

## Press release

May 6, 2014

### **AkzoNobel opens new highly energy efficient membrane electrolysis plant in the industrial heart of Germany**

AkzoNobel today inaugurated its new, highly efficient chlorine membrane electrolysis plant in the Rhein-Main area, Germany. The Frankfurt-based, state-of-the-art plant is the result of a major conversion and expansion project begun in 2011 and involving a €140 million investment by the company. Capacity has been increased by 50 percent whilst at the same time reducing the plant's overall ecological footprint by some 20 percent.

"This investment in our Specialty Chemicals business highlights the steps we are taking to strengthen our market positions and further improve our performance as a company," said AkzoNobel CEO Ton Büchner. "We are constantly looking for new and innovative ways to improve our operational efficiency, drive our sustainability agenda and improve our service to customers."

Added Werner Fuhrmann, the company's Executive Committee member responsible for Specialty Chemicals: "This plant produces building blocks for the manufacture of products we all use on a daily basis ranging from pharmaceuticals and tooth paste to door and window frames. By radically improving our efficiency and increasing our use of renewable energy, we can take significant steps in making these everyday essentials even more sustainable."

To mark the inauguration, a special event is being held today for employees, customers and other business partners. It will be attended by both Ton Büchner and Werner Fuhrmann, as well as Tarek Al-Wazir, Minister for Economy, Energy, Transport and Regional Development for the federal state of Hessen who stated: "The new chlorine production facility of AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals is a good example that economy and ecology are compatible; and it is a strong signal for the strengthening of the chemical cluster Hessen."

The facility has been converted to the latest generation membrane technology. Radical efficiency improvements will reduce energy consumption by 30 percent per ton of product. Boosting chlorine production capacity up to 250 kilotons per year will also reinforce the company's leading positions in Europe's chlor-alkali markets.

Work at Frankfurt started in 2011, with commercial production from the new plant expected to come on stream in the next few weeks. The site is one of three chlorine plants operated by AkzoNobel in Germany, the other two being located in Bitterfeld and Ibbenbüren.

Products from the salt-chlorine chain, including chlorine, caustic lye, and derivatives including MCA and chloromethanes, are essential basic chemicals and are used in countless everyday products and processes, ranging from water disinfection to clothing, amongst other things in the

manufacture of epoxies, polyurethanes, polycarbonates, PVC and titanium dioxide. They are also used in the manufacture of more than two thirds of all pharmaceuticals.

- - -

AkzoNobel is a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals. We supply industries and consumers worldwide with innovative products and are passionate about developing sustainable answers for our customers. Our portfolio includes well-known brands such as Dulux, Sikkens, International and Eka. Headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we are consistently ranked as one of the leaders in the area of sustainability. With operations in more than 80 countries, our 50,000 people around the world are committed to delivering leading products and technologies to meet the growing demands of our fast-changing world.

**Not for publication – for more information**

Corporate Media Relations  
T +31 20 502 7833  
Contacts: Stephen Hufton, Diana Abrahams

Corporate Investor Relations  
T +31 20 502 7854  
Contact: Sheryl Stokes

**Safe Harbor Statement**

This press release contains statements which address key issues such as AkzoNobel's growth strategy, future financial results, market positions, product development, products in the pipeline and product approvals. Such statements should be carefully considered, and it should be understood that many factors could cause forecasted and actual results to differ from these statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, price fluctuations, currency fluctuations, developments in raw material and personnel costs, pensions, physical and environmental risks, legal issues, and legislative, fiscal, and other regulatory measures. Stated competitive positions are based on management estimates supported by information provided by specialized external agencies. For a more comprehensive discussion of the risk factors affecting our business please see our latest annual report, a copy of which can be found on our website [www.akzonobel.com](http://www.akzonobel.com)