

Dyes & Chemicals

Formaldehyde-free Helizarin® pigment printing system by BASF

The latest generation of the established Helizarin® textile pigment printing system from BASF is now formaldehyde-free. As a result, textile producers can now meet all regulatory standards, as well as the requirements of leading retailers and brands related to formaldehyde without any additional measures. High quality textile printing is guaranteed with optimum running properties of the print paste on the printing machine and the highest quality standards are met.

Formaldehyde-releasing compounds are widely used as crosslinkers in the textile industry for applications such as resin finishing, pigment printing, pigment dyeing and coating. However, regulatory standards, as well as the requirements of leading retailers and brands are becoming increasingly strict. In pigment printing, not only the crosslinker, but also the binder and thickener are the main sources of formaldehyde. These components, as well as other auxiliaries, make up the medium that fixes the pigments on the textile.

For this reason, BASF has developed a new crosslinker (Helizarin® Fixing Agent TX 4737) with reactive centers that are free of formaldehyde. In addition, a formaldehyde-free binder (Helizarin® Binder TX 4738) has been developed that is suited to the new crosslinker. "Developing a formaldehyde-free crosslinker and binder, as well as adapting the printing recipe to get the quality required, was very challenging," explains Dr. Karl Siemensmeyer, who was responsible for the development of the products. Together with BASF's existing formaldehyde-free thickeners, the new products form a formaldehyde-free Helizarin® pigment printing system. Extensive tests have shown that formaldehyde levels on the textile before and after the printing process are unchanged.

"Product safety and environmental protection are our top priority when developing new products," states Siemensmeyer. The new formaldehyde-free Helizarin® pigment printing system further strengthens BASF's eco-friendly product lineup.

The product range of BASF's Performance Chemicals for Textiles includes products and concepts for weaving, pretreatment, optical brightening, conventional and digital printing, coating and finishing, as well as dyeing auxiliaries.

Cognis retains M&A specialists for review of Pulcra Chemicals

Specialty chemicals supplier Cognis has recently announced that it has invited mergers and acquisitions specialists Lincoln International to conduct a review of the strategic options for its Pulcra Chemicals subsidiary.

Cognis' Process Chemicals strategic business unit became a legally separate company, trading under the name of Pulcra Chemicals. This step was taken as a result of Cognis' decision to concentrate on the three core business areas of Care Chemicals, Nutrition & Health and Functional Products. Pulcra Chemicals supplies process chemicals to the textile and leather industries. Lincoln International is an investment bank that specializes in M&A transactions, and it has been tasked with finding a suitable investor or partner for Pulcra Chemicals who can help it to develop its business successfully.

Pulcra Chemicals develops and markets products tailored to individual specifications at a competitive cost, backed with a full advisory and after-sales service for customers. The company operates production sites and service centers in Germany, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and the USA.

In 2006, the Process Chemicals strategic business unit recorded sales of textile and leather products worth 258 million euros, an increase of 4.1% on the previous year. This growth was primarily driven by strong demand in the Asia-Pacific region.

Cognis is a worldwide supplier of innovative specialty chemicals and nutritional ingredients, with a particular focus on the areas of wellness and sustainability. The company employs about 8,000 people, and it operates production sites and service centers in 30 countries.

The subsidiary Pulcra Chemicals offers specialized chemical products and process expertise to customers in the fiber, textile, and leather industries. Cognis also holds a 50% stake in the joint venture Cognis Oleochemicals. In 2006, Cognis recorded sales of 3.37 billion euros and an Adjusted EBITDA (operating result) of 394 million euros (www.cognis.com)

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Textile Effects introduces 'Sun Protection for kids'

Over exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR) in childhood is considered to be a critical factor for developing skin cancer in later life. Reacting to growing interest in prevention through appropriate clothing, fabrics treated with High IQ® Sun Protection for Kids will prevent harmful rays from reaching and burning children's skin. Garments qualifying for the High IQ® Sun Protection for Kids will provide the wearer with the highest level of protection against the sun's UV-A and UV-B rays.

High IQ, which represents Innovation and Quality, is Huntsman's global branding program for innovative textile color and finishing effects. The seven 'intelligent' effects, encompassing a broad array of performance features, will give manufacturers in the ready-to-wear, active wear, children's and swimwear markets the ability to deliver meaningful product innovation to their consumers.

"At Huntsman we recognize the growing awareness and demand from consumers for sun protection for kids," says Lee Howarth, Brand Manager of High IQ. "This latest addition to the line up helps to ensure that children's clothes will not only be fashionable but will provide them with the maximum level of protection against the sun's harmful rays".

