Press release

Evonik starts Medical Devices Project House in the USA – new materials and system solutions for medical technology

- Chief Innovation Officer Dr. Peter Nagler: "The new Medical Devices Project House is another step toward the internationalization of our R&D activities."
- Focus on growth market of medical technology
- Eleventh project house of the specialty chemicals company

Evonik Industries is launching the Medical Devices Project House early in April. The eleventh project house of Evonik has its main campus in Birmingham, Alabama (USA), along with a branch in Hanau (Germany). The aim of the new Medical Devices Project House is to develop new system solutions for medical technology and to expand the competencies of Evonik in the areas of biomaterials and polymers. Above all, it will address applications in implantology.

Dr. Peter Nagler, Chief Innovation Officer at Evonik, says: "In the new Medical Devices Project House, we are pooling and expanding the interdisciplinary competencies of Evonik in the area of medical technology and biomaterial research. By locating it in the USA, we are continuing to internationalize our R&D activities." The specialty chemicals company already started the Light & Electronics Project House in Taiwan in the year 2011.

"We want to open up new growth opportunities for Evonik on the medical technology market with innovative products," says Nagler. The global medical technology market with a volume of €300 billion is posting annual growth rates of 6 percent. At 40 per cent, the USA accounts for a major proportion of this world market and U.S. companies hold leading positions, above all in the area of implantology. Additional important markets for medical devices include Europe and Japan. Evonik is already a provider of targeted specialty applications in the area of medical technology. Examples are VESTAKEEP® PEEK and RESOMER® PLA, biocompatible synthetics for implant materials, and VESTAMID® Care, a polyamide molding compound that is used, among other things, as catheter material. Additional products for medical technology applications include PMMA and methacrylate copolymers, which Evonik supplies

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under the brand name DEGACRYL®. They are used as a high-quality raw material for bone cement and dental applications.

The work areas addressed by the Medical Devices Project House are closely focused on current and future customer needs in the area of medical technology. "Innovative solutions in medical technology, such as functional biomaterials, are excellently suited for meeting the demand for ever-more compatible and safer medical products and for implementing new therapeutic concepts," explains Dr. Rosario Lizio, who heads the Medical Devices Project House. "Our location in Birmingham places our research at the center of the highly attractive U.S. market with great proximity to our customers. At the same time, we benefit from the expertise of the Health Care Business Line of Evonik, which manages the site in Birmingham." Among other products, the Health Care Business Line manufactures polymers for medical devices and offers a broad service spectrum, ranging from active ingredients to intelligent drug delivery systems.

Project houses are part of the strategic innovation unit at Evonik

In the project houses, Creavis, the strategic innovation unit of Evonik, works together with several business units on a defined topic area. In a project house, experts from the participating business units generally come together for a period of three years and work jointly on the development topics of that particular project house. After the end of that period, the researchers return to their business units. The products and technologies developed in the project houses are typically marketed by a business unit. Since the year 2000, Evonik has created a total of eleven project houses.

Including the Medical Devices Project House, three project houses are currently active: The Light & Electronics Project House in Taiwan is researching new technologies and products for the display, LED, and lighting industry, and the Composites Project House in Marl is dealing with new materials and system solutions for the lightweight construction sector.

For Evonik, great innovative power drives profitable growth and strengthens leading market and technology positions. In the year

2013, Evonik spent €394 million on research and development, in order to offer innovative products, solutions, and methods to customers and partners. This is made possible by a global R&D network of around 2,600 employees in a variety of disciplines at about 35 sites.

Company information

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. Profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company form the heart of Evonik's corporate strategy. Its activities focus on the key megatrends health, nutrition, resource efficiency and globalization. Evonik benefits specifically from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms.

Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world. In fiscal 2013 more than 33,500 employees generated sales of around €12.9 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.0 billion.

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