Press release

July 17, 2025

Wacker Chemie AG
Corporate Communications
Gisela-Stein-Straße 1
81671 Munich, Germany
www.wacker.com

WACKER commissions new production line for semiconductor-grade polysilicon at Burghausen site

- Worth over €300 million, the new production facility is the Group's largest single investment in the last ten years
- The plant has already begun delivering the first consignments of hyperpure polysilicon to semiconductor customers; production capacity for products with highest semiconductor-grade quality will grow by over 50 percent in the long term
- Sophisticated automation improves process stability and product purity also for future applications in microelectronics
- Funding up to 46 million will be allocated for research and innovation as part of the European Union's IPCEI ME/CT program
- CEO Christian Hartel: "With our Etching Line Next, we are able to produce ultra-pure polysilicon and thus the feedstock for the next generation of computer chips, which are prerequisite for high-tech applications such as artificial intelligence."

Munich – Wacker Chemie AG today commissioned the Etching Line Next, its new production line for the manufacture of ultra-pure semiconductor-grade polysilicon, at its Burghausen production site in Germany. Accompanied by customers, suppliers and project partners, high-profile figures including Bavaria's Minister-President Markus Söder and Gitta Connemann, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs were among the guests who attended the official ceremony to mark the opening of the plant.

“Ultra-pure polycrystalline silicon is the purest man-made material. Everything regarding the semiconductor industry and, consequently, digital transformation revolves around this key raw material,” emphasized WACKER CEO Christian Hartel while addressing 100 guests in Burghausen, and added, “We are the only company in Europe and the largest in the world who manufactures ultrapure polysilicon for the semiconductor industry. The Etching Line Next allows us to further consolidate our position as a global quality and technology leader.”

Bavaria's Minister-President Markus Söder also lauded the expansion project at the opening ceremony. "A strong signal for Bavaria and Germany as a business location: the opening of a state-of-the-art production line at Wacker Chemie in Burghausen worth €300 million. Hyperpure semiconductor-grade polysilicon is the basis for digitalization. Wacker Chemie is the global leader in this field. Together with the federal government, Bavaria is supporting the investment with around €50 million in innovation funding. This is a clear commitment to Burghausen, the Bavarian chemical triangle and the high-tech chemical industry. As a whole, we are working with the new federal government to restart the economy: we are reducing energy and electricity costs, and are committed to an energy price for energy-intensive companies. The rapid expansion of renewable energies and gas-fired power plants is also important for Bavaria. We are lowering corporate taxes and launching the investment booster. But we need a quick solution to the global tariff dispute. Instead of EU bureaucracy, 'quick & easy' must be the order of the day. Only with a strong industry will we be able to maintain our success and continue to create value in the country in the future. Thank you for your loyalty to the location and all the best," said Markus Söder in his address.

Gitta Connemann, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE), also applauded the company’s investment in the expansion of its polysilicon production. “I congratulate WACKER on the commissioning of this groundbreaking plant. Semiconductors are the backbone of our modern economy. Without them, everything comes to a standstill. With this investment, supported by the federal and state governments, we are not only securing jobs in the region, but also strengthening Germany and Europe as a whole in the face of global competition. This is a strong signal for innovation, technological sovereignty and the future of our location.”

Growing demand for hyperpure, semiconductor-grade polysilicon

The internet, autonomous driving, Industry 4.0 – digital transformation and ever-growing data volumes in an ever-increasing number of data centers are driving the demand for polysilicon, one of the key raw materials in today’s digital era. Polysilicon in the highest grade of purity is indispensable for producing high-performance chips required, for example, in artificial intelligence applications or supercomputers. Very few companies are able to meet the more stringent purity

requirements of the semiconductor industry. In the polysilicon business for over 70 years, chemical company WACKER is the world’s leading producer of this key raw material in the semiconductor industry.

By investing in a new production line for semiconductor-grade polysilicon, WACKER continues to expand its activities in this sector. Compared to 2024, the company aims to double its sales to semiconductor customers by 2030. “The new production line is a key project for our growth,” remarked WACKER CEO Christian Hartel, and elaborated further, "WACKER is a global leader in the semiconductor sector. Today, every second computer chip is made from polysilicon delivered by WACKER. Etching Line Next will not only allow us to meet the growing demands of the semiconductor industry, but also to achieve an exceptionally high product quality and a very high level of stability in production processes. Thanks to our new line, we can consistently produce polysilicon that will enable developers and manufacturers to come up with even more powerful logic and memory chips for the most demanding applications, such as artificial intelligence. In short: no polysilicon from WACKER, no AI.”

