

Evonik opens new plant for sustainable emollients at its Steinau site in Germany

3 September 2024

- Meets high customer demand for eco-friendly beauty and personal care products
- Reduces Evonik's climate footprint for the manufacture of esters
- Grows biosolutions portfolio and enables next-generation cosmetics

Main press contact

Jana Flommersfeld

Head of Market Communications
Care Solutions
Phone + 49 201 173-3772
jana.flommersfeld@evonik.com

Alternative press contact

Dr. Jürgen Krauter

Head of Market Communications Evonik
Phone +49 6181 59-6847
juergen.krauter@evonik.com

Essen, Germany. Evonik has officially inaugurated its new production plant for cosmetic emollients at its site in Steinau, Germany. These esters are manufactured using an enzymatic process. The double-digit million-euro plant will significantly increase Evonik's production capacity which will cater to the growing customer demand for sustainable cosmetic emollients. This investment will help reduce the climate footprint of Evonik and the cosmetic formulations of its customers.

Evonik leverages its biotechnology platform to produce emollients via enzymatic esterification. This helps to boost the biosolutions portfolio of the company's life sciences division, Nutrition & Care, while enabling the beauty and personal care industry to create solutions with a superior sustainability profile.

"Emollients are no longer just about performance, they also need to have a robust sustainability profile. This investment helps us lower our footprint, while supporting the beauty industry in its transformation - meeting the demand for more responsible, eco-friendly solutions," said Johann-Caspar Gammel, president of the Nutrition & Care division at Evonik.

Emollients are cosmetic oils and waxes that make up 10 to 25 percent of cosmetic emulsions. However, currently emollients account for 70 to 80 percent of a product's climate footprint. Switching from a chemical to an enzymatic esterification process when manufacturing emollients can reduce the climate footprint by more than 60 percent. All Care Solutions production sites are powered exclusively by renewable energy. Therefore, the climate

Evonik Industries AG

Rellinghauser Straße 1-11
45128 Essen
Germany
Phone +49 201 177-01
www.evonik.com

Supervisory Board

Bernd Tönjes, Chairman

Executive Board

Christian Kullmann, Chairman

Dr. Harald Schwager, Deputy Chairman

Maike Schuh, Thomas Wessel

Registered Office is Essen

Register Court Essen Local Court

Commercial Registry B 19474

footprint at this new production plant in Steinau drops to virtually zero from a gate-to-gate perspective.

Esters manufactured by enzyme catalysis have been part of Evonik's portfolio for almost 25 years. Produced from vegetable oils, they act as emollients in skin care products, making the skin soft and supple. Up to now, they have been produced at Evonik's sites in Duisburg, Germany and Shanghai, China. Evonik's Steinau site is a stronghold for innovation for the cosmetics industry, as well as biodegradable specialty surfactants and active substances. Steinau manufactures a diverse portfolio of over 200 products.

Sustainability is the guiding business principle for the Care Solutions business line at Evonik. Multiple extensive sustainability initiatives are underway, such as the ECOHANCE® program which is focused on serving the highest sustainability ambitions for beauty and personal care applications by including next-generation feedstocks or offering outstanding social-ecological benefits.

Further Information

[Link](#) to press release and image

[Link](#) to further information about Evonik's Steinau site

[Link](#) to further information about emollients at Evonik

Company information

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €15.3 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €1.66 billion in 2023. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable, and sustainable solutions for customers. More than 33,000 employees work together for a common purpose: We want to improve life today and tomorrow.

About Nutrition & Care

The focus of the business of the Nutrition & Care division is on health and quality of life. It develops differentiated solutions for active pharmaceutical ingredients, medical devices, nutrition for humans and animals, personal care, cosmetics, and household cleaning. In these resilient end markets, the division generated sales of €3.61 billion in 2023 with more than 5,600 employees.

Disclaimer

In so far as forecasts or expectations are expressed in this press release or where our statements concern the future, these forecasts, expectations or statements may involve known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual results or developments may vary, depending on changes in the operating environment. Neither Evonik Industries AG nor its group companies assume an obligation to update the forecasts, expectations or statements contained in this release.