Huntsman's High IQ collection now consists of seven products that provide features and benefits to meet today's consumers' desire in their clothing. These effects can be used individually or combined to provide multiple benefits in the finished product:

- ❖ Sun Protection for Kids UPF 50+ added in the garment protects children's skin from harmful effects of both UV-A and UV-B rays.
- ❖ Comfort repels water on the outside surface and wick moisture on the inside without visible show through. The finish leaves the garment silky soft. Consumers stay dry and comfortable and don't have to endure unsightly perspiration marks.
- ❖ Lasting Color helps fabrics retain their original color. Bright colors remain vibrant and darks stay deep and true, wash after wash, so clothes keep looking newer longer.
- ❖ Sun Protection special agents added to the garment shields consumers from the harmful effects of both UV-A and UV-B rays.
- ❖ Easy Care Plus ensures that clothes go from dryer to hanger without a stop at

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the ironing board. And the Plus? Special processing makes fabrics soft and silky to the touch.

- ❖ Comfort gives garments state-of-the-art moisture management properties with an incredibly soft hand, so consumers don't have to sacrifice comfort for performance.
- ❖ Freshness prevents unpleasant odors from being absorbed by the garment. Consumers feel fresh and clean even after a workout at the gym.

"We call these effects High IQ because they provide intelligent solutions to the demands consumers make of their clothes," says Howarth, "and, they are also smart for manufacturers". High IQ products are engineered to be easily incorporated into normal production processes. In addition, High IQ meets the Oeko-Tex Standard 100, GOTS, SKAL and others to ensure that they are safe for the consumer, the plant worker, and the environment in keeping with Huntsman's policy of social responsibility.

BASF increases price for PolyTHF® worldwide

BASF is increasing the sales price for PolyTHF® (Polytetrahydrofuran) worldwide by US\$150 per metric ton or equivalents in local currencies. The price adjustment for PolyTHF® is triggered by strong demand from all market segments and supported by continuously high raw materials and energy costs.

PolyTHF® is primarily used to make elastic spandex fibers in sportswear and swimsuits. It is also important as an intermediate for thermoplastic polyurethanes (TPU) used for hoses, films and cable sheathing. Further applications are thermoplastic polyetheresters or polyetheramides and cast elastomers, which are used in the manufacturing of wheels for skateboards and inline skates.

Dow Chemical Company announces a price increase for acrylates

The Dow Chemical Company and its affiliates ("Dow") has announced off-schedule price increases for acrylic acid and esters, also known as acrylic monomers or acrylates, effective October 1, 2007, or as otherwise allowed by individual contract terms.

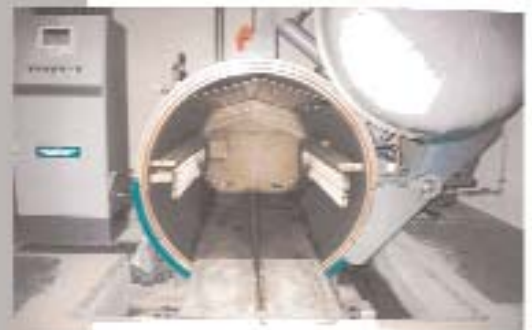
Dow will increase off-schedule prices for butyl acrylate, 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, and glacial acrylic acid globally as follows:

- in North America by US\$0.03 per pound.
- in Asia Pacific by US\$70 per metric ton.
- in Middle East/Africa by US\$70 per metric ton.
- in Latin America by US\$70 per metric ton.
- in Europe by 50 Euros per metric ton.

"Strong demand, planned and unplanned production outages at several North American producers, and limited availability of key alcohols have contributed to a considerable tightening of the acrylates market in recent weeks," explained Mark Bassett, global business director for the Acrylic Monomers business of The Dow Chemical Company. "The decrease in imports into North America is further evidence of the cost, supply-demand, and margin compression issues." In addition, propylene, a key raw material, remains at record-high levels, with no expectations for significant relief for the remainder of the year.

Dow is one of the largest participants in the acrylic acid and esters (acrylic monomers or acrylates) marketplace, with a complete portfolio of acrylate materials that provide selection, quality and consistency for a wide range of applications. Acrylic monomers are used in dispersions and emulsions for adhesives, coatings, inks, woven and non-woven textiles, plastics and polymers and superabsorbent products.

Further information about acrylic monomers or acrylates can be obtained from www.DowAcrylates.com. ♦



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Dow Corning Plasma Solutions' Deposition Technology

Dow Corning Plasma Solutions is a leading global developer of atmospheric plasma-coating equipment, materials and processes for a wide range of markets, including automotive, biotechnology, construction (e.g., windows), electrical and electronics, healthcare (e.g., medical devices), general industrial manufacturing, packaging (e.g., food and beverage, pharmaceutical) and technical textiles.