With a total expenditure of over €300 million, Etching Line Next is currently the Group’s largest investment project. Construction work began in fall 2022. Commissioning took place in stages from fall 2024. The plant recently went into operation and is already producing its first consignments. By virtue of the new production line, WACKER is increasing its production capacity for products that comply with the highest semiconductor-grade standards by more than 50 percent. This expansion in capacity will also create around 150 new jobs.

Semiconductor-grade polysilicon: purity of over 99.9999999999 percent

Cleaning the surface of the polysilicon chunks, which serve as a raw material for producing semiconductor wafers, is a complex and technically demanding process. Acids are used to remove the uppermost layer from the polysilicon surface. The chunks are then rinsed, packaged and shipped, whereby all operational steps are to a large extent automated and performed under cleanroom conditions. The ready-to-ship polysilicon now has a purity of over 99.9999999999 percent. The concentration of critical impurities is only in the parts-per-trillion range. This corresponds to not more than a grain of sugar in an Olympic-size swimming pool filled with water.

Important research and innovation projects were also initiated at the start of the project. An innovative cleaning process in conjunction with highly automated processes consistently guarantees the highest level of product purity. This enables WACKER to meet the growing quality demands that are essential to produce hyperpure silicon wafers and semiconductor chips.

Innovative technologies were also used during the planning phase. For example, production and logistics processes were planned virtually and simulated with the help of computer-aided simulation software. This resulted in significant cost savings and made it possible for the plant to be commissioned much earlier than the scheduled date.

As part of the European Union's Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) program for microelectronics and communication technologies, funding of up to €46 million has been approved for research and innovation projects initiated by WACKER. The funding bodies include the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy, and the European Union.

More about WACKER's polysilicon at www.wacker.com/polysilicon

At the opening ceremony for the Etching Line Next (from left to right): Site Manager Peter von Zumbusch, Parliamentary State Secretary Bärbel Kofler (BMZ), WACKER Supervisory Board Chairman Peter-Alexander Wacker, Bavarian Minister-President Markus Söder, WACKER CEO Christian Hartel, Parliamentary State Secretary Gitta Connemann (BMWE) and Head of Polysilicon Tobias Brandis (photo: Wacker Chemie AG).

Taking a closer look at hyperpure polysilicon from the new plant (from right to left): Head of Polysilicon Tobias Brandis, WACKER Supervisory Board Chairman Peter-Alexander Wacker, WACKER CEO Christian Hartel, Bavaria's Minister-President Markus Söder, Parliamentary State Secretary Gitta Connemann (BMWE), Stephan Mayer MP, Ingo Ruthemeier (BMWE) and Andreas Lenz MP (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

The new production line at the Burghausen production site supplies hyperpure semiconductor-grade polysilicon for the microelectronics industry. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

View of the Etching Line Next production facility. Acids are used to clean the polysilicon chunks before they are ready to be shipped to semiconductor customers across the world. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

Note: These photos are available for download at: http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases

Supported by:
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
on the basis of a decision by the German Bundestag

Sponsored by
Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy

Funded by the European Union
NextGenerationEU

IPCEI Microelectronics and Communication Technologies

Additional information

Florian Degenhart
Media Relations
Tel. +49 89 6279-1601
florian.degenhart@wacker.com

The company in brief:
WACKER is a global company with state-of-the-art specialty chemical products found in countless everyday items, ranging from tile adhesives to computer chips. The company has a global network of 27 production sites, 21 technical competence centers and 46 sales offices. With around 16,600 employees, WACKER generated annual sales of around €5.7 billion in fiscal 2024.

WACKER operates through four business divisions. The Silicones and Polymers chemical divisions supply products (silicones, polymeric binders) for the automotive, construction, chemical, consumer goods and medical technology industries. Biosolutions, the life sciences division, specializes in bioengineered products such as biopharmaceuticals and food additives. Polysilicon produces hyperpure polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaic industries.

www.wacker.com