

PRESS RELEASE

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New WACKER Production Plant for Dispersible Polymer Powders Goes on Stream in South Korea

Ulsan, September 3, 2019 – Following a construction phase lasting 20 months, Wacker Chemie AG has brought a new spray dryer for the production of dispersible polymer powders on stream in Ulsan, South Korea. The plant is part of an ongoing site expansion aimed at boosting the company's production capacity for dispersions and dispersible polymer powders in Asia.

WACKER is a world-leading producer of polymeric dispersions and dispersible polymer powders, which are important ingredients in the manufacture of building materials. Construction is currently booming in Asia. Growing just as strongly is the demand for high-quality, energy-efficient, sustainable construction solutions. This has prompted the Group to invest in the region and expand its production capacity for dispersions and dispersible polymer powders in South Korea. The commissioning of the new spray dryer represents a major milestone in the company's expansion plans for its Ulsan site.

WACKER already produces vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer (VAE) dispersions in Ulsan. The new spray dryer converts liquid dispersions into dispersible polymer powder by feeding them through an atomizer into a stream of hot gas, which dries them extremely quickly to yield a fine powder. The new plant will have a total capacity of 80,000 metric

tons per year. On completion, the spray dryer will be one of the two largest of this kind in the world. The second plant with this capacity is located at WACKER's Burghausen site. The new spray dryer will create some 50 new jobs in Ulsan.

Construction is also underway in Ulsan on a further reactor for VAE dispersions, the feedstock for dispersible polymer powders. The reactor is scheduled for start-up in the first quarter of 2020. Overall capital expenditure on the plant complex, spanning the full production chain from VAE dispersions through to dispersible polymer powders, will come to some 65 million euros.

"Our binders not only enhance the properties of building materials but also make construction activities more resource-efficient," says Peter Summo, head of the WACKER POLYMERS division. "The new plant in Ulsan will help us serve the growing market in Asia and additionally shorten our delivery routes and times."

The dispersible polymer powders that WACKER produces in Ulsan belong to the VINNAPAS® family, one of the Group's best-known brands. The new spray dryer will be used to produce VINNAPAS® 5010 N and VINNAPAS® 5044 N, for instance. These binders are needed in the construction industry to formulate high-quality tile adhesives, mineral plasters, self-leveling flooring compounds, energy-saving external thermal insulation composite systems (ETICS/EIFS), building adhesives, smoothing compounds and joint fillers, for example.

"By expanding our production capacity, we are boosting Ulsan's economic competitiveness and ensuring that it will remain the first point of contact for regional manufacturers of building materials seeking to optimize their products

with dispersible polymer powders,” says Dal-Ho Cho, head of the Wacker Chemicals Korea subsidiary.

About WACKER POLYMERS

WACKER can look back at over 80 years' experience in the manufacture of polymer binders. Today, WACKER is a leading producer of state-of-the-art binders and polymeric additives based on polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers. These take the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions, solid resins, and solutions. The products are used in construction chemicals, paints, surface coatings, adhesives and nonwovens, as well as in fiber composites and polymeric materials based on renewable resources. WACKER operates production sites for polymer binders in Germany, China, South Korea and the USA, as well as a global sales network and technical centers in all major regions.

About WACKER in South Korea

WACKER started supplying chemicals to South Korea in the mid-1980s. It set up Wacker Chemicals Korea as its local subsidiary in 1996. It has been producing VAE dispersions at its site in Ulsan, southeast Korea, since early 2008. The company operates a further production site that specializes in silicone products in Jincheon. WACKER provides local support for its customers and partners through two technical centers in Anyang and Seoul (Pangyo). The subsidiary's sales office has been located in Pangyo Techno Valley near Seoul since 2012. The site also houses research and development, technical support and the WACKER ACADEMY, a basic and advanced training facility. The subsidiary posted 15 percent year-on-year revenue growth in 2018.

Images:



A technician performs inspection and maintenance work at the new plant. (Photo: WACKER)



An operator monitors production in the control room. (Photo: WACKER)

Note:

This photo is 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 14,500 employees and annual sales of around €4.98 billion (2018).
WACKER has a global network of 24 production sites, 21 technical competence centers and 50 sales offices.

WACKER SILICONES

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

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetates and vinyl acetate copolymers and terpolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions, solid resins and solutions

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 photovoltaic industries