

## INDONESIAN FIRMS PLAN TO COMBINE

Indonesia's sole ethylene producer, Chandra Asri, plans to merge with Tri Polyta Indonesia, a polypropylene maker listed on the Indonesian stock exchange. After the merger by exchange of shares, privately held Chandra Asri will become a publicly held concern. Both companies are controlled by Barito Pacific, one of Indonesia's largest conglomerates. Chandra Asri's main asset is a 600,000-metric-ton-per-year cracker that came on-line in 1995. With combined annual sales of about \$1.6 billion, the merged company will be one of the largest petrochemical makers in Southeast Asia, the two firms say, with improved vertical integration. Chandra Asri is already Tri Polyta's main supplier of propylene. —JFT

## BASF ADDS TREATMENT CHEMICALS IN CHINA

BASF will build facilities in Nanjing, China, to produce chemicals used in water treatment and paper manufacturing. The plants will consist of a 40,000-metric-ton-per-year quaternized cationic monomers unit and a downstream 20,000-metric-ton cationic polyacrylamide plant. The polymers can be used as flocculants in municipal water treatment or as retention aids in paper plants. Although the facilities will be physically integrated with the BASF-Sinopec joint venture in Nanjing, they will be owned 100% by BASF. Separately, BASF will set up its fourth Chinese polyurethane systems facility, in Tianjin in northeast China. —JFT

## DSM EXITS CITRIC ACID, LINKS WITH DUPONT

DSM will sell Citrique Belge, its Belgium-based citric acid subsidiary, to privately held Adcuram for an undisclosed price. Citrique Belge, with 250 employees, had sales in 2009 of more than \$135 million and a loss of more than \$50 million. DSM decided in 2007 that citric acid did not fit its long-term plans. Separately, DSM has formed a joint venture, to be called Actamax Surgical Materials, with DuPont. The partners will develop surgical sealants and tissue adhesives based on DuPont hydrogel technology and DSM medical polymer manufacturing capabilities. —MSR

## SANOFI TO SELL EUROPEAN R&D FACILITIES TO COVANCE

Sanofi-Aventis has become the latest drug company to sell R&D facilities to a service firm. In an agreement worth up to \$2.2 billion, the French pharmaceutical giant will sell its Porcheville, France, and Alnwick, England, sites to the drug development services company Covance for about \$25 million. Covance says it will keep the combined 300 employees at these sites for at least the next five years. Over the next 10 years, Covance expects to provide drug development services to Sanofi, receiving total payments ranging between \$1.2 billion and \$2.2 billion. "This alliance with Covance will help us preserve hundreds of valuable jobs in Porcheville and Alnwick, while driving our R&D efficiency," Sanofi R&D head Marc Cluzel says. In 2008, Covance struck a similar agreement with Eli Lilly & Co., taking over the drug company's site in Greenfield, Ind. That deal came with a 10-year contract worth \$1.6 billion. In recent months, GlaxoSmithKline has sold European R&D sites to Aptuit and Galapagos, both drug development services firms. —MM



SIGNA CHEMISTRY

## SIGNA TECHNOLOGY POWERS ELECTRIC BIKE

SiGNa Chemistry, a developer of reagents and catalysts intended to make reactive metals safer and more efficient, has teamed up with Pedego Electric Bikes on a range extender for Pedego's battery-powered bicycles. SiGNa provides cartridges in which sodium silicide and water react to form hydrogen, which powers a proton exchange membrane fuel cell. The resulting electricity triples the bicycle's operating range, the partners say. —MM

## LYONDELLBASELL BULKS UP IN BRINDISI

LyondellBasell is extending technology capabilities and expanding capacity for its Spherizone polypropylene process plant in Brindisi, Italy. By 2012, the company plans to upgrade the design of the plant so it can

incorporate new comonomers such as hexene and make specialty polypropylene grades for pipe, film, health care, and other applications. Capacity at the plant will expand by 50,000 metric tons to 235,000 metric tons per year. —AHT

## BASF EXPLAINS POTATO COMMINGLING

BASF Plant Science has identified how its Amadea potato ended up in Swedish fields with its Amflora potato. Although both are genetically engineered to produce amylopectin starch for the paper, adhesive, and food industries, only Amflora has regulatory approval. The problem arose when both plants were cultivated in the same facilities during early seed propagation. Although the event is limited to Sweden, BASF has informed regulators in all countries where the potatoes are being grown. To avoid any future problems, BASF will produce approved and unapproved potatoes separately, analyze all plants before planting, and develop further controls with regulators. —AMT

## DOW DEBUTS NEW ROOF COATING SYSTEM

Dow Chemical has launched a new acrylic coatings resin, Rhoplex EC-3100, to protect difficult-to-coat thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roof membranes. The technology combines acrylic expertise obtained in the 2009 acquisition of Rohm and Haas