

LANXESS opens global research and development center for NBR in France

- **EUR 5 million investment for new administrative building and laboratories**
- **Research and development laboratories relocated from Germany to France**
- **Development of new high-quality products**
- **New buildings with excellent energy efficiency**

La Wantzenau/Leverkusen. German specialty chemicals group LANXESS today officially opened its new research and development center for synthetic rubber and a new administrative building at its French site in La Wantzenau (Alsace). The group has invested more than EUR 5 million in the new buildings.

This investment further strengthens La Wantzenau as a global production location for the synthetic rubber NBR (nitrile-butadiene rubber). In 2007, LANXESS decided to transfer all NBR production operations to La Wantzenau and turn it into the world's largest NBR production site. At the beginning of this year, the group also moved its research and development activities from Germany to La Wantzenau.

“Combining our research and development activities for NBR in La Wantzenau will in the future further boost our ability to develop innovative and sophisticated high-quality products that are geared to our customers' specific requirements. This will ensure the success of our strategy and improve our global competitiveness,” explains Günther Weymans, head of the Technical Rubber Products business unit at LANXESS.

The total area set aside for quality control and research and development is 600 m², while the new administrative building covers an area of 2,200 m². The buildings significantly lower operating costs

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Page 1 of 3

and also achieve energy savings of 90 percent thanks to a heat pump and solar cells. "The ongoing improvement of environmental protection is one of the fundamental aspects of our corporate philosophy. The La Wantzenau site is playing its part in the global corporate strategy of sustainable production," adds Weymans. Some EUR 25 million has been invested over the past three years, a third of this targeted directly at safety and the environment.

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Page 2 of 3

The La Wantzenau site

The synthetic rubber produced in La Wantzenau is used to make products such as cables, seals, hoses, blankets for printing presses and soles for safety and sports shoes. The most important markets are the automotive industry, the construction sector, and the oil and gas production and processing industries.

The site has a workforce of 315 and manufactures 70 standard and specialty products that are supplied to around 600 customers in 25 different countries. More than 60 percent of products manufactured are exported to non-European countries, primarily in Asia.

The Technical Rubber Products business unit is part of the Performance Polymers segment, which generated sales in 2009 of EUR 2,388 million.

LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 5.06 billion in 2009 and currently around 14,300 employees in 23 countries. The company is represented at 42 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of plastics, rubber, intermediates and specialty chemicals.

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Forward-Looking Statements.

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News Release

and the estimates given here. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.

Information for editors:

All LANXESS news releases and their accompanying photos can be found at <http://press.lanxess.com>. Recent photos of the Board of Management and other LANXESS image material are available at <http://photos.lanxess.com>. The latest TV footage, audiofiles and podcasts can be found at <http://corporate.lanxess.com/en/media/audio-video/>.

You can find further information concerning LANXESS chemistry in our WebMagazine at <http://webmagazine.lanxess.com>.

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