

Evonik starts operating membrane coating facility

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Evonik Industries further steps up its activities in the attractive membrane business. The specialty chemicals company recently started operating a thin-film composites plant to coat membranes for use in organic solvent nanofiltration and gas separation at its Marl site in Germany.

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Evonik is a global leader in the area of organic solvent nanofiltration, an innovative technology for particularly effective material separation in organic solvents. The Group's hydrophobic polyimide membranes, sold under the brand names DuraMem® and PuraMem®, are used in processes such as the efficient recovery of valuable homogeneous catalysts, solvent recycling, or gentle processing of natural oils.

In the new thin-film composite plant, thin membrane films are coated with special silicone or other materials. The resulting composite membranes are then turned into solvent-resistant or gas-tight spiral-wound modules in a further production process. The corresponding silicone coating, also manufactured by Evonik, is a key factor for the separation properties of the membrane.

Access to advanced membrane technology

“The start-up of the thin-film composite plant is a consistent step in our growth plan for the attractive membrane business,” notes Dr. Matthias Kottenhahn, head of the High Performance Polymers Business Line at Evonik. “It gives our customers direct access to an advanced membrane technology for resource-efficient material separation.”

With its investment in Marl, Evonik Industries is now creating the prerequisite for the continuous expansion of its membrane portfolio with attractive new products. The Group is also using its

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membrane products for the optimization and new design of proprietary production processes.

New product to be launched

The start-up also marked the production launch of the third generation of DuraMem® and PuraMem® membranes. Their market introduction is planned for the second half of the current year.

Thanks to membrane coatings that are customized at the molecular level, Evonik's membrane technology offers the advantages of lower energy consumption, higher yield, and particularly high separation precision.

For further information please visit our website at www.evonik.com/puramem



Caption: Evonik has started to operate a thin-film composites plant to coat membranes for use in organic solvent nanofiltration.



Caption: *Evonik has started to produce the third generation of DuraMem® and PuraMem® membranes.*

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 2015 more than 33,500 employees generated sales of around €13.5 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.47 billion.

Evonik Industries has been producing specialty chemical products in the Greater China region (Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan) since the late 1970's; with wide-ranging trading relations already in place prior to this in the region. Evonik regards Greater China as one of the driving forces of the global economy and we consequently endeavor to grow our business in the region. The company now has around 3,000 employees in the Greater China region, the regional sales reached over €1.3 billion in 2015.

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