

SOLVAY EXPANDS ITS HIGH-PURITY WET CHEMICALS BUSINESS IN THE CHINESE ELECTRONIC MARKET

Investment in upgrading to electronic grade hydrogen fluoride for photovoltaic panels

Solvay announced today that it had decided together with its Chinese partner Sinochem Lantian to build a new electronic grade hydrogen fluoride production installation for Lansol Fluorchem Co, Ltd., Solvay's joint venture with Zhejiang Lantian Environmental Protection Co, Ltd., a subsidiary of Sinochem Lantian Group. Commercial products of the new installation will be available by the end of this year.

Under this agreement, sales of this electronic grade hydrogen fluoride will be made available to the market via a dedicated Electronic Wet Chemicals Company. In addition Solvay has agreed a contract with Lansol for the transfer of Solvay's technology in order to provide Lansol with the technology needed to produce the high-value electronic grades, which are used in the electronics industry, particularly for the production of photovoltaic cells.

"The new contracts with our Chinese partner offer Solvay the possibility to expand and upgrade its presence as a technology leader in the growing Chinese market for ultra pure wet chemicals", said Eric Mignonat, General Manager of the Strategic Business Unit Peroxides of Solvay. "Solvay demonstrates by these important developments in China how it continues to advance its strategy of geographical expansion into high end markets with a strong growth potential in China and the neighboring countries", Olivier du Roy, Country Manager Greater China of Solvay, added.

"The contracts will consolidate the strategic cooperation between Sinochem Lantian and Solvay and strengthen the basis for future joint projects. They are also aligned with Sinochem Lantian's strategy for the development of its fluorine chemical business", commented Shuiyao Wang, deputy General Manager of Sinochem Lantian Group. Wang also emphasized "electronic hydrogen fluoride is considered a high-end product for which China's requirements are met largely by imports today. The cooperation with Solvay enables China's fluorine industry to acquire this technology in short time, and makes it possible for meeting the enormous demand generated by the rapid growth of China's high-tech industries".

LANSOL FLUORCHEM Co, Ltd. is a joint venture of the Chinese fluorochemicals producer Zhejiang Lantian Environmental Protection Co., Ltd. (70%) and Solvay (30%) based in Quzhou, Zhejiang, which currently produces technical grades of purified hydrogen fluoride. As well as serving the Chinese market, Lansol is also an important exporter to the whole region.

SINOCEM LANTIAN is a subsidiary of Sinochem Group. It is China's leading integrated fluorine chemical company which has established a fully industrial chain of fluorspar, ODS substitutes, fluorine polymers and fluorine fine chemicals.

SINOCEM is China's biggest integrated agricultural company with fertilizer, pesticide and seed product. It has five business segments including agricultural, energy, chemical, real estate and finance. It is China's fourth largest oil company and leading chemical service provider. It also enjoys strong influence in China's high-end commercial real estate market and non-banking financial market. More details are available at www.sinochem.com.

SOLVAY is an international industrial Group active in Chemistry. It offers a broad range of products and solutions that contribute to improving quality of life. The Group is headquartered in Brussels and employs about 19,000 people in 50 countries. In 2009, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 8.5 billion. Solvay is listed on the NYSE Euronext stock exchange in Brussels (NYSE Euronext: [SOLB.BE](http://www.nyse.com/quote/NYSE:SOLB) - Bloomberg: [SOLB.BB](http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/SOLB:BB) - Reuters: [SOLBt.BR](http://www.reuters.com/quote/SOLBt:BR)). Details are available at www.solvay.com.

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