

News release

Strong demand: Oxea almost doubles specialty ester capacity and evaluates building of new production facilities

Oberhausen, February 28, 2011 – To keep up with growing demand and developments in the marketplace Oxea announces its plans for significant capacity expansion of its range of specialty esters. Oxea's specialty esters are being used to replace traditional phthalate plasticizers. They are all well-known and well researched products currently being used in a broad variety of end-uses like automotive, construction, food and medical applications.

Effective second half 2011 the capacity of the existing ester production unit in Oberhausen will be extended by 40 percent. In order to further boost production capacity for a range of specialty esters Oxea is evaluating to build an additional production unit in Oberhausen. Subject to approval by the relevant authorities the new unit is planned to come on stream in the second half of 2012.

"These substantial capacity expansions support the increasing market shift to phthalate-free plasticizers. With our comprehensive range of products we continue to support the strong demand growth of our customers," said Miguel Mantas, responsible for Sales and Marketing within Oxea's Executive Board.

"An important part of our derivatives strategy is based on the fact that we produce the precursors for the ester production ourselves. This makes us more independent from third party suppliers and improves Oxea's supply flexibility," said Dr. Martina Flöel, spokesperson for the Executive Board of Oxea. "We continue to strategically invest into new capacities and will further develop our specialty chemicals expertise to extend our geographic reach and expand into growth markets," she added.

Oxea is a global manufacturer of Oxo intermediates and Oxo derivatives such as alcohols, polyols, carboxylic acids, specialty esters, and amines. These products are used for the production of high-quality coatings, lubricants, cosmetics and pharmaceutical products, flavorings and fragrances, printing inks and plastics. In the 12 months ending September 2010, Oxea generated revenue of about EUR 1.4 billion with approximately 1,330 employees in Europe, the Americas and Asia.

Further information about Oxea is available at www.oxea-chemicals.com.

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