

## Oleochemicals

Approximately 2 billion pounds of fatty acids and methyl esters will be consumed in the U.S. in 1990, according to a Frost & Sullivan report, "U.S. Basic Oleochemical Markets (Fatty Acids and Methyl Esters)."

Consumption in all oleochemical markets is predicted to grow from \$711.7 million in 1987 to \$781.1 million by 1990. The report noted that the derivative market is growing almost twice as fast as the direct use market. End uses for fatty acids, methyl esters and their derivatives include detergents and fabric softeners, food, ink, textiles, cosmetics, personal care products, plastics additives, coatings, lubricants, oilfield chemicals, rubber, paper, mining, candles, asphalt and adhesives.

The report noted that a growing number of fatty acid producers are subsidiaries of large integrated firms; thus, fewer fatty acids and methyl esters appear on the merchant market because most companies meet their internal needs first. Procter & Gamble, the leading producer, mainly consumes its production internally. Together, Witco, Sherex and Emery hold 24% of the market and sell fatty acids, methyl esters and derivatives on the merchant market, according to the report.

## New facilities

Kawaken Fine Chemical Co., Fuji Oil Co. of Japan and Fuji Oil Singapore Co. have established K & FS Pte. Ltd., based in Singapore, to produce and sell alkanol amides for use as raw materials in surfactants.

The new firm expects to complete a production facility near Fuji Oil Singapore's factory in Singapore by the end of 1988. Annual capacity will be 2,500 tons of the surfactant intermediate made from palm kernel oil supplied by Fuji Oil Singapore. The resulting products will be sold in Asia, Europe and America.

Meanwhile, BASF has started up its first domestic specialty amines plant at Geismar, Louisiana. The \$25-million plant complements BASF's amines facilities in Europe and Brazil and enables the company to be a domestic producer of amines.

In addition, Monsanto Chemical Co. has announced plans to build a linear alkylbenzene (LAB) facility with capacity to produce 100 million pounds of product a year. Monsanto said the facility will be built somewhere in North America by 1991. The company said it hopes to have a site selected by the first or second quarter of 1989.

Also, Witco Corp. plans to spend more than \$3.5 million to expand specialty surfactant capacity at its organics division's Houston, Texas, plant. The project, targeted for completion during the first quarter of 1990, will approximately double the plant's current capacity of specialty surfactants manufactured for the personal care, industrial, agricultural and oilfield business sectors.

In other developments, the Emery Division of Quantum Chemical Corp. has broken ground for polyalphaolefin (PAO) plant expansion at its Deer Park, Texas, facility. The addition, expected to be onstream by July 1989, will increase PAO production at the facility from the current 10 million gallons of capacity to 30 million gallons. Continued debottlenecking of the current PAO facility will be completed in January 1989, increasing production to approximately 12 million gallons.

## Reorganization

Colgate-Palmolive Co. has reorganized its European operations in preparation for the single market being targeted by the European Economic Community for 1992.

The New York-based company has appointed a European management board based in Brussels, headed by Brian Bergin, president of Colgate-Palmolive Europe. Bergin is responsible for the newly created pan-European group. The

board will be composed of members of the Colgate Europe management team and general managers of subsidiaries in West Germany, France, the Nordic region and Italy.

Colgate-Palmolive has manufacturing operations in nine European countries.

## News briefs

Vista Chemical Co. has elected Virgil W. Weiss as its vice president for research and development. Weiss formerly was president of Lever Research Inc.

Lonza Inc. has appointed Richard Schanno and Charles J. Good managers of technical service for the company's specialty chemicals division.

Edward Rish has been named textile product manager for PPG/Mazer. As such, Rish is responsible for introducing and expanding the company's line of specialty surfactants and silicones among the nation's textile manufacturers.

Vulcan Chemicals, a division of Vulcan Materials Co., has signed an agreement to purchase the total output of Vista Chemical Co.'s methyl chloride facility in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and to assume Vista's markets for the product. The Vista plant has an annual capacity of 115 million pounds of methyl chloride. Vulcan is constructing a methyl chloride plant of similar capacity at its Geismar, Louisiana, complex, with completion expected in 1991.

DeSoto Inc. announced it would reduce employees by 10% at its corporate headquarters and research center in Des Plaines, Illinois, as a cost-cutting measure.

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