

## Surfactant institute

An institute devoted to technological advances and fundamental studies in the surfactant field has been formed at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma.

The new Institute for Applied Surfactant Research formalizes collaborative programs that have existed for several years between faculty members in the chemistry department and the School of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science.

Surfactants research can be applied to enhanced oil recovery, detergents, biotechnology, microelectronics, corrosion inhibition, blood substitutes and environmental technology, including wastewater treatment. The goal of the institute is to perform research directly applicable to industrial concerns and advances.

Companies interested in the institute's surfactants research activities may contact its director, Sherrill Christian, George Lynn Cross research professor of chemistry, telephone 405-325-2054; or the associate director, John F. Scamehorn, associate professor of chemical engineering, telephone 405-325-4382.

## Oilfield chemicals

U.S. and Canadian oilfield chemical consumption is improving after a severe drop in 1986, according to a study by Colin A. Houston & Associates of Mamaroneck, New York.

The market research firm noted that the North American production chemical market was worth \$500 million in 1985, growing by an average 10% per year between

1978 and 1985. However, with the oil price collapse in 1986, over 100,000 wells were shut down or temporarily abandoned. In addition, a number of enhanced oil recovery projects were cancelled, discontinued or held back.

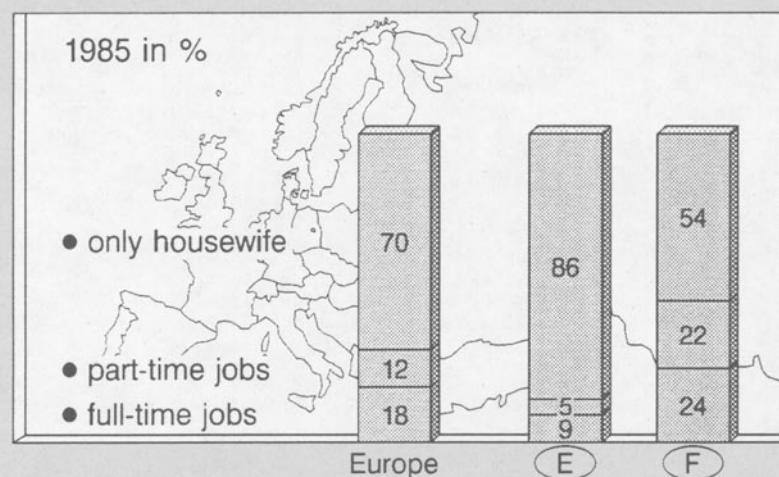
Reverse demulsifiers and water clarifiers are expected to grow over 10% per year from 1985 to 1995 if the price of oil reaches and remains near \$25 per barrel, the firm noted. Corrosion inhibitor usage should surge as deep, hot, gas wells are brought back onstream in the late 1980s. Scale inhibitors also should see brisk growth, it noted.

Further use of secondary and tertiary recovery techniques, coupled with additional stripper well and natural gas production, should boost the market for production chemicals.

The study also covers selected specialty chemicals for drilling and stimulation, including emulsifiers, lubricants, surfactants, corrosion inhibitors and clay stabilizers.

For more information on the study, contact Colin A. Houston & Associates Inc., PO Box 416, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

### Housewife and Job



The answers to how much time is spent doing laundry and how important is a "really clean" wash are related to who does the laundry and when. As in the U.S., more European women are entering the job market, but about 70% of European married women still do not work outside the home. In Spain, about 86% do not work outside the home, whereas in France, slightly less than half have either full- or part-time jobs outside the home.

—From "The Detergent and Cleanser Market in Europe," presented by Hans-Dietrich Winkhaus, executive vice-president of Henkel KGaA, Düsseldorf, West Germany, during the Second World Conference on Detergents, Oct. 5-10, 1986, Montreux, Switzerland.

## Vista department

Vista Chemical Co. has created a corporate planning department and promoted two of its executives, James R. Ball and R.D. (Debs) Gamblin, to senior vice presidents.

The moves were made to increase the company's emphasis on corporate development activities and improve administrative efficiency, according to John D. Burns, president and chief executive officer.

Mark J. Schneider, formerly president of Vista Chemical Far East, will head the new corporate planning department. Ball was named to the new position of commercial senior vice president while Gamblin was named operations senior vice president.

## Alcolac purchase

Alcolac Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland has purchased Cyclo Corp. of Miami, Florida.

