

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Starts Up New Production Facility for Pharmaceutical Proteins

Munich/Jena, March 8, 2010 – Wacker Chemie AG officially opened a new production facility for pharmaceutical proteins (biologics) in Jena today. The new plant is part of the Munich-based chemical company's investment program to enlarge its biotech operations. The expansion enables WACKER to accommodate its customers' rapidly growing demand for biotechnologically manufactured pharmaceuticals. Biologics are used to treat, among other things, cancer, multiple sclerosis and hepatitis. The expansion, together with the new building for process development and quality control already completed last year, brings WACKER's total investment in the Jena facility to some €18 million.

WACKER has substantially boosted capacity at its Jena site in order to cope with a growing need for high-efficiency biologics production processes, and to meet rising customer demand. The existing GMP-certified (Good Manufacturing Practice) facility now has twice as much production area. A completely new facility for product-purification enables up to three times higher product yields per batch. The new unit meets the GMP requirements of both the US Food and Drug Administration FDA and the European Medicines Agency EMEA. Wacker Biotech can now provide those customers who have biopharmaceuticals at an advanced development stage with sufficient commercial capacity to supply the market.

“Demand for advanced biotech products is growing worldwide. Innovative, biotechnological processes such as WACKER’s secretion system ESETEC® allow us to meet demand and continue to shape the developments in biotechnology here in Germany,” WACKER Executive Board member Auguste Willems said during his speech to commission the new facility.

To accommodate growing customer inquiries, the facilities of Wacker Biotech GmbH have been greatly expanded over the last two years. The around €18 million investment by the WACKER Group at Jena’s Beutenberg Campus encompassed two projects: in addition to the expansion of the GMP facility, a new lab building for process development and quality control which was built and put into operation back in 2009.

“We now have an ideal system for developing the sophisticated processes and analytical techniques of modern, microbe-based biologics,” explains Dr. Thomas Maier, managing director of Wacker Biotech GmbH. “This allows WACKER to optimize the entire process chain, from lab operations to industrial GMP production. Customers thus benefit from a full process and analysis package provided from a single source. And with the expansion of our production capacities, we can now make our innovative ESETEC® secretion technology available to still more customers.”

Traditional production methods aside, the focus of the new unit is on the WACKER proprietary technologies, ESETEC® and DENSETEC®, which enable simpler, more cost-efficient and high-yield production of biologics for the pharmaceuticals industry. ESETEC® is based on a patented *E.coli* K12 strain, which is employed during fermentation to secrete recombinant proteins into the culture broth in natural

conformation. Such extra-cellular production facilitates the cleanup of recombinant products and eliminates the complicated refolding stage. The net effect is to render production much more efficient and more cost-effective.

The ability to combine ESETEC[®] secretion technology with DENSETEC[®], a special high-cell-density process for fermenting *E.coli*, gives WACKER Biotech the capacity to produce active biologics both efficiently and in optimized space-time yields. These robust fermentation processes can be validated, and they permit high, reproducible yields.

About Wacker Biotech

Wacker Biotech GmbH is a full-service contract manufacturer of biopharmaceutical products based on microbial systems. Services at the company's certified multi-purpose site in Jena range from the field of molecular biology to comprehensive analytical services and process development, through the GMP-compliant production of clinical test samples as well as pharmaceuticals for the commercial market. Above all, Wacker Biotech offers proprietary technologies that satisfy market needs for cost-efficient production and maximum quality. Jena-based Wacker Biotech is a wholly-owned WACKER subsidiary.

For further details, visit the following website:

<http://www.wacker.com/biologics>



Cleanroom at the expanded Wacker Biotech facility in Jena: this is where biologics are produced. Downstream, the desired active protein is purified via chromatography (photo: Wacker Chemie AG).

Wacker Biotech's lab building in Jena: with the expansion of its Biotech operations, WACKER can meet its customers' rapidly growing demand for biologically manufactured pharmaceuticals. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG).



Note for editors:

Photos are available for download at

<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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The company in brief:

WACKER is a globally active chemical company with some 15,900 employees and annual sales of around €4.3 billion (2008). WACKER has 27 production sites and over 100 sales offices worldwide.

WACKER SILICONES

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions and solid resins used as binders for construction chemicals, coatings, adhesives, paints, plasters and nonwovens

WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS

Biotech products such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and PVAc solid resins

WACKER POLYSILICON

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries

Siltronic

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor devices