

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER POLYMERS Binders Based on Renewable Resources Certified

Munich, September 7, 2018 – The Munich-based WACKER chemical company is the world’s first manufacturer capable of using renewable resources to produce commercial quantities not only of dispersions based on vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer (VAE), but also of further products based on vinyl acetate – all known by the VINNAPAS® brand. To do so, the company uses acetic acid generated as a byproduct in the woodworking industry. TÜV SÜD, the international technical inspectorate and certification body, has certified WACKER’s biomass balance method as meeting its international CMS 71 standard. Independent certification assures customers that WACKER has replaced the required quantities of fossil resources with an equivalent amount of renewables for its biomass-balanced products right at the start of production. WACKER markets this innovative product class under its new VINNECO® line, encompassing all its polymer products based on renewables.

“More and more customers in construction, paints, adhesives, textiles and the paper industry value the use of renewable raw materials,” says Dr. Christoph Riemer, head of the Consumer & Industrial Polymers business unit at WACKER POLYMERS. He added, “We can now meet that wish with our vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymers. After all, our approach to sustainability begins right at the raw-material stage.” In the

case of WACKER's new polymer class, the acetic acid comes from the woodworking industry. The wood originates from sustainably managed forests that are PEFC® certified. The bio-based acetic acid meets WACKER's quality standards and is characterized by very high purity, very good color compatibility and very low water content. As a result, the bio-acetic acid's chemical and physical behavior is identical with that of conventional, fossil acetic acid. What's more, mixing both types of acetic acid does not affect the end-product's properties.

All these aspects favor the biomass balance method that WACKER uses to calculate how much VAE dispersion was produced from renewable and, thus, non-fossil raw materials. The recently issued certificates verify that WACKER's mass balance method for VAE production meets the criteria of TÜV SÜD's CMS 71 standard on the traceability of renewable resources. "We can now offer customers of VAE dispersions something comparable to the green electricity that consumers get from utilities," says Dr. Markus Busold, strategic marketing director at Consumer & Industrial Polymers. "When customers order binders based on renewables, WACKER ensures that the required amount of bio-acetic acid has entered the production loop. And that kind of acetic acid comes solely from certified producers."

For the moment, renewable resources account for a limited share of WACKER's global output of VAE dispersions. All the same, the biomass balance approach is ideal for raising that share continuously. The innovative, biomass-balanced VAE dispersions belong to WACKER's new VINNECO® line of products based on renewables. Alongside VAE dispersions, WACKER offers vinyl acetate homopolymer dispersions and vinyl acetate-based solid resins as biomass-balanced grades. At the

2019 European Coatings Show, WACKER POLYMERS intends to premier a number of related products.



WACKER is the world's first manufacturer capable of using renewable resources to produce commercial quantities not only of dispersions based on vinyl acetate-ethylene copolymer (VAE), but also of further products based on vinyl acetate. To do so, the company uses a certified biomass balanced method for acetic acid, generated as a byproduct in the woodworking industry.

(Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

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The Company in Brief:

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 13,800 employees and annual sales of around €4.9 billion (2017).
WACKER has a global network of 23 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