

washing powders. The new plant will enable the company to produce between 7500 tonnes/y and 15,000 tonnes/y of finely granulated 600 to 800 micron powders. Rohm and Haas with turnover of \$6 bn has staff of 17,800 of whom 1200 are employed in France.

Chimie Hebdo, 26 May 2003, (214), 11-12 (in French)

Other

Clariant abandons troubled US bleaching activator project

Swiss Clariant Group has decided to pull the plug on a new production facility for bleaching activators at its Mount Holly site, in NC, USA. The company will write-off \$92 M (SFR 120 M) in 2Q 2003 as a result. The company has already invested SFR 120 M in the project, part of the Functional Chemicals program. The company had previously reported delays in the planned start-up of the plant due to technical difficulties (see Focus, July 2003, p 6). Subsequent intensive testing of the plant demonstrated that the required specifications could not be achieved in time. Furthermore, Clariant said it became apparent that the chemical could not be supplied in the required quality within a reasonable time and cost framework and therefore decided to terminate the project with immediate effect. Clariant planned to manufacture and supply a bleaching activator to washing detergents manufacturer Procter & Gamble for use in a new range of Tide detergent products. P&G received SFR 40 M in compensation for Clariant's failure to meet its obligations and is now looking for another supplier. As a direct result of the termination Clariant will cut 30 new jobs at the facility. The site in Mount Holly has 200 employees and specializes in the manufacture of speciality chemicals such as additives for soaps, cosmetics, food, etc. Clariant plans to convert the factory for the production of other chemicals. The abandoned project is likely to result in a 27% decrease in Clariant's profits for 2003.

Press release from: Clariant International, Rothausstrasse 61, CH-4132 Muttenz, Switzerland; Tel: +41 61 469 6969. Fax: +41 61 469 6999 (16 Jun 2003) & Chemische Rundschau, 1 Jul 2003, 56 (13), 9 (in German) & Chimie Hebdo, 23 Jun 2003, (218), 10 (in French)

US antidumping duty investigations into whitening agents from Germany, India and the PRC

On 14 May 2003, the US Department of Commerce received petitions filed in proper form by Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp. The Department received supplemental information to the petitions from Ciba on 27 and 30 May 2003. In accordance with section 732(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, the petitioner alleges that imports of 4,4'-diamino-2,2'-stilbenedisulfonic acid (DAS) and stilbenic fluorescent whitening agents (SFWA) from Germany, India and the People's Republic of China (PRC) are, or are likely to be, sold in the US at less than fair value within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that imports from Germany, India, and the PRC are materially injuring, or are threatening to materially injure an industry in the US. The anticipated period of investigation (POI) for Germany and India is 1 Apr 2002, through 31 Mar 2003; and 1 Oct 2002, through 31 Mar 2003 for the PRC. Ciba has also lodged a petition under section 702(b)(1) of the Act, alleging that manufacturers, producers or exporters of DAS and SFWA in India receive countervailable subsidies within the meaning of section 701 of the Act. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.204 (b)(2), the anticipated period of investigation is 1 Jan 2002, through 31 Dec 2002. Both sets of investigations cover all DAS and SFWA regardless of end use. DAS is a chemical compound used to produce SFWA. SFWA are synthetic organic products normally used as fluorescent brightening agents in the production of certain textiles, paper and detergents.

Federal Register, 10 Jun 2003, 68 (111), 34579-34582 & 34582-34584 (Website: <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/advanced.html>)

Cosmenyl gran – new name for proven cosmetics pigment preparations

Now the proven granulated pigment preparations of Clariant's Viscofil gran range are offered under the brand name Cosmenyl granules. The Cosmetics & Detergents Market Segment of Clariant's Pigment & Additives division took this step to emphasize the main application fields for the Cosmenyl gran brands, which are used especially for the coloration

of soaps and detergents. The products meet the requirements of the EU Directive 76/768/EEC for products in cosmetic applications. The Cosmenyl products are available in yellow, red, blue and green. The Cosmetics & Detergents Market Segment of Clariant offers a broad product portfolio of colorants and additives to enhance the looks and performance of cosmetics and detergent formulations.

Press release from: Clariant, Am Unisys-Park 1, D-65843 Sulzbach, Germany. Tel: +49 6196 757 8130. Fax: +49 6196 757 8862. Website: <http://pa.clariant.com> (23 Jun 2003)

D-limonene impacted by events in Brazil and Asia

The world limonene market is expected to be 50,000-60,000 tons in 2003 compared with 25,000-30,000 tons in 2000. Production is mainly split between the US and Brazil. The spread of orange tree disease in Brazil might affect the D-limonene market as yet. D-limonene is being used as a substitute for a number of solvents in cleaning products. The market has been boosted by the increased use of cleaning products in Asia to combat the SARS virus.

Chemical Market Reporter, 23 Jun 2003 (Website: <http://www.chemicalmarketreporter.com>)

APPLICATIONS

Compulsory liquidation for Coventry

The Coventry washing powder and detergents plant at Haubourdin, near to Lille, France, which was put into receivership for 6 months on 5 Mar 2003, was given compulsory liquidation on 3 May 2003 by a court in Lille, France. There are 189 employees, of whom 60 appeared in court after a demonstration in Lille against the reform programme of the French government. It is expected that the redundancy notice will be received by the employees within 15 days. The Coventry plant formerly belonged to Lever.

Chimie Hebdo, 10 Jun 2003, (216), 8 (in French)

Margo soap relaunched to target youngsters

Henkel Spic India Ltd has reintroduced