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PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Officially Opens US-based R&D Center for Silicones in Ann Arbor, MI

Munich / Ann Arbor, June 13, 2017 – WACKER, the Munich-based chemical group, officially opened its Silicones R&D Center located in Ann Arbor, MI, today. In close proximity to WACKER's Adrian, MI, facility, the new Silicones R&D Center is dedicated to support WACKER's overall business and product development in North America.

WACKER's new Silicones R&D Center is located at the co-work campus of the Michigan Innovation Headquarters (MI-HQ) in Ann Arbor, MI. It consists of labs for R&D and analytics and offers state-of-the-art lab environment for the development of new products dedicated to customers in the Americas. They will be operated by Wacker Chemical Corporation (WCC), WACKER's Adrian, MI, based subsidiary for North and Central America and the North Andean region of South America, and staffed with highly specialized experts in the field of silicone and polymer chemistry. Investments for equipment and interior construction measures were in the single digit million US dollar range.

At today's facility opening, David Wilhoit, Wacker Chemical Corporation President & CEO, pointed out the major significance of the new R&D center for WACKER. "We have completed the necessary preparation work and installation of equipment for several labs focusing on research and development. Right from the start we

are engaged in projects involving health and medical care, paints and coatings, electronics and personal care products, all of which are key industry growth segments, particularly for silicone-based chemistry", Wilhoit explained.

According to Axel Schmidt, Wacker Chemical Corporation Vice President – Division Silicones, locating the Silicones R&D Center in Ann Arbor, MI complements WACKER's strategic business model of being close to our customers and close to serving regional market trends. "With the Adrian, MI, manufacturing plant, the pyrogenic silica plant under construction in Charleston, Tennessee, and our SILMIX® custom compounding facilities located in Chino, California and North Canton, Ohio, we are able to offer customers leading-edge technology, product innovation and a broad range of silicone products", Schmidt commented. "Our silicone research at the Ann Arbor R&D Center will be focused on developing advanced and forward-looking solutions in concert with regional trends that can be quickly brought to market. And importantly", Schmidt emphasized, "our team of highly specialized R&D experts in the field of silicone and polymer chemistry will be offering customers long term technical assistance in support of WACKER's future business growth."

WACKER is among the world's leading chemical companies in silicones technology. Establishing this Silicones R&D Center in Ann Arbor expands WACKER's footprint in the USA, the second largest chemical market in the world, and furthers WACKER's global network for research and development.

A team of highly specialized researchers in the field of silicone and polymer chemistry are working on silicone solutions for WACKER's key market segments. (Photo: WACKER)

The new R&D laboratories in Ann Arbor provide a state-of-the-art research environment that allows for the development of cutting edge silicone solutions. (Photo: WACKER)

Note:

These 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 13,450 employees and annual sales of around €4.6 billion (2016, excluding Siltronic).
WACKER has a global network of 23 production sites, 19 technical competence centers and 49 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