News

Emery increases capacity

A major new addition to Emery Industries' fatty acid plant came on stream this spring, giving more processing capacity in almost all areas of operation.

Emery Industries, a division of National Distillers and Chemical Corporation, began construction in February 1981 of the \$54 million expansion, the largest ever undertaken by a fatty acid producer, according to a company spokesman. Most of the added facilities involve current Emery processes modified by new technology, and include a new fatty acid still and continuous hydrogenation unit designed by Brown and Root, the only one of its kind in the United States. Continuous hydrogenation means lower costs and fewer staff since the equipment charges and discharges continuously and is producing 24 hours a day. With batch hydrogenation, equipment is emptied and refilled with every run. The purchase of equipment from Electrolyser Corporation allows for the breakdown of water into oxygen and hydrogen, where previously Emery was making its own hydrogen and buying oxygen.

In addition, the facility now will have increased capacity for the production of all grades of stearic acid, dimer and trimer acids, distilled, hydrogenated, tallow and vegetable fatty acids, and a refined natural glycerine. Several premium coconut-derived acids now will be available from the Cincinnati plant in addition to what already is produced at Emery's Los Angeles facilities. The company says the new capacity will enable Emery to meet continued trade sales growth with larger volumes of highly consistent, high quality shipments.

Emery Industries originated as Thomas Emery's Lard Oil Factory in 1840 and now is the world's leading manufacturer of fatty acids. Emery chemicals are produced primarily from renewable natural fats and oils. Animal tallow is the major raw material used at the Cincinnati plant, because it is the best and cheapest source of oleic acid. About 20% of Emery's raw materials consists of petrochemicals. Its products are used as ingredients by a great variety of industries for the manufacture of consumer and industrial products.

Oilfield chemicals forecast

World sales of specialty chemicals for oilfield applications are expected to top sales for any other specialty chemical category over the next decade.

Colin A. Houston and Associates Inc. predicts the demand for oilfield chemicals will pick up as oil production continues to increase due to the economic recovery in industrialized nations and the consequent rise in oil demand. Worldwide demand in 1983 reached \$7.3 billion, and it is estimated that the world's oilfield chemicals market is almost 25 billion pounds.

Houston and Associates plans to publish a worldwide study in January 1985 entitled Chemicals in International Petroleum Exploration and Production—Report and Forecast to 1993. The study will describe the technology applied and chemicals used in oil-producing areas outside North America.



New splitting facility at Emery Industries

News briefs

Gordon K.G. Stevens has been elected chairman and chief executive officer of Lever Brothers, New York, succeeding Michael R. Angus, who has been appointed a member of the three-man Unilever special committee and a vice-chairman of Unilever PLC. Stevens also succeeds Angus as chairman of Unilever United States Inc., the holding company for Unilever's major investments in the United States. He remains a director of Unilever, but has relinquished his responsibilities as director of the marketing division and head of international research.

U.S. Industrial Chemicals Co., a chemicals division of National Distillers and Chemical Corporation, has announced the relocation of its New York headquarters to Cincinnati, effective July 16.

The move brings the headquarters close to the company's major production facilities and research laboratories and also consolidates the interdependent technical, engineering and production departments.

The new headquarters is a 138,000 sq. ft. building on a 10-acre site 15 miles northeast of downtown Cincinnati. National Distillers also is the parent company of the Cincinnati-based Emery Industries.

Finetex Inc. recently introduced Finebase, a new synthetic

News

detergent base developed for the manufacture of cosmetic, toilet and medicated bars. Since the level of active surfactants is high, the moisture content low and the pH 6.0, the company claims that Finebase is an ideal carrier for a variety of skin care additives.

The Color and Chemicals Division of Sandoz Inc., and Sodeyco Inc., both wholly owned subsidiaries of Sandoz United States Inc., have combined operations under the name of Sandoz Chemicals Corporation, based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sodeyco is the largest U.S. manufacturer of sulfur dyes, used to add dark colors to polyester, rayon, cotton and denim. Sandoz Colors and Chemicals supplies dyes, pigments, specialty chemicals, additives and intermediates to a variety of end-users.

Pennwalt Corporation has entered discussions with the Chemical Products Division of Henkel Corporation to sell its U.S. line of B-K specialty chemicals, for cleaning and sanitizing in the dairy and food processing industries. If acquired by Henkel, the B-K business will be made a part of the Bonewitz business unit of its Chemical Products Division.

Four adhesion promoters used in Europe for rust-protective coatings in automobiles are to be produced and sold in the United States by Sherex Chemical Co.

Produced in Europe by Schering A.G., the parent company of Sherex, the adhesion promoters help bind PVC plastisols to metal. The Sherex products are used to improve adhesion of plastisols or paints at critical points such as the undercarriage, rocker panels and welded seams.

Technical data sheets are available from Sherex, PO Box 646, Dublin, OH 43017.

Bertram Cohen, retired technical director of C.B. Dolge Co. of Westport, Connecticut, is a 1984 recipient of ASTM's Award of Merit. Cohen was cited for 25 years of service on ASTM Committee D-12 on Soaps and Other Detergents. He has served as chairman of the subcommittee on specification for soaps and synthetic detergents since 1978.

Calendar

AOCS SHORT COURSES

- AOCS Short Course on Processing and Quality Control of Fats and Oils, April 28-May 1, 1985, Hershey Poconos, PA. Contact: Meetings Coordinator, AOCS, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820.
- AOCS Short Course on Application of Analytical Methodology to Fats and Oils Processing, May 1-4, 1985, Hershey Poconos, PA. Contact: Meetings Coordinator, AOCS, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820.
- AOCS Short Course on Fat Requirements in Health and Disease, May 1-4, 1985, Hershey Poconos, PA. Contact: Meetings Coordinator, AOCS, 508 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Index to Advertisers

Armstrong Engineering Associates	1437
Associated Laboratories, Inc.	1415
Buhler-Miag	1446
CMB Bernardini SpA	Cover 3
Crown Iron Works	Cover 2
Fratelli Gianazza SpA	1417
French Oil Mill Machinery Co.	Cover 4
Henkel Oleochemicals	1422
Lurgi	1410
Mettler	1429
Neumunz, Inc.	1435
Peter Jowett & Company	1421 & 1423
PSI	1425
Quimica Sumex, SA De CV	1409
Roskamp Mfg. Inc.	1431
Simon-Rosedowns Ltd.	1413
Tecator	1439
Tintometer Company	1433

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