

BASF to build 300,000 t/y TDI plant in Europe

BASF announced it will build the world's largest single-train TDI (toluene diisocyanate) plant in Europe. The plant will have a capacity of 300,000 t/y and will be fully integrated with precursor production. The TDI plant will be located at one of the company's integrated Verbund sites in Antwerp, Belgium or Ludwigshafen, Germany and will start production in 2014. Engineering is underway and the final site selection will be announced shortly, says BASF.

Dr. Martin Brudermüller, Vice Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE and responsible for the Plastics segment, said: "This new investment supports BASF's growth strategy, underlines our leading position as the largest TDI producer and reinforces our strong commitment to the TDI market. BASF will have the ability to serve its customers' demand through local world-scale production in the largest markets North America, Europe and Asia, in particular China."

"With this new plant, we will complement our strong global network of integrated world-scale TDI facilities to serve our customers' growing demand," said **Wayne T. Smith**, President of BASF's Polyurethanes division. "We expect the global TDI market to grow faster than GDP in the coming years, with strong contribution from Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa. This growth is driven by ongoing urbanisation and increasing standards of living."

BASF operates TDI plants in Geismar, Louisiana; Schwarzheide, Germany; Yeosu, Korea; and Caojing, China.

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