

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE N.V.'s New SAP/AA Plants

NIPPON SHOKUBAI CO., LTD. [Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Osaka; President: Masanori Ikeda, TSE:4114] ("Nippon Shokubai") announces that NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE N.V., a subsidiary in Belgium ("NSE") held a groundbreaking ceremony for new Superabsorbent Polymer ("SAP") plant and Acrylic Acid ("AA") plant in its plant site in Antwerp, Belgium on November 10th, 2015.



Since SAP, one of Nippon Shokubai's core businesses, shows steady growth of demand as a key material of disposable diapers, Nippon Shokubai decided the expansion of SAP and its main raw material, AA, as announced in May this year.

In Europe, Nippon Shokubai expects the steady demand of SAP especially in Central and Eastern Europe. Nippon Shokubai will ensure more stable supply after the investment of not only SAP but also its main raw material, AA.

With this new plant at NSE, Nippon Shokubai group's global SAP production capacity will be 710,000 metric tons per year ("T/Y") and Nippon Shokubai will enhance its position as one of the world top suppliers of SAP.

(Ref.) The annual production capacity of SAP and AA (Unit: T/Y)

	End 2015	June 2016	October 2017
SAP	560,000	610,000 (+50,000 at Himeji)	710,000 (+100,000 at NSE)
AA	780,000	780,000	880,000 (+100,000 at NSE)

1. Feature of investment

Production capacity	: SAP 100,000 T/Y (expansion) (current capacity 60,000 T/Y, totally 160,000 T/Y after completion) AA 100,000 T/Y (new)
Schedule	: Mechanical completion – October 2017 Commercial operation – May 2018
Location	: Existing plant site of NSE (industrial site of INEOS Oxide)
Investment amount	: Approx. 350 million EURO

(*)For further details, please see the News Release on May 11th, 2015

Nippon Shokubai announces NIPPON SHOKUBAI EUROPE N.V., a subsidiary in Belgium (“NSE”), plans to expand its Superabsorbent Polymer (“SAP”) plant and build its Acrylic Acid (“AA”) plant.

<http://www.shokubai.co.jp/en/news/news0114.html>

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