

Cornerstone laid for new Ticona works Official start for 'Project of the Century'

The cornerstone-laying ceremony at the end of September marked the start of the European chemical industry's biggest construction project of the past ten years: Ticona's new works is being built in the Höchst Industrial Park, Frankfurt. Representatives attended the ceremony from local government and industry. The plant will replace the existing polymer production unit in Kelsterbach in 2011. By temporarily maintaining parallel production in Kelsterbach and Höchst, the company will avoid any adverse impact on its ability to supply both Hostaform® (POM) and Celstran® (LFRT).

Construction project of immense proportions

The dimensions of this 'project of the century' can be gleaned from the amount of construction materials it will take: The planners' list includes 4,000 cubic meters of concrete, 600 kilometers of cable, 10,000 tons of steel and about 100 kilometers of pipe.

"The construction of the engineering polymers plant in Höchst Industrial Park is a major milestone for Ticona," said Sandra Beach Lin, Executive Vice President of Celanese and President of Ticona. "We have long ranked among the world's leading producers of engineering polymers, and our relocation from Kelsterbach to Höchst will allow us to maintain this competitive position well into the future." The Regional Government Office in Darmstadt previously approved the project to begin in May. The final construction and operating permit was granted in mid-September.

Promising new site

Höchst Industrial Park is one of the best locations for chemical and pharmaceutical companies in Germany – or anywhere else for that matter. The 460-hectare (1140-acre) site is home to some 90 companies, where around 22,000 people are employed. Having investigated about 50 locations, Ticona ultimately chose Höchst Industrial Park for its excellent infrastructure, the track record of the Höchst site relative to safety, cost-

effectiveness and quality, and the availability of its supply and waste disposal systems. The convenient location at the center of the Rhine-Main region and the industrial park's proximity to the Kelsterbach site were also important criteria.

The new plant is being constructed in the southwest part of the industrial park. The general contractor for the planning and execution of the project is Fluor, a U.S. company specializing in plant and equipment construction with European headquarters in

Haarlem, the Netherlands. Together with Ticona and Celanese, it has formed an interdisciplinary team of experts that is coordinating all of the necessary steps – from the detailed planning to the construction and initial start-up of the plants through to completion. Dr. Joachim Gersdorf,



Managing Director of Ticona in Kelsterbach, quantified the personnel dimensions of the project this way: "At peak times, it will employ some 400 engineers at several international locations and 1,200 workers on the construction site."



A man for all questions

Seán Kemp is a man of action. As Commercial Relocation Leader, he has assumed full responsibility for customer support during the relocation of the Ticona plant. He says it's a "great job" for him: Along with management experience, his practical training and subsequent engineering studies have given him a broad perspective on all of the technical processes. Hardly anyone knows Ticona better than he does after his 19 years with the company – which makes him the ideal 'man for all questions' pertaining to the relocation from Kelsterbach to Höchst Industrial Park.

Seamless transition in the production process

Ticona's customers will barely notice the change – Kemp is convinced of this. Once the new works attains its full operating capacity as planned in 2010, production will continue in Kelsterbach and Höchst in parallel through mid-2011. "That will allow enough time to fine-tune and optimize the new plant," explains the Relocation Leader. "It will operate using the same technologies and processes, and the materials will be produced using the same formulations and to the same demanding specifications."