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## Bekaert organizes '*better together* for Chile' donation program

Kortrijk, 15 March 2010 – Bekaert has launched an international donation program to deliver direct support to the affected colleagues of the company's Chilean joint ventures.

Many Chilean colleagues have lost their house or suffered major property damage due to the earthquake or tsunami. All employees of the Bekaert Group have now been invited to contribute to the program by determining the number of hours they want to "work for Chile". The salary equivalent will be transferred to the donation account that was established for this purpose. On 30 March 2010 all participants will wear the 'Today I work for my Chilean colleagues' badge. Bekaert will double the amount that will be raised through this action and will transfer the fund integrally to the local teams who will coordinate the reconstruction and repairs of the houses of affected colleagues.

As for the manufacturing and distribution activities: all entities in and near Santiago report little to no damage and have resumed operations. The property damage to the Inchalam manufacturing plant in Concepción is being repaired and several production lines have been started up again. The entity has been coordinating with its customers and suppliers, and with its own distribution center in Santiago, ways and means to ensure normal operations and supplies within the shortest possible timeframe.

### Profile

Bekaert ([www.bekaert.com](http://www.bekaert.com)) is a global technological leader in its two core competences: advanced metal transformation and advanced materials and coatings, and a market leader in drawn wire products and applications. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 23 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generates annual combined sales of € 3.3 billion.

### Bekaert in Chile

Together with its Chilean partners, Bekaert operates joint venture operations in Chile that produce a wide variety of steel wire products for numerous sectors including industrial, agricultural, civil infrastructure, mining, and construction markets. These joint venture entities employ in total close to 1 000 people and are located in Santiago (Acma, Acmanet, Prodinsa, Prodalám) and in Concepción (Inchalam). The partnership and first joint operations date back 60 years.