Alcolac, a leading manufacturing of specialty surfactants, monomers and intermediates, will establish two Baltimore-based divisions for the management and operation of its business worldwide. Facilities will include Alcolac's existing operations in Baltimore and Sedalia, Missouri, plus Cyclo facilities in Chicago, Illinois, and Los Angeles, California.

Robert Pettus, president of Cyclo, will become vice president and general manager of the surfactants division, while Paul Jones, marketing vice president for Alcolac, will become vice president and general manager of the performance chemicals division. Each division will have its own marketing, sales and technical service organizations.

Products, aimed for manufacturers of personal care products, cleaning compounds and related materials, include alcohol sulfates, alkanolamides, betaines, sulfosuccinates and esters.

## Horizon to build

Horizon Chemical officials are considering several midwestern U.S. locations as the possible site for a detergents plant that will produce surfactants from corn derivatives.

The company still is in the preliminary stages of site selection, but has narrowed the field to fewer than five candidates, according to Chad Curry, director of business development for the A.E. Staley Mfg. Co. subsidiary. Construction is expected to begin in 1988.

Curry said the plant, still in the design phase, will use new processes for producing surfactants from corn. However, the company will buy derivatives rather than start with raw corn, Curry said. The plant is expected to cost more than \$23 million.

## Soap purchase

Colgate-Palmolive Co. has signed a letter of intent to acquire the liquid soap businesses of Minnetonka Corp. in a merger transaction.

Valued between \$60 million and \$65 million on a tax-free basis, the product lines would include the "SoftSoap" brand. The transaction is subject to regulatory and company approvals.

## R&D venture

MacroChem Corp. of Woburn, Massachusetts, has signed an agreement with Shell Chemical Co. for joint research and development of specialty chemicals for use in household and industrial surfactant applications.

According to the agreement, MacroChem will supply polymers based on its patented hydrophilic-lipophilic monomer technology to Shell for testing in potential commercial products. Shell, meanwhile, will assist MacroChem in further extensions of the technology.

## IFSCC abstracts

The deadline for abstracts for Cosmetic Science '88, the 15th international Federation of Societies of Cosmetic Chemists, is Dec. 1, 1987. The meeting will be held Sept. 26-29, 1988, in London, England.

For details, contact the conference secretariat, Mrs. L. Weston, Society of Cosmetic Chemists, Delaport House, 57 Guildford St., Luton, Beds., LU1 2NL, England.

## News briefs

The PQ Corp. has appointed **Steven L. Rock** marketing manager for catalysts in its zeolite group and **Patrick J. Delaney** technical service representative for its industrial chemicals division's eastern region.

**Shiseido Co.** of Japan, a cosmetics firm, has entered the detergents market by selling the new liquid laundry detergent "Yes" in cooperation with **Dow Chemical Co.**

**Akzo** has acquired **Stauffer Chemical's** specialty chemical division

from **Imperial Chemical Industries PLC (ICI)** for \$625 million. The acquisition will allow Akzo to double its North American sales of specialty chemicals. The specialty chemicals segment will be integrated with that of **Akzo Chemie**, a division of Akzo.

**Lion Corp.** of Japan and **Qing Dao** of the People's Republic of China have formed a joint venture to produce and sell dentifrices and mouth hygiene products in China. The new company will be called **Qing Dao Lion Co. Ltd.** Chinese government approval was expected in August, with the plant slated to be online by June 1988.

**Ethyl Corp.** has announced it will expand its alkyldimethylamine production capacity by building a plant in Pasadena, Texas, slated to go online in 1988. Potential markets for the chemical include detergents, disinfectants and sanitizers, oil field chemicals and personal care products.

**Lonza Inc.** has named **American Industrial Chemical Co.** in Smyrna, Georgia and **Prillaman Chemical Corp.** of Martinsville, Virginia, representatives for its specialty amine and carbohydrate division. The lines include quaternary ammonium compounds, betaines, amphoterics and polyols.

**USI Chemicals Co.** has named **Robert K. Gallmann** eastern regional sales manager for polyolefins, **Joseph A. Pagliarulo** regional sales manager for chemicals, **Dana P. Lyons** sales manager for adhesives and specialty polymers and **William C. Sharpe** western regional sales manager for polyolefins.

**De Soto Inc.** has appointed **Eddie Newsome** project chemist and **David Harry** technical manager of surfactants in its chemical specialties division. Newsome will concentrate on the research and development of pesticides for agricultural applications, while Harry will specialize in personal care, industrial and institutional applications of surfactants.