

A Quantum Leap in MMA Technology

Evonik Industries Develops a New Manufacturing Process for Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) with AVENEER

Under the name **AVENEER**, Evonik Industries has developed a new, pioneering manufacturing process for methyl methacrylate (MMA). The creative industrial company thus provides an answer to the question of how future methyl methacrylate monomers and polymers can remain competitive.

In addition to the site currently under construction in Shanghai with significantly further developed C4 MMA technology, a significant technology advance could also be achieved now in the classic ACH sulfur process. Thanks to significantly improved efficiency in the use of "raw materials and energy" with regard to all established MMA processes, Evonik views itself as a future cost leader with the new process in this field.

Like the traditional ACH sulfur process, AVENEER is based on the starting materials ammonia, methane, acetone and methanol – without the additional use of sulfuric acid. The omission of the reprocessing of sulfuric acid, which has now become unnecessary, both saves costs and conserves resources. In addition, the new technology is distinguished by its regional and technological flexibility: on the one hand, it can be conducted in general at typical chemical plants around the world; on the other, it allows existing Evonik plants to be retrofitted. Evonik has already proven the feasibility of the new process in test production.

In addition to further optimizations, the planning of the first large-scale technical plant will begin in the next few months. It could be commissioned in 2012, according to the current state of planning.



Gregor Hetzke, President of Business Unit Performance Polymers, and Thomas Müller, Senior Vice President of Business Unit Acrylic Monomers, during the press conference about AVENEER in September 2008.

Contact

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