

Braskem inaugurates the world's largest green ethylene plant

Details of this landmark project will be presented by the company's CEO at a press conference

in the next K fair, in Dusseldorf, on 28/10

Braskem inaugurated the world's largest plant to produce ethylene-from-ethanol in Triunfo, in the Brazilian southern state of Rio Grande do Sul on September 24th. With a production capacity of 200,000 tons of green polyethylene per year, this landmark project is equipped with technology developed by the Brazilian company, requiring investments worth US\$ 278 million.

With the new plant, Braskem establishes itself as a global leader in biopolymers. This is another step for the company towards its goal of becoming the world leader in sustainable chemistry with diversified and competitive raw material sources. The company's green plastics are exceptionally eco-friendly, thanks to the process used in the production. For each ton of polyethylene produced, 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide is captured from the atmosphere.

"Braskem's green plastics are made from CO₂ sequestered from the atmosphere through sugarcane photosynthesis. It is also the most competitive of all plastics made from renewable sources. And this has been widely acknowledged by the market, which recorded demand three times greater than the plant's capacity," says the company's CEO Bernardo Gradin.

The project was announced to the world at the K Fair 2007 and details of its operations will be presented by Mr Gradin in **a press conference in the next K show in Dusseldorf, Germany, on 28/10/2010, at 10 AM.**

The construction of the green ethylene plant was completed in 16 months, within budget and without any accidents resulting in workers having to take time off. It was a challenge for the team to complete the project as swiftly as possible and the target was reached adhering to the highest safety standards.

"The decision to bring the purchase of critical equipment forward, the efforts of the logistics area to speed up its delivery, and the perfect harmony between the technology, basic engineering, detailing and production teams all played a crucial role in achieving this goal," explained Manoel Carnaúba, VP of the Basic Petrochemicals Unit.

Ethylene specification took place 12 hours after the plant's start-up, on September 3, and green polyethylene production began a week later. The polymerization process, which converts ethylene into resin, is carried out in Braskem's existing plants in the Triunfo Complex. The final product has the same properties and characteristics as conventional polyethylene, enabling clients to process it without the need for any adjustments in their machinery.

Over the past year, Braskem has established several partnerships to supply green polyethylene to domestic and international clients who have adopted sustainable development as a pillar of their market strategy. This pioneering group of companies includes Tetra Pak, Toyota Tsusho, Shiseido, Natura, Acinplas, Johnson&Johnson, Procter&Gamble and Petropack. The most common applications of plastics from renewable sources are personal care and cleaning products, food packaging, toys and home appliances.

Further research

The green polyethylene project was made possible thanks to the highly developed Brazilian sugar cane ethanol industry. The new plant will consume around 462 million liters of ethanol per year, which will initially come from the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Paraná (South and Southeast of Brazil).

Ethanol will be supplied through contracts with major Brazilian producers. Relations with these suppliers will be governed by a Code of Conduct that establishes sustainability criteria through compliance with environmental guidelines, especially those related to the São Paulo State Environmental Protocol, the “UN Global Compact”, Brazilian labour law and regulations on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Most of the ethanol will be transported by rail and waterway, with only a small portion arriving by road.

Pursuing its goal of becoming the world leader in sustainable chemistry, Braskem has stepped up its research into the development of other polymers, especially green polypropylene. As a result of the increased interest in the market, the company is also considering to set up a new green ethylene unit. “Investments in polymers have underlined Braskem’s confidence in Brazil’s economic growth and its potential for leading the development of products made from renewable sources. The country’s competitive advantages in this field also play a major part in all this,” says Mr Gradin.

Braskem is the leading thermoplastic resin producer in the Americas. With 31 industrial plants distributed across Brazil and the United States, each year the company produces more than 15 million tons of thermoplastic resins and other petrochemical products.

Braskem will be waiting for your visit at K 2010, October 27th - November 3rd!

Hall 6, stand 6D27

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