

SOLVAY: A GROUP ACTIVE IN CHEMISTRY

The Strength to change



Thanks to the strong competitive positions of its activities, the Group is well equipped to continue to cope with the global crisis and has confidence in its ability to master the current challenges, for which there is no precedent. The Group has a strong commitment to achieving sustainable development as to provide innovative solutions for the challenges the world is facing and which are threatening humanity.

Solvay is an international industrial Group active in Chemistry. It offers a broad range of products and solutions that contribute to improving quality of life.

The Group is headquartered in Brussels and employs more than 19,000 people in 50 countries. In 2009, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 8.5 billion.

Solvay Chemicals includes the production of Soda ash – the initial *raison d'être* of the company upon its foundation by Ernest Solvay in 1863. Ernest Solvay found an innovative process to synthesize soda ash, a product used among others for glass, washing powder and flue gas cleaning. Since then, Solvay has selectively expanded its product portfolio with strong leadership positions in caustic soda, hydrogen peroxide and Fluorinated products.

Recent projects illustrate the Group's innovation capabilities as well as its geographic expansion strategy. We completed in 2008 the construction of our hydrogen peroxide megaplant near Antwerp in Belgium, with a new Solvay high-productivity technology that, we are persuaded, will change the face of the H_2O_2 market. We acquired Alexandria Sodium Carbonate Company in Egypt, continuing our expansion into Egyptian, Middle Eastern and North African markets, in an economy with strong growth prospects.

Solvay Plastics started in the fifties with the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). A plastic made from chlorine and ethylene, using a process developed in the Group's laboratories. It is one of the key outlets for Solvay's chlorine production. Solvay is a major player on a global PVC market and is continuously reinforcing its vast range of plastics and innovative materials to answer the many environmental, economic and human challenges of tomorrow in close partnership with its customers.

Solvay launched in 2008 production units in China, Russia and India. It also invested in a production capacity increase for vinyls, which transformed its Vinythai's Map Ta Phut site, (Thailand) into a fully integrated world-class production unit, providing maximum competitiveness in a dynamic market.

Solvay decided in 2009 to refocus its activities in order to accelerate the implementation of its sustainable and profitable growth strategy – which led to the sale of its entire pharmaceutical business.

Solvay will reinvest the proceeds of the sale in organic and sizeable external growth, focused on long term value creation.

Solvay intends to:

- invest in high value-added activities and strategic projects in chemicals and plastics;
- continue its geographical expansion into regions with growth potential;
- continue the development of activities and new products with low energy footprint;
- continue the development of activities and new products which significantly reduce cyclicity.

Every day, our employees work to build a clear, motivating organization, developing and empowering people through dialogue and challenging jobs. A company with global reach that forges genuine partnerships with all its stakeholders and strives to conduct business in a way that is healthy for people and safe for the environment.

To drive the Solvay group of tomorrow and meet the challenges of the 21st-century by delivering innovative and sustainable solutions, we emphasize listening to and engaging with the stakeholders around us.

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