
SURFACTANTS & DETERGENTS NEWS

Henkel begins new fatty alcohol complex

Henkel Corp. has begun building a \$130-million fatty alcohol complex at Henkel/Emery Group's production site in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The complex will include a 40,000-ton-per-year fatty alcohol plant and a 25,000-ton-per-year facility to produce alkyl polyglycosides (APG). A large part of the fatty alcohol produced will be used captively, including major consumption at the APG facility, according to a company announcement. The facilities are scheduled to be completed in 1991. The project was an-

nounced in 1988, but it was not until mid-1989 that Henkel said the facility would be built in Ohio.

Henkel acquired the APG surfactant business from Staley last year. The nonionic surfactants based on fatty alcohols and carbohydrates were developed by Staley's Horizon chemical division.

Coconut oil, palm kernel oil and glucose from cornstarch will be used as feedstocks. Both plants will use Henkel's proprietary technology.

Recently, the Procter & Gam-

ble Co. (P&G) announced it had formed a joint venture with Felda Mills Corp. to build a natural fatty alcohol plant in Malaysia. It is slated for start-up in early 1992. Sherex Chemical Co. Inc. has postponed plans to build a natural alcohol plant in the U.S.

In other business, Henkel is providing technology to Spic Fine Chemicals of India for a facility in Kraikal, India. The plant is being designed to produce 30,000 tons of powdered and extruded detergents a year.



Henkel's new Ambler, Pennsylvania, R&D facility

Henkel opens new research center

Henkel Corporation's new research and development facility at Ambler, Pennsylvania, was officially dedicated during a Sept. 14 ceremony that stressed the theme "Building for the Future."

The 36,000-square-foot facility, which cost approximately \$10 million, will employ 100 research, product development and applications experts.

Henkel Corp., the U.S. operating company of the Henkel Group,

has grown through a series of key acquisitions, most recently the purchase of oleochemical producer Emery from Quantum Chemical. As a result, the company's sales are expected to surpass \$1 billion in 1990. Currently, Henkel Corp. is undertaking a series of investments, including the oleochemical complex in Cincinnati and a \$10 million chlorosulfation plant.

The new center will complement other Henkel R&D efforts,

including the Henkel Group's central laboratories in Duesseldorf, West Germany; a biotechnology laboratory in Santa Rosa, California; and a number of laboratories at U.S. operating divisions and Henkel companies around the world.

The center's mandate is to make advances in metal treatment technologies, radiation curing agents for coatings, environmentally sound chemicals for the pa-

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per industry, and ozone treatment for water purification and waste treatment. It also will focus on the development of a broad new line of surfactants based on Henkel's new APG technology.

Judith C. Giordan, vice president of research and development for Henkel Corp., is head of the new research center.

Shell Chemical starts olefin unit

Shell Chemical Co. has started up a second major linear higher olefins unit at its Geismar, Louisiana, complex. The plant will have an annual capacity of 535 million pounds of alpha olefins as well as significant internal olefins capacity.

Linear higher olefins are being used increasingly in the production of such products as polyethylene, synthetic lubricants, synthetic acids, laundry detergents, shampoos and gasoline additives.

P&G plans center, Japan headquarters

Procter & Gamble Co. (P&G) will build a combined headquarters and technical center in Rokko Island, Japan, a city being constructed in Osaka Bay, according to an announcement from P&G. The company will consolidate its Japan headquarters operations, currently spread over five locations in Osaka, in the center.

Plans include transferring cer-

tain research and development functions now handled in the U.S. to Japan. The technical center, scheduled for completion in 1992, will provide product and packaging development support for both Japan and the Asia Pacific region.

American Cyanamid moves business

American Cyanamid Co. plans to move its "Factice" vulcanized vegetable oils manufacturing operations from Stamford, Connecticut, to the company's facility in Marietta, Ohio, by early 1990.

Cyanamid has operated the specialty manufacturing operations since 1968, when it acquired the Stamford Rubber Co. The products are used as plasticizers and softeners in specialty rubber products and as processing aids.

Petresa develops alkylate process

Madrid-based Petroquimica Espanola SA (Petresa) has announced development of a new process for manufacturing linear alkylbenzene (LAB), used to produce linear alkylbenzene sulfonate (LAS).

The company says the difference between the new process and traditional ones is that Petresa's technology uses a solid fixed-bed catalyst. Catalysts applied in existing commercial production are hydrofluoric acid and aluminum trichloride, which must be continuously regenerated or recovered in special installations, Petresa said. The new catalyst is inert and contained in a fixed-bed reactor similar to petroleum/petrochemical processes, according to the company. Petresa is operating a pilot program based on the new process at its facilities in San Roque, Spain.

News briefs

Lever Brothers Co.'s research laboratory, **Lever Research Inc.**, based

in Edgewater, New Jersey, has been renamed **Unilever Research U.S. Inc.** **Chester Szymanski** has been named president of Unilever Research U.S. Inc.

Hercules Inc. has completed its acquisition of **Henkel KGaA's** share of the **Aqualon Group**, a joint venture of Hercules and Henkel formed in 1987.

FMC has announced it is cutting back sodium tripolyphosphate (STPP) production by 150 million pounds per year at its Newark, California, site as a result of reduced phosphate use in detergents. The company will continue to operate its 225,000-ton-a-year unit at Green River, Wyoming, and a smaller unit at Lawrence, Kansas.

Union Camp Corp. has reorganized its Chemical Products Division into four profit centers. The four units are Adhesives, Inks & Coatings, Union Camp Chemicals (UK) Ltd. and Oleochemicals. **W. Patrick Lacy** has been named business manager for the oleochemicals unit.

Paul Laura has been appointed marketing manager and **Arthur Sacco** has been named business manager for specialty products at **Witco Corp.** Also, **George N. Marakas** has been named product manager of amides and **Verdell Cathey** has been named product manager of esters; both work for **Witco's Humko Chemical Division.**

An explosion Sept. 12 at a **Quantum Chemical Corp.** plant in Morris, Illinois, killed one person and injured 17 others. The blast occurred during the early morning hours shortly after a gas leak was detected in the ethylene unit of the plant. Operations in parts of the plant were expected to resume about a week after the incident, according to a company announcement, but there was no estimate as to when the section directly involved in the explosion, the ethylene unit, would resume production. There was an explosion and fire during June at the same plant.



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