

Milestone in Marl: Minister President Armin Laschet inaugurates world's largest polyamide 12 complex

- High-performance polymers for new technologies in future markets
- Investment of around half a billion euros
- Industrial production creates value and jobs in Germany

Marl, Germany. Today, Evonik is celebrating a milestone in its history. Construction work on the new polyamide 12 complex at Marl Chemical Park is virtually complete and it will be taken into operation this year. Evonik has invested around half a billion euros in this future-oriented project. That is the largest investment in the company's history in Germany.

Armin Laschet, Minister President of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, applauded the project: "This complex stands for the future viability of our state. Investing in this state-of-the-art complex creates new, highly skilled jobs. Policy-makers need to do everything they can in the future to ensure that such investments are made here in Germany and not in other countries."

The high-performance polymer polyamide 12 is used in attractive growth markets such as 3D printing, medical technology, automotive engineering, and as substitute for steel. Evonik's sites in Asia also offered attractive conditions for the construction of the world's most modern PA 12 complex.

Minister President Armin Laschet: "Evonik's decision to build its new polyamide 12 complex here is further strong evidence of the attractiveness of our federal state. Politicians have to make sure that economic policy provides the right conditions. If we, as the state government, had not started to dismantle unnecessary and restrictive regulations and free up the economy as soon as we took office, this facility might now be in Asia. To make Germany climate-neutral yet ensure it remains an industrial hub, we need a decade of modernization in which we reduce bureaucracy and speed up our planning and permitting processes."

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Christian Kullmann, chairman of Evonik's executive board, praised the fact that the new complex can start operating this year despite the pandemic-related restrictions as a "masterstroke by our team." He added: "Three years ago, we decided to produce this leading high-tech German product for the world market here in the Ruhr region. We have kept our word and completion of the demanding construction phase is almost on schedule. That creates growth, value, and jobs."

Construction of the new complex has been virtually completed in just under two years. The individual process units will now be taken into regular operation step-by-step. Full start-up is scheduled for the fourth quarter. The complex creates 120 new highly skilled jobs. At the same time, it increases Evonik's production capacity for this high-performance polymer by more than 50 percent and gives it the world's largest PA 12 production complex in Marl (Germany).

"The strength of this German site is largely due to the outstanding qualifications and motivation of the employees and the creative force of Germany's codetermination system," said Michael Vassiliadis, head of the IG-BCE industrial union. "Evonik's decision in favor of Marl is excellent proof of that. We need to build carefully on these strengths."

Bernd Tönjes, chairman of Evonik's supervisory board, stressed the enormous importance of the interaction between the company, politicians, and representatives of the workforce. "If we want to continue the successful model that has made German industry strong and driven its global success, we need to do it together." The chemical industry needs to find answers to the pressing issues of the future such as climate change. "The chemical industry is not the problem; it is part of the solution," said Tönjes.

Evonik has been developing customized high-performance polymers for demanding applications for more than 50 years and is a global leader in the production of PA 12. VESTAMID® compounds benefit from high demand in attractive markets, while the PA 12 powder VESTOSINT® is used, for example, to coat

metals for consumer goods, dishwasher baskets, and parts used in the automotive industry. For many years, Evonik has also developed special polymer powders that enable industrial production of high-tech components using 3D printing.

Company information

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €12.2 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €1.91 billion in 2020. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable and sustainable solutions for customers. About 33,000 employees work together for a common purpose: We want to improve life today and tomorrow.

About Smart Materials

The Smart Materials division includes businesses with innovative materials that enable resource-saving solutions and replace conventional materials. They are the smart answer to the major challenges of our time: environment, energy efficiency, urbanization, mobility and health. The Smart Materials division generated sales of €3.24 billion in 2020 with about 7,900 employees.

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