

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Opens New Production Site for Silicones in India

Munich, July 5, 2022 – The Munich-based chemical group WACKER opened a new production site for silicones in Panagarh, India. The plant, which is situated 160 km northwest of Kolkata, will manufacture silicone rubber and ready-to-use silicone compounds for electromobility, medical technology and electrical transmission & distribution. A subsequent expansion stage is planned in the medium term for the production of silicone fluids and silicone emulsions. The site is part of WACKER's new growth strategy, which the Group presented to investors and analysts at the end of March while at the same time announcing substantial investment in its chemical divisions. In order to serve the increasing demand for silicones in India and to consolidate its position as a leading silicone producer, the company will invest a mid-double-digit million euro amount in Panagarh in the next few years. The first expansion phase will create around 100 new jobs at the site.

WACKER and its Indian Joint Venture Wacker Metroark Chemicals (WMC) have already been operating a production site for silicones near Kolkata since 1999. The new plant, located around 160 kilometers northwest of Kolkata with an area of 165,000 square meters, is three times the size of the existing site in Amtala, where silicone fluids and silicone emulsions will continue to be produced for the

cosmetics and personal care industries. “Panagarh offers excellent infrastructure and very good connections to the Indian railway and road networks. However, the main benefit of the site is its space. We will use this to significantly expand our production capacity in India and strengthen our market position on the Indian subcontinent,” said WACKER Executive Board member Auguste Willems at the opening ceremony. “This additional production capacity will double the amount of silicone we produce in India in the medium term.”

WACKER intends to expand production at the new site in several stages. Currently, high-consistency- and room-temperature-vulcanizing solid silicone rubbers, liquid silicone rubber and SILMIX® ready-to-use silicone compounds are manufactured in Panagarh. These products are used particularly in electromobility, medical technology and electric transmission and distribution. In the next stage, it is planned to produce silicone fluids and silicone emulsions for cosmetics, textile and personal care applications. “This way we can supply our customers in India even better and more quickly with our specialty silicones,” said Willems. He announced a double-digit million-euro investment in Panagarh for the next five years. “We will expand this site step by step and thus continue to strengthen our leading position as the largest silicone manufacturer in India.”

Soumitra Mukherjee, president and managing director of Wacker Metroark Chemicals, considered the new site to be an important milestone in the cooperation between the two companies. “The merging of WACKER and Metroark almost a quarter of a century ago laid the foundation for a successful partnership. The new Panagarh site will continue this Indo-German success story.”

Sustainability was a key factor in the construction of the production plant. Numerous measures were taken to significantly minimize the environmental impacts. For example, river water for production will be provided via pipelines in order to protect the groundwater reserves. WMC is also planning to use solar energy and renewable raw materials to generate energy and heat. As the site is located in a rice-growing area, husk from rice production can, for example, be used to generate energy.

The new site fills the long-time WMC manager Soumitra Mukherjee with pride. The plant will not just provide several hundred people with jobs, but will also strengthen the local industry. "With the commissioning of Panagarh, we are also contributing toward the Indian government's 'Make in India' initiative for promoting local production of high-quality industrial goods," says Mukherjee.

Wacker Metroark Chemicals

WACKER has been supplying chemical products to India since the 1970s. In 1998 the chemical company and the Indian silicone producer Metroark joined forces and founded Wacker Metroark Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. (WMC). Silicone production started at the Amtala site in 1999. Today, the fully consolidated subsidiary is active in Greater India's most important trade centers, maintaining sales offices and logistics centers in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, as well as a liaison office in Dhaka, Bangladesh. WMC supplies silicones to countless key industries, which use silicones for various textile, personal care, automotive, construction, electric transmission

and distribution, coatings, plastics, adhesives, and packaging applications. WMC's product portfolio also includes sealants, silanes and pyrogenic silica. The WACKER subsidiary currently employs around 260 people in India.

WACKER SILICONES

The WACKER SILICONES business division is one of the largest silicone manufacturers worldwide with over 2,800 highly specialized and innovative products. Its portfolio ranges from silicone fluids, emulsions, resins, elastomers and sealants to silanes, silane-terminated polymers and pyrogenic silica. These stand out due to their significant value-adding potential – enhancing both the benefits and performance of customers' end products. WACKER SILICONES' products find application in such sectors as automotive engineering, construction, chemicals, cosmetics, medical technology, energy & electronics and paper & textiles.



Areal view of the new production site in Panagarh, India. Production currently includes solid and liquid silicone elastomers as well as ready-to-use silicone compounds. (photo: WACKER)






In Amtala, India, Wacker Metroark Chemicals (WMC) already manufactures SILMIX[®] silicone compounds. An additional production facility is now located at its new production site in Panagarh. (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 global chemical company with some 14,400 employees and annual sales of around € 6.21 billion (2021). WACKER has a global network of 26 production sites, 23 technical competence centers and 52 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