Dow Corning's Plasma Solutions group has licensed its atmospheric pressure plasma liquid deposition (APPLD) technology for commercial coating on one of its SE-1000 AP4 systems to Weinheim, Germany-based company Freudenberg Forschungsdienste KG. After working with Dow Corning for several years to co-develop plasma-coated products and manufacturing processes, Freudenberg is now ready to begin commercially producing a variety of APPLD-processed products in a roll-to-roll process modifying flexible substrates such as woven and nonwoven fabrics or polymer films.

The aim of the collaboration between Dow Corning and Freudenberg is to push the commercial use of APPLD technology in the European market. Freudenberg provides product development and toll manufacturing using Dow Corning's APPLD technology via its SE-1000 AP4 coating system.

Dow Corning's APPLD technology allows users to engineer the surface of virtually any substrate by applying extremely thin coatings of various materials that chemically bond to the underlying substrate. Coatings can have a wide range of characteristics, such as waterproofing, low-friction slickness, adhesion promotion or antimicrobial properties. The energy-efficient APPLD process operates at near room temperature, uses no water, solvents or surfactants and has negligible waste disposal or recycling needs. This collaboration allows Dow Corning to leverage 60 years of Dow Corning surface-science experience to deliver a total solution, from manufacturing equipment to chemical precursors to processing know-how.

Freudenberg Forschungsdienste KG decided to use plasma coating because of its unique capabilities and because it is a remarkably green technology. "Dow Corning's APPLD technology gives us the chance to develop and manufacture customized textiles and other flexible materials with novel, tailor-made properties. In addition, the APPLD technology complies

DyStar acquires the Indian test institute Texanlab and expands its service offer

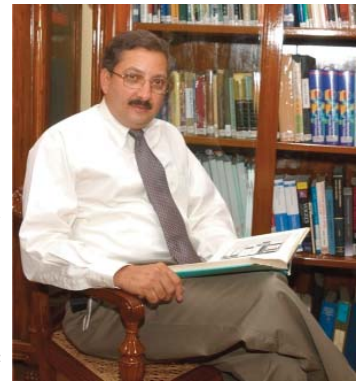
DyStar, a leading supplier of products and services to the textile industry, has signed an agreement to acquire a majority stake in Texanlab, the Thane, India, based textile testing institute. The agreement, details of which will not be disclosed, will allow DyStar to expand its global service offer. Texanlab will continue to operate independently.

Texanlab was founded in 1973 and is one of the largest independent textile testing institutes in Asia. Located in four cities in India, Texanlab is an accredited test institute for international brands and retailers. The laboratory has 95 employees and performs third-party quality-control testing on garments, made-ups, textiles, and on dyes and auxiliaries used in textile processing. Apart from testing, the company also analyzes fabric defects. Texanlab is a leading institute in the area of ecological testing.

Ullhas Nimkar, former proprietor of Texanlab, is upbeat about the acquisition: "We look forward to working with DyStar. It serves the textile industry worldwide and has extensive expertise in textile manufacturing. Together we will be an even stronger partner for our customers and can play an even greater role in the fast-growing textile testing market in Asia".

DyStar sees Texanlab as a key step forward in providing comprehensive solutions that add value throughout the textile industry's supply chain. Texanlab's portfolio is an excellent fit with its Testing Solutions and Ecological Solutions service packages. Peter Zinser, Head of DyStar's Asia-Pacific Region, stresses the significance of this acquisition: "Texanlab is a big addition to our range of products and services for the textile industry. It supports our vision of building a bridge between international textile retailers, brands and mills in Asia. We facilitate color development and color communication and help our customers with implementation in the textile mills. Through Texanlab we can now test textiles to ensure they meet the necessary quality and ecological specifications."

DyStar is owned by Los Angeles-based investment firm, Platinum Equity and is the global market leader in textile dyes and has steadily expanded its offering for the textile industry. In 2002 it acquired Color Solutions, the leading supplier of color standards for the textile industry, and now offers the most extensive and best-established color communication system on the market. Following the acquisition of Rotta in 2005 and Boehme in 2006, DyStar now supplies a full range of textile auxiliaries as well as textile dyes and services. ♦



Ullhas Nimkar, former proprietor of Texanlab.



Texanlab is an accredited test institute for international brands and retailers.

with strict European environmental regulations and saves energy, raw material and waste, compared to traditional wet-chemical methods" he said.

With 240 employees, Freudenberg Forschungsdienste is the central R&D partner for all Freudenberg companies and offers development tasks, testing and analytical services to external customers. It is an important part of Freudenberg New Technologies together with New Business

Development and Venturing. For more information on Freudenberg Forschungsdienste, please visit <http://www.forschungsdienste.de/>.

Freudenberg is a family-owned company offering its customers technically challenging product solutions and services. The Freudenberg Group employs over 33,000 people in 53 countries and generates sales of some 5 billion Euros. ♦