

Solvay increases PVDF production capacity by 50 %

Solvay will increase its Solef polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) production capacity by 50 % to keep track of the growing demand for this fluorinated speciality polymer. The capacity increase at Solvay's Tavaux plant in France will require an investment of EUR 26 million and is expected to become operational in the second half of 2012.

Solef PVDF is among others used for demanding applications in oil and gas extraction, as binders and in separators in Lithium-ion batteries, in photovoltaics, in semiconductor manufacturing and in water purification membranes. Global demand for PVDF has grown the last five years by over 10 % every year, says **Solvay**. The Solef PVDF production capacity in Tavaux was already expanded by some 30 % in 2009.

Solvay says its Solef PVDF technology used in Tavaux has a strong competitive edge resulting from its product quality and consistency and it complements the **Hylar** PVDF technology developed in West Depford, USA.

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