

Evonik Builds Plant for the Production of Functionalized Polybutadienes

Evonik Industries is currently building a large-scale plant in Marl, Germany, for the production of functionalized polybutadienes. The plant, which will have an annual capacity of several thousand metric tons, is already scheduled for completion in the middle of this year.

The specialty chemicals company's investment in its largest production site worldwide is in the mid double-digit million euro range and will create 15 new jobs. Functionalized polybutadienes, which Evonik plans to market under the name Polyvest HT, are used mainly in sealing compounds for insulated glass windows and for adhesives used in the automotive and electronics industries, for example.

The new plant can make optimum use of the existing infrastructure and raw materials supplies and utilize synergies with the current polybutadiene

plants in Marl Chemical Park. Klaus Engel, Chairman of the Executive Board of Evonik Industries, said: "As one of the world's biggest specialty chemical companies, we back Germany as an industrial location and, with our long-term investments, we are securing our industrial basis here." And Ulrich Küsthardt, Head of the Coatings & Additives Business Unit, is convinced that there is great demand for products that help to use resources more efficiently. Especially in Germany and Europe, the market for functionalized polybutadienes is characterized by a high level of dy-

namic growth, he said. They are used, for example, in double and triple glazed windows and in adhesives for the lightweight construction of vehicles. In the automotive industry, adhesives are increasingly being used in addition to traditional welding processes and as structural adhesives for non-weldable composite materials.

With its new plant, Evonik is extending its existing portfolio of polyesters, polymethacrylates, amorphous poly-alpha-olefins and polybutadienes for the adhesive and sealants industries. ■

Wacker Opens New Technical Centre in the USA

Wacker Chemie AG has brought a new technical centre for carpet applications on stream in Dalton (Georgia). The new centre offers lab facilities for developing and testing polymeric binders for the carpet industry.

Our aim is to support our customers in the carpet industry by realizing their individual requirements directly on the spot, and to develop and test innovative VAE binder applications together with them," explains Peter Summo, head of the dispersions business at Wacker Polymers.

Besides research and applications labs, the facility also houses a local branch of the Wacker Academy, the Group's own training and education centre. The seminar programme is tailored to the specific needs of the carpet industry. The specially equipped training lab also allows participants to perform extensive practical exercises. In addition to the established US training centres in Adrian (MI) and Allentown (PA), the Munich-based chemical company has already opened Wacker Academy sites in Burghausen (Germany), Moscow (Russia), Beijing (China), Seoul (South Ko-

rea), Mumbai (India), Sao Paulo (Brazil), Singapore, Dubai (U.A.E.) and Mexico City (Mexico). ■

New adhesive formulations with VAE dispersions can be developed and tested at the new Technical Centre in Dalton

