties to Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 9:00 am CST, to discuss the First Quarter 2009 financial and operating results. Individuals interested in hearing the call may dial 1-800-434-1335 (enter participant code 28428629#) or listen via webcast by logging on to Sterling's website at <http://www.sterlingchemicals.com> and selecting "Analyst Calls". A replay of the call will be available on Sterling's website approximately two hours after the live broadcast ends. Financial and statistical data to be discussed on the call will be posted to our website prior to the call.

Sterling Chemicals, Inc. is a leading North American producer of selected petrochemicals used to manufacture a wide array of consumer goods and industrial products throughout the world. Its primary products are acetic acid and plasticizers.

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The information in this news release relating to matters that are not historical facts constitutes forward-looking information covered by the safe harbor created by Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The forward-looking information is based upon current information and expectations regarding Sterling and its subsidiary. The estimates, forecasts and statements contained in or implied by the forward-looking information speak only as of the date on which they are made, are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to evaluate and predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results could materially differ from what is expressed, implied or forecasted by or in the forward-looking information. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from what is expressed, implied or forecasted by or in the forward-looking information include the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices and global economic conditions, industry production capacity and operating rates, the supply-demand balance for Sterling's products, competitive products and pricing pressures, increases in raw material costs, federal and state regulatory developments, Sterling's high financial leverage, the availability of skilled personnel and operating hazards attendant to the industry, as well as the other risk factors discussed in Sterling's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including Sterling's Annual Report on Form 10-K and Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. Sterling assumes no obligation to update the information contained in this press release.