

# PRESS RELEASE

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## WACKER Expands Production of Silicone Sealants at Its Nünchritz Site

**Munich, March 22, 2023 – In response to growing demand, the WACKER chemical group is expanding its production and cartridge filling capacities for silicone sealants at its Nünchritz site. The expansion will increase the company's capability to supply customers, who contract WACKER to produce ready-to-use silicone sealants for their direct sales. Some €20 million has been budgeted for the new manufacturing lines, which are scheduled to begin production in the fall of 2024. Construction is expected to start before the end of this year, subject to approval from the regulatory authorities involved. The expansion project will create additional new jobs at the site.**

Construction silicones are in high demand. Silicone sealants provide fast, reliable, long-term sealing of doors, windows, kitchens, bathrooms and walls. And they do more than simply protect critical building components from water, dust and moisture ingress. In times of climbing energy costs and continually increasing demands for energy efficiency, silicone sealing compounds are the product of choice in buildings to ensure comfortable interior surroundings and to minimize heat loss.

In recent years, development has been particularly dynamic for alkoxy silicones. These one-component neutral-cure silicone sealing compounds release alcohol upon crosslinking which renders them

safe to use. They can also be applied on sensitive construction materials such as natural stone or metal. Alkoxy silicones are therefore versatile sealants for interior and exterior applications. Significant growth rates are anticipated in the coming years.

“WACKER is among the leading manufacturers of consumer-friendly silicone sealing compounds. Expanding production in Nünchritz will allow us to tap into new markets and strengthen our position as a key sealants manufacturer in Europe”, says WACKER Executive Board member Auguste Willems. The investment affirms the company’s commitment to products contributing to sustainable, innovative applications and solutions. “We’ve made it our goal to more actively promote products that support energy efficient, climate-friendly and sustainable construction methods. Our alkoxy silicones play an important role here”, Willems points out.

The project plan at the Nünchritz site sees construction of a fully continuous compounding plant for silicone sealing products including expansion of the cartridge filling facility. The new production lines will be built next to the existing plants. “We will integrate the plants into our production process fully utilizing existing on-site filling capacities and logistics”, emphasizes Nünchritz Site Manager Jutta Matreux.

The expansion project will significantly increase WACKER’s production capacity for silicone sealing compounds and cartridges in Nünchritz. Depending on the grade, the new filling line will be capable of filling up to an additional 30 million cartridges each year. Start-up for the new plants is planned for the fall of next year, pending timely approval from regulatory authorities. The expansion will

create several new jobs at the site, to be filled preferably by skilled workers from the region.

### **Silicone Sealants**

Thanks to their outstanding properties, room-temperature-curing silicone sealants can target a wide variety of sealing, bonding and coating applications. Construction silicones, for instance, are used for sealing bathroom facilities, windows and doors, masonry and natural stone joints and in aquarium assembly. Silicone sealants consist of polydimethylsiloxane, as well as a curing agent, fillers and additives. After the sealant has been applied, crosslinking starts. Depending on the nature of the crosslinker, byproducts produced during the curing process are small quantities of an amine or acetic acid or – in the case of neutral compounds – alcohol or oximes. As neutral cure sealing compounds, alkoxy silicones release alcohol upon curing.

In 2020 WACKER began offering biomethanol-based silicone sealing compounds under the brand name ELASTOSIL® eco. These products differ from classic grades merely due to the source of the raw materials used. All other product properties are otherwise identical. ELASTOSIL® eco sealants are certified to the REDcert2 standard, which ensures that renewable raw materials can be traced throughout the manufacturing process, from the production of important precursors up to the completion of ready-mixed silicone sealing compounds. The fossil raw materials needed for production are replaced by biomass certified as sustainable. This makes ELASTOSIL® eco the first generation of sealant manufactured without petrochemical derivatives.






Room-temperature-curing silicone sealants perform a variety of water-proofing, bonding and coating jobs. In response to high demand, WACKER is expanding its production of alkoxy silicone sealants at its Nünchritz site in Germany. (photo: WACKER)

**Note:**

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<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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**The company in brief:**

WACKER is a globally active chemical company with some 15,700 employees and annual sales of around €8.21 billion (2022). WACKER has a global network of 27 production sites, 26 technical competence centers and 51 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