

PRESS RELEASE

Number 10

WACKER OPENS A NEW PLANT FOR FUNCTIONAL SILICONE FLUIDS IN INDIA

Munich / Amtala, March 20, 2018 – Wacker Metroark Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. is expanding its existing silicone production at its Amtala site near Kolkata with a new hydrosilylation plant for manufacturing functional silicone fluids. The plant with an annual capacity of over 6,000 metric tons was officially opened today at a ceremony in Amtala. The expansion is WACKER's response to growing regional demand for specialty silicones for use in the textile, personal-care, rigid and flexible polyurethane foam and agrochemical sectors. The investment for the plant amounts to around €6 million.

“With this expansion of our production, we are broadening our product portfolio and can thereby open up new markets in the growth regions of India and Southeast Asia,” explained Christian Hartel, Executive Board member at Wacker Chemie AG with responsibility for Asia, at the opening ceremony today. “This investment underscores the commitment of WACKER to the Indian market and shows that our company is continuously growing its technical expertise and capacities in Asia.”

Hydrosilylation is a chemical process in which organofunctional groups, such as glycols, olefins or ketones, are “docked” onto the periphery of silicones. This is done in order to modify the properties of

the end product and render a silicone fluid, for example, hydrophobic (water-repellent) or hydrophilic (water-attracting).

Hydrosilylation silicone products reduce the incompatibilities between oils and water, thereby improving the compatibility with organic systems. The second application area of the new products manufactured in Amtala are polyurethane foams, in which functional silicone fluids serve as additives for adjusting the cell structure. Such foams are used in car interior trim and insulation materials. Silicone fluids and emulsions are also used in personal care products (e.g. shampoos), in softeners for the textile industry and in agricultural applications.

“Our new hydrosilylation plant enables us to address promising new markets where we haven’t been represented in India and Southeast Asia until now – for example the market for silicone functional fluids with its many sales opportunities,” said Soumitra Mukherjee, Managing Director of Wacker Metroark Chemicals. “In this way, we intend to secure our position as the market and technology leader for silicones in the region and provide a basis for further growth.”

About Wacker Metroark Chemicals

Wacker Metroark Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. (WMC) has its registered office and production facilities near Kolkata, while sales are headquartered in Mumbai. The company is responsible for all marketing and sales activities in the Indian subcontinent relating to WACKER silicones. WACKER owns a 51 percent share in the joint venture, which was set up in 1998 and is active in Greater India's most important trade centers, maintaining sales offices and warehouses in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai, as well as a liaison office in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Key markets are the

textile, personal care, automotive, construction, transmission and distribution, coatings, plastics, adhesives and packaging sectors. The company markets sealants, silanes and pyrogenic silica in India. WMC currently has 260 employees.



Wacker Metroark Chemicals' new hydrosilylation plant at its Amtala site near Kolkata. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG).

Note:

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

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The Company in Brief:

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 13,800 employees and annual sales of around € 4.9 billion (2017). WACKER has a global network of 23 production sites, 21 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