

Market report

Economic, political and competitive pressures resulting from environmental concerns will help produce consumption growth rates of 10–15% per year for some specialty surfactants and non-phosphate detergent builders in Western Europe, according to Colin A. Houston & Associates Inc.

In a study entitled "Surfactants for Consumer Products—West Europe Forecast to 1995," the firm said increased growth can be expected as companies change their consumer product formulations in many West European countries. It added that consumer product companies are trying to change the image of their products. Increased concern over phosphate's role in eutrophication has led to a rapid growth in the use of non-phosphate builder systems in detergents, and alcohol ethoxylate consumption is up due to concerns over biodegradation.

Overall surfactant consumption is forecast to rise to \$2 billion by 1995, up from its current level of \$1.7 billion. The study said product trends and growth rates vary widely among the 13 countries and 16 end users surveyed.

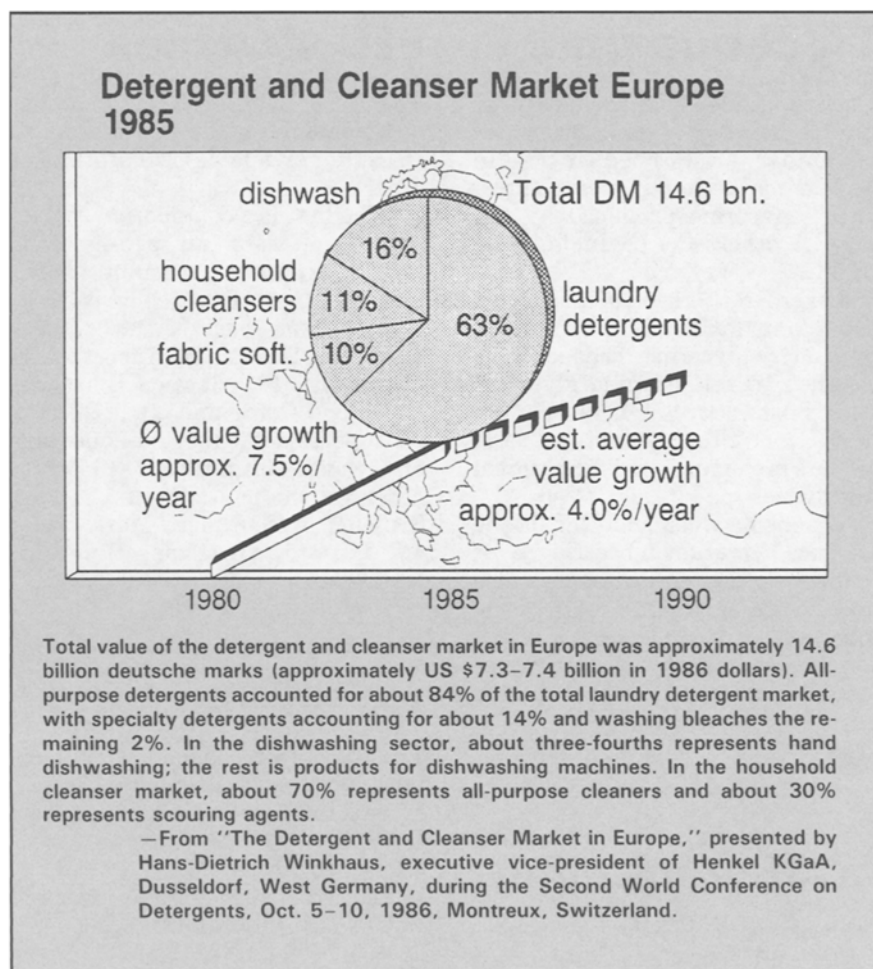
Going public

Vista Chemical Co. in November announced it had filed a statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in preparation for becoming a publicly traded company.

Vista, which went private in July 1984, filed a statement with the SEC for a proposed public offering of 4,448,000 shares of common stock through an underwriting syndicate managed by E.F. Hutton & Co. Inc. Of the shares to be offered, 3,984,000 shares would be sold by the company, while 464,000 shares would be sold by certain selling shareholders.

Meanwhile, Vista has elected a new chairman of the board and named two other members to its board of directors. The additions bring the number of company directors to 11.

Sam S. Segnar, former chairman



and chief executive officer of HNG/InterNorth Inc. (now Enron Corp.), was named the new chairman. He succeeds Gordon A. Cain. Also named to the board were Robert D. Anding, retired president of Exxon Chemical Americas, and E.L. Wehner, formerly vice-chairman of Blocker Energy Corp. and a former managing partner of the Houston office of Arthur Andersen & Co.

Soap plant

The American Soap Co. Inc. has added a continuous neutral fat saponification and glycerine refining plant to its facility at Olive Branch, Mississippi.

