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AZO and Bachelor Controls Strengthen Strategic Alliance

AZO expands capabilities and client offerings, BCI opens Memphis office

MEMPHIS, Tenn. and SABETHA, Kan. (May 20, 2005) — AZO, Incorporated and Bachelor Controls, Inc. (BCI) are pleased to announce the opening of a BCI office at the AZO facility in Memphis, Tennessee.

The new alliance will include the transfer of AZO control personnel into BCI's new Memphis operation. The BCI Memphis office will operate as an additional branch of Bachelor Controls, Inc. BCI has existing offices in Sabetha, Kansas and Kansas City.

This new cooperation will strengthen AZO's and BCI's decade-long strategic partnership that provides state-of-the-art ingredient automation, equipment and information technology.

“In this era of increased global competition and rising costs, our clients seek plant-wide integration for better data management and tracking,” said AZO President Bob Moore. “Leveraging Bachelor Controls’ tested credentials and proven reputation, we can provide our clients a broader range of cost-effective controls options, including improved measurements and better implementation of business rules between the corporate business system and the plant floor control system.”

“We are very excited to be able to align ourselves more closely with a valued partner and producer of superior ingredient automation equipment,” said BCI President Ray Bachelor. “Through the years, we have established an excellent working relationship with AZO — including the implementation of ingredient automation systems for some of the biggest names in the food and pharmaceutical industries — and we look forward to a smooth transition.”

A licensed engineering firm, Bachelor Controls has been recognized as a charter member of the Control and Information System Integrators Association (CSIA) Registered Member/Gold Tier Group, limited to the first 50 CSIA member-firms worldwide to pass the association's landmark Best Practices and Benchmarks registration process. This intensive audit process — which measures each company's performance against criteria in seven distinct business areas — is conducted by an outside auditing firm every three years.

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AZO, Incorporated / Bachelor Controls, Inc.

Page 2 of 2

“Bachelor Controls will offer its full complement of control and systems integration services in the Memphis office,” said Bachelor. “We look forward to building presence and market share from our new location.”

About AZO, Incorporated

AZO GmbH in Osterburken, Germany together with its partner, AZO Incorporated in Memphis, Tennessee is the largest company in the world solely devoted to the total automation and management of ingredients. Founded in 1949, AZO GmbH continues this leading role, providing systems and process information technology to the leading manufacturing companies worldwide. AZO Incorporated, founded in 1978, services the US, Canadian, and Caribbean markets. AZO's strength is built on diversified experience, working in many industries including food, pharmaceutical, personal care, plastics and chemicals. AZO provides effective solutions for any process which includes powder, liquid, or pelletized ingredients and can accurately determine the best solution for a clients' processing needs. For more information, visit www.azo.com or contact info@azo.com or 901.794.9480.

About Bachelor Controls, Inc.

Bachelor Controls, Inc. (BCI) is a leading provider of control and systems integration solutions to manufacturers with focused experience in the food processing, pet food, pharmaceutical, plastics, specialty chemicals, and feed and grain industries. The company's specialties include high-end batching systems, cooking extrusion, modified starch processes, bulk material transport and material handling. The company has leveraged this “top floor to plant floor” understanding and provides expertise in Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) solutions, integrating process control systems with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems to give customers near real-time information they can use to make critical business decisions. Founded in 1983, Bachelor Controls has been recognized as a Charter Rockwell Automation Solution Provider, Microsoft Certified Partner, DVT Certified Integrator and charter member of the CSIA Registered Member/Gold Tier Group. BCI is a licensed engineering firm located in Sabetha, Kansas and the Kansas City metro area. To learn more, visit www.bachelorcontrols.com or contact media@bachelorcontrols.com or 785.284.3482.