

# PRESS RELEASE

Number 35

## WACKER Plans Expansion of Its Charleston Site and Prepares for Construction of Silicone Production Facilities

- ♦ A FEASIBILITY STUDY HAS BEEN STARTED FOR A PRODUCTION COMPLEX TO MANUFACTURE SILICONE SPECIALTIES AT WACKER'S CHARLESTON SITE IN THE USA
- ♦ CONSTRUCTION OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES PLANNED IN PHASES OVER SEVERAL YEARS
- ♦ TOTAL INVESTMENT VOLUME IS ESTIMATED TO BE MORE THAN US\$200 MILLION, PROJECT EXPECTED TO CREATE MORE THAN 200 NEW JOBS AT THE SITE
- ♦ CEO CHRISTIAN HARTEL: "THE EXPANSION PROJECT IS A FURTHER STEP IN OUR GROWTH STRATEGY TO SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS' INCREASING DEMAND FOR SILICONE SPECIALTIES"

Munich / Charleston, July 26, 2022 – Wacker Chemie AG is preparing to build a new silicone production complex at its Charleston site in the US state of Tennessee. The Munich-based chemical group has already started a feasibility study. In a first step, it is planned to build production plants for high-consistency silicone rubber and silicone sealants, used, for example, in construction applications. In addition, plants are to be built for the manufacture of intermediates. In further phases, production plants for other product groups could then be added, e.g. for silane-terminated polymers used as binders for formulating high-quality adhesives and sealants, liquid waterproofing systems and environmentally friendly wood-flooring adhesives. The capital expenditures earmarked for the entire expansion project,

which is scheduled to take several years, are estimated to be more than US\$200 million, thereby creating more than 200 new jobs at the Charleston site. WACKER has been producing high-purity polysilicon for the semiconductor and solar industries in Charleston since 2015. Since 2019, the site has also been producing HDK® brand pyrogenic silica.

"The planned expansion measures in Charleston are a further step toward making Charleston a fully integrated site with closed production loops, and an important prerequisite for accelerating our growth as planned," said CEO Christian Hartel, explaining the strategic background of the investment measure. The Munich-based chemical group is aiming for sales of over €10 billion by 2030, with an EBITDA margin of over 20 percent.

"WACKER is the world's second-largest silicone producer, and this business is of strategic importance to us. Demand for high-performance specialty silicones is showing particularly strong growth. Such specialties enable innovative, tailor-made solutions in key industries such as automotive, construction, electronics and medical technology. By expanding our capacities, we aim to support our customers to the best of our ability," emphasized Hartel.

"In the U.S., demand for silicones has shown above-average growth in recent years," David Wilhoit, President & CEO of WACKER's U.S. subsidiary Wacker Chemical Corporation, pointed out. "With this comprehensive investment offensive, we are further expanding our position in the world's second largest chemical market."

**WACKER SILICONES**

The WACKER Group is one of the largest silicone manufacturers worldwide. 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 and electronics, and paper and textiles.






Distillation columns for the production of trichlorosilane at the Charleston site in the U.S. state of Tennessee. WACKER has been producing high-purity polysilicon there since 2015, and HDK® brand pyrogenic silica since 2019.

*Please note: This photo is available for download at  
<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>*

*This press release contains forward-looking statements based on assumptions and estimates of WACKER's Executive Board. Although we assume the expectations in these forward-looking statements are realistic, we cannot guarantee they will prove to be correct. The assumptions may harbor risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual figures to differ considerably from the forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause such discrepancies include, among other things, changes in the economic and business environment, variations in exchange and interest rates, the introduction of competing products, lack of acceptance for new products or services, and changes in corporate strategy. WACKER does not plan to update the forward-looking statements, nor does it assume the obligation to do so.*

**For further information, please contact:**

Wacker Chemie AG  
Media Relations & Information  
Christof Bachmair  
Tel. +49 89 6279-1830  
[christof.bachmair@wacker.com](mailto:christof.bachmair@wacker.com)  
[www.wacker.com](http://www.wacker.com)  
follow us on:   

**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