The new facility, slated to undergo start-up testing in December and to be online by January, will

have the capacity to produce three metric tons per hour of neat soap from tallow, coconut oil and other fat sources.

PSI Process Systems Inc. of Memphis, Tennessee, was contracted to provide detailed engineering, including a complete software/automation package, for the computerized continuous soap processing plant featuring a Mazzoni process. According to PSI, the production line's continuous saponification system includes washing, neutralization and drying. A glycerine recovery unit using filtration, evaporation and vacuum distillation produces glycerine as a finished by-product. A brine recovery unit also is included.

American Soap, which provides specialty bar soaps to the hotel and motel industry, previously purchased the raw soap materials for its production process.

Glycerine pact

Unichema Chemicals Inc. of Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, in November announced it would assume marketing responsibilities for all glycerine produced by the Lever Brothers Co. beginning Jan. 1, 1987.

Lever Brothers in 1986 opened a new plant facility for producing high purity glycerine. The facility is designed to refine crude glycerine from both soap and fatty acid production. Storage facilities and rail cars are maintained for national distribution.

Unichema Chemicals Inc. is the American marketing affiliate of Unilever oleochemical companies operating worldwide under the business name Unichema International. These companies together annually produce over one billion pounds of oleochemicals and catalysts.

ACSMA meeting

The Australian Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association (ACSMA) will hold its second national convention Feb. 8-10, 1987, at the Regent of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.

Theme of the meeting will be "The Challenge of Change." Topics will include the following: Change, Substitute, Innovate, Revolutionize, Overturn; Specialty Chemicals, Surfboards and the Next Wave; ACTU (Australian Council of Trade Unions) Approaches to Occupational Health and Safety; The Role of Government in Achieving Change; Protection of the Environment within the United Kingdom; Liability Insurance—An Endangered Species; Regulation of Chemicals in Australia; Fires and Chemical Emergencies; The Changing Worldwide Environment in Consumer Product Marketing; and ACSMA—Its Future.

For more information, contact Christine Power, ACSMA Convention 1987, GPO Box 1469N, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.

EEC statistics

The Association Internationale de la Savonnerie et de la Detergence (AIS) has available two statistical reports.

The first is a compilation of AIS members' data on production, import, export and consumption for 1984-85. Cost of the report is 5,000 Belgian francs (approximately \$120-125 US). The second report, AIS document 310, contains European Economic Community (EEC) data on imports and exports of oils, fats and waxes during 1983-1986. To order either, contact Ms. L. Van Sichelien, AIS, Square Marie-Louis 49, B-1040, Brussels, Belgium, telex 23167 fechim b (pour AIS).

No tallow quota

The European Economic Community (EEC) in September officially repealed its quota on imports of U.S. tallow. The measure took effect Sept. 13, 1986.

The EEC had restricted imports of U.S. beef tallow for inedible uses, effective Feb. 15, 1986, as a retaliation measure against a U.S. decision to limit imports of European semi-finished steel.

Benzyl acetate

The National Toxicology Program has issued a technical report describing toxicology and carcinogenesis studies on benzyl acetate, a water-white liquid with pear-like odor that is a natural constituent of several essential oils and flavor absolutes.

Commercial benzyl acetate is used primarily as a component of perfumes for soaps and as a flavoring ingredient. The report indicates the substance is carcinogenic when tested by corn oil gavage in rats. For free copies of the report, ask for report TR250 from the National Toxicology Program Public Information Office, MD B2-04, PO Box 12233, Research Triangle Park, North Caro-

lina 27709. Details: *Federal Register*, Nov. 3, 1986, p. 39917.

News briefs

Velsicol Chemical Corp. has promoted **Charles S. Rigby** to national sales manager, specialty chemicals.

American Hoechst Corp. and **Celanese Corp.** in November announced they had signed an agreement for American Hoechst to acquire Celanese.

Henkel KGaA of Dusseldorf, West Germany, and **Hercules Inc.** of Wilmington, Delaware, in November announced they were forming a joint venture, **The Aqualon Group**, combining their water-soluble polymers assets and businesses. The two companies said the new venture would be established by early 1987 and would consist of two partnerships, Aqualon Co. in Wilmington and Aqualon KG in Dusseldorf.

Obituary

ROBERT A. PHAIR

AOCS has been informed of the death of emeritus member Robert A. Phair, 95, of Greensboro, North Carolina.

Phair had been a member of the society since 1927. When he joined, he was chief of the technical department of the laundry department of H. Kohnstamm & Co. in New York. He earned his B.S. degree from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1915. His experience included work in soaps and detergents, paints, varnishes and lacquers, animal fats and vegetable oils. During his career, he served as a corporate officer, research director, chemist and chemical engineer. When he retired in 1963, he was chairman of the board at H. Kohnstamm & Co.

He became an emeritus member of AOCS in 1964.