

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Celebrates Its Nünchritz Site's 25th Anniversary

- ◆ WACKER EXPANDED NÜNCHRITZ PLANT INTO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST AND MOST MODERN PRODUCTION SITES FOR SILICONES AND POLYSILICON
- ◆ INVESTMENTS IN PRODUCTION FACILITIES, INFRA-STRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SAFETY TOTAL TO €1.7 BILLION
- ◆ WITH OVER 1,500 EMPLOYEES IN SAXONY, WACKER IS THE STATE'S LARGEST CHEMICAL-INDUSTRY EMPLOYER
- ◆ PRESIDENT AND CEO CHRISTIAN HARTEL: "BY FURTHER EXPANDING OUR FACILITIES, WE INTEND TO CONTINUE THE SUCCESSFUL TRACK RECORD OF OUR NÜNCHRITZ PLANT AND PLAY OUR PART IN CREATING JOBS AND PROSPERITY IN SAXONY"

Nünchritz / Munich, August 24, 2023 – Wacker Chemie AG today celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Nünchritz site. Among the dignitaries to mark the occasion was Saxony's State Governor Michael Kretschmer. The globally operating chemical company acquired the Nünchritz plant in 1998. Ever since, the Group has invested around €1.7 billion and made Nünchritz into one of the world's largest and most modern production sites for silicones and polysilicon.

In his opening address, President and CEO Christian Hartel expressed his thanks to the Free State of Saxony, the partner

companies involved in the expansion, and the employees at the Nünchritz site. “Transforming the Nünchritz plant into one of the world’s largest and most modern production facilities for silicon-based chemicals is no easy task and a large-scale project of such complexity can only be accomplished by working as a team. The entire success of the project depends on the commitment and cooperation of all parties involved,” Hartel emphasized. He also highlighted the outstanding performance of the plant: “Since 2001, we have commissioned a large number of new facilities for silicones and their upstream products. Existing facilities, too, have been expanded significantly. And, since 2010, we have been producing polysilicon, the most important raw material for semiconductors and solar cells. In terms of production technology, the Nünchritz plant now plays in the Champions League and can hold its own against any other site,” he said.

Looking ahead, Hartel highlighted the importance of pursuing WACKER’s success story at Nünchritz. At the same time, however, the CEO drew attention to the deteriorating economic environment in Germany in recent years. In particular, he referred to the price of electricity in Germany, which is far too high compared to international standards: “Energy is the lifeblood of the chemical industry. If it is not available in sufficient quantities and at a competitive rate, entire industries and value chains will be at stake.” In this context, Hartel reiterated his demand for an industrial electricity price of four euro cents per kilowatt-hour as an interim solution until sufficient green energy is available at a more favorable price.

WACKER in Nünchritz

At its Nünchritz site, Wacker Chemie AG produces silicon-based chemical substances, including some 200 different silicone grades, pyrogenic silicas and hyperpure polycrystalline silicon for the solar industry. The plant also operates a cartridge-filling facility for silicone adhesives and sealants. The low-waste and energy-efficient closed-loop production complex continues to cut energy consumption and reduces the environmental impact of wastewater and emissions. Silicones and polysilicon from Saxony are exported all over the world.

Over 100 Years of Expertise in Chemicals

The Nünchritz site on the banks of the Elbe river has a long history spanning over 100 years. Friedrich von Heyden founded the plant in 1900. In the initial period, the company produced inorganic substances such as sulfuric acid, caustic soda, chlorine and hydrochloric acid. Direct synthesis (also known as the Müller-Rochow synthesis) was developed in the early 1940s. Chemist Richard Müller thus paved the way for the industrial production of silicone which began at the Nünchritz plant in 1954. After the reunification of Germany, state-owned enterprise VEB Chemiewerk Nünchritz became a limited company – Nünchritz Chemie GmbH. WACKER took over the plant in October 1998.






Celebrating 25 years: WACKER acquired the Nünchritz plant in 1998. Ever since, the Group has invested around €1.7 billion and made Nünchritz into one of the world's largest and most modern production sites for silicones and polysilicon.
(Photo: WACKER)

Note:

This photo is 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 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 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