

## AkzoNobel and Evonik start membrane electrolysis operation

February 13, 2018

- Plant produces potassium hydroxide solution, chlorine and hydrogen
- Environmentally friendly method
- Project fully completed within budget and on schedule

**Ibbenbüren.** The production of Neolyse Ibbenbüren GmbH, a joint venture of AkzoNobel Specialty Chemicals and Evonik Industries AG at the AkzoNobel site in Ibbenbüren (Germany), is off to a successful start.

The plant with its state-of-the-art membrane technology has an annual capacity of 120,000 metric tons of potassium hydroxide solution and 75,000 metric tons of chlorine and hydrogen.

Operated by AkzoNobel, the facility strengthens the respective leading positions of both companies. AkzoNobel commercializes chlorine and hydrogen, while Evonik distributes the locally produced potassium hydroxide solution and processes parts of it into other products such as potassium carbonate, potassium bicarbonate and potassium formate at its Lülisdorf site.

“The Ibbenbüren facility sets a completely new standard for the chlor-alkali industry,” said Werner Fuhrmann, Chairman of the AkzoNobel Specialty Chemicals Executive Board, during the official opening ceremony of the new facility. “It enables us to secure the supply of our customers in the long term while further improving our company’s sustainability profile and operational efficiency.”

The new production process at the site improves the ecological footprint of every metric ton of chlorine produced in Ibbenbüren by 25 to 30 percent, resulting in lower energy consumption and fewer CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. “We demonstrated throughout the course of the project that two experienced partners can contribute their diverse experience to intelligently shape their business environment. We complement each other very well and look forward to

**Contact person specialized press**

**Dr. Ulrich Kläres**

Performance Materials  
Communications

Phone: +49 6151 18-3707

Fax: +49 6151 18-3719

Mobile: +49 171 862 82 77

ulrich.klaeres@evonik.com

**Jutta Hobbiebrunken**

Head of Corporate Communications  
DACH

Phone: + 49 221 995 85 860

Fax: + 49 221 995 85 920

Mobile: + 49 172 846 03 92

jutta.hobbiebrunken@akzonobel.com

**Evonik Performance**

**Materials GmbH**

Rellinghauser Straße 1-11

45128 Essen

Germany

Phone +49 201 177-01

Fax +49 201 177-3475

www.evonik.com

**Supervisory Board**

Dr. Harald Schwager, Chairman

**Managing Directors**

Johann-Caspar Gammelmin, Chairman

Dr. Michael Pack,

Magdalena Wagner,

Rainer Wobbe

Registered Office Essen

Register Court

City Local Court Essen

Commercial Registry B 25779



continuing our collaboration, which benefits our customers and therefore ultimately also the market for potassium hydroxide,” noted Dr. Harald Schwager, Deputy Chairman of the Evonik Executive Board, on the occasion of opening the plant.

AkzoNobel Specialty Chemicals is the market leader for industrial salt, chlorine and chloromethanes in Europe.

Evonik is the European market leader for potassium hydroxide solution and potassium derivatives as well as a leading global provider of alcoholates with a production site in Lülsdorf (Germany).

### Company information

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Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The focus on more specialty businesses, customer-orientated innovative prowess and a trustful and performance-oriented corporate culture form the heart of Evonik's corporate strategy. They are the lever for profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company. Evonik benefits specifically from its customer proximity and leading market positions. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world with more than 35,000 employees. In fiscal 2016, the enterprise generated sales of around €12.7 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.165 billion.

#### About Performance Materials

The Performance Materials Segment is managed by Evonik Performance Materials GmbH. The segment focuses its global activities on developing and manufacturing polymer materials and intermediates, especially for use in agriculture and in the rubber and plastics industry. In 2016, the segment's roughly 4,400 employees generated sales about €3.2 billion.

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**About AkzoNobel Specialty Chemicals** Industries worldwide rely on our essential chemistry in the manufacture of everyday products such as paper, plastics, building materials, and personal care items. Building on the dedication of our employees and our shared commitment to safety, sustainability, and open innovation, we have established a world-class business and built strong partnerships with our customers. We operate in over 80 countries around the world and our portfolio of industry leading brands includes Eka, Dissolvine, Trigonox, and Berol.

#### About AkzoNobel

AkzoNobel creates everyday essentials to make people's lives more liveable and inspiring. As a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals, we supply essential ingredients, essential protection and essential color to industries and consumers worldwide. Backed by a pioneering heritage, our innovative products and sustainable technologies are designed to meet the growing demands of our fast-changing planet, while making life easier. Headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we have approximately 46,000 people in around 80 countries, while our portfolio includes well-known brands such as Dulux, Sikkens, International, Interpon and Eka. Consistently ranked as a leader in sustainability, we are dedicated to energizing cities and communities while creating a protected, colorful world where life is improved by what we do.