

Press Release

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BYK-Chemie to build new distribution center in Wesel, underlining its long and successful relationship with the Wesel Site

Wesel, April 2, 2004 – BYK-Chemie GmbH, a company of ALTANA Chemie AG, Wesel, has just announced its plan to build a new distribution center in the “Lippe estuary” area of Wesel. The new finished goods warehouse is designed to be a high rack warehouse roughly 35m high and 100m long. It will provide a capacity for around 10,000 pallets. Adjoining this high rack building is an approx. 3,000m² consignment area, a sample filling facility and an admin-cum-social building. The distribution center will house up to 100 employees long term. Today’s plans envisage an investment volume of some €25 million.

The new site is to be located in the “Lippe estuary” industrial estate in Wesel, in direct proximity to Xella-Porenbeton GmbH. Access to this newly developed site is via the new K12n road, which was completed at the end of 2002 and links the location favorably with the A3 motorway. To the south, the Wesel-Datteln canal provides a direct link with the rhine river.

Due to the constant growth of BYK-Chemie over the last 25 years, the present finished goods warehouse in Mercatorstraße has become too small. Already approx. 60% of the pallets are at present stored in a rented outside warehouse. BYK-Chemie currently exports approx. 40,000 t of additives all over the world from the Wesel site in Mercatorstraße.

BYK-Chemie has spent the last few months combing the region to find a suitable site for its distribution center. Its collaboration with all the local authorities involved (Hamminkeln, Hünxe, Voerde and Wesel) was very positive in each case. Beside the site factors mentioned above, the decision to opt for the Wesel site was made on a commercial basis with one eye on logistic considerations. “In the final decision process, Wesel gained points for its quick and committed creation of the required conditions and its strong support,” Dr. Roland Peter, Chairman of the Management Board of BYK-Chemie GmbH, explains. “The first cut of the spade is expected to take place in 2005. We anticipate completion toward the end of 2006.” The choice of site also underlines the long-term relationship ALTANA Chemie and BYK-Chemie enjoy with Germany and the town of Wesel as business locations.

ALTANA Chemie develops and produces high-quality, innovative products in the specialty chemicals sector. ALTANA Chemie AG with its headquarters in Wesel, Germany, is the holding company for the three business units Additives & Instruments, Coatings & Sealants, and Electrical Insulation. ALTANA Chemie provides innovative and environmentally compatible solutions, along with the appropriate specialty products, for coatings manufacturers, paint and plastics processors, and the electronics industry. Its range of products includes additives, specialty coatings, sealing and compounds, impregnating agents, and testing and measuring instruments. In its target markets the company is market leader in terms of quality, innovation and service. In 2003 ALTANA Chemie with more than 2,600 employees achieved sales of €755m, making ALTANA Chemie one of the most innovative, fast-developing and profitable chemical corporations in the world.

BYK-Chemie is one of the world’s leading suppliers of additives used in the coatings, inks and plastics industry. Approx. 85 % of its sales are generated by exports. Its major export markets are Europe, the United States and the Far East. Chemical additives are used by processing industries in the production of coatings, inks and plastics. In very small quantities, BYK additives simplify manufacturing

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processes and significantly improve the quality of finished goods such as motor vehicles and furniture. BYK-Chemie has been producing additives since 1962 in Wesel. Today it employs over 880 people worldwide, 25% of whom work in research and development departments or technical laboratories.

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