

New Financial Head at Chevron Phillips Chemical

Texas, USA: Effective from March 1, 2012, Tim D. Leveille has been appointed senior vice president, chief financial officer and controller of Chevron Phillips Chemical Company, reporting to Peter L. Cella, President and Chief Executive Officer.



*Peter L. Cella, President & CEO,
Chevron Phillips Chemical*

Leveille comes to Chevron Phillips Chemical from Chevron Corporation, most recently serving as an assistant treasurer, where his responsibilities included oversight and support of global cash management and financing activities for Chevron operating companies worldwide.

NDRC Panel Endorses Sinopec's Refinery Plans

Beijing, China: China Petrochemical Corporation receives endorsements from National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) advisory panel to build a 200,000 bpd refinery in Northern Hebei province.

This endorsement makes the company get a step closer to securing approval from the China's powerful planning agency. The setting up of this refinery will help the company meet the booming demand in the Beijing-Tianjin region and potentially aid its expansion in northeast China. This new refinery, Caifeidian expected to cost 21.4 billion yuan (USD3.40 billion) would be just 600 kms away from the China Petrochem's new oil reserve base that was put up on February 1.

Sinopec Group has 32 new crude oil tanks in Caofeidian that can store a total of some 20 million barrels in addition to its existing five million barrels of storage. The company didn't slate a timeframe, when the refinery would become operational.

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Huaihua, China: China's annual coal demand is expected to escalate by 2015 to reach levels of 4.2 billion mt. Out of the total annual demand of 4.2 billion mt, the country's domestic coal output could account for 4.05 billion mt and imported coal could be 150 mt, in comparison to 182.4million mt in 2011.

Unless China's economy completed some readjustments in the first half of the year, China's coal, electricity, and steel demand could see a setback in 2012. China will push ahead with restructuring and consolidation across sectors as coal, steel, cement, non-ferrous metals, petroleum and chemicals, equipment manufacturing, shipbuilding, and automobiles in 2012.

A total of Yuan 16 billion (USD 2.5 billion) has been earmarked to support the revitalization and technological upgrade of these sectors.

Dow Chemical to Enhance Ethylene and Propylene Production

Midland, USA: Dow Chemical Company plans to increase its ethylene and propylene production and connect its operations with low-cost feedstock opportunities available from increasing supplies of U.S. shale gas. The company has further received authorized capital to finalize detailed engineering and purchase long lead-time equipment for a new, world-scale propylene production facility to be constructed at Dow Texas Operations. Basic engineering work for the new on-purpose propylene production facility at Dow Texas Operations has commenced, and the project is on track for production start-up in 2015. On-purpose propylene production from propane will create better economic value for Dow compared with high-priced purchased propylene. According to Brian Ames, Vice President of Olefins, Aromatics and Alternatives, the company is the first in the industry to declare a comprehensive plan to take advantage of the increasing supplies of U.S. natural gas liquids.

Exploring New Markets for Optical Particle Measurement

Rutesheim, Germany: PAMAS GmbH, the German particle measuring and analyzing specialists has completed two successful decades of offering services for various industrial applications. With its headquarters in Germany, Pamas has eight additional divisions globally in Belgium, France, Finland, UK, Spain, Brazil, USA and India. In a bid to establish Pamas as one of the market leaders in analyzing technologies, Gerhard Schreck, Managing Director, Pamas formed the research & development division to understand the customers' demands and develop products in accordance with the changing trends for new fields of applications. During the last two decades, the company has evolved and modified new developments to meet customer demands and succeeded in exploring new markets where particle technology had not been applied before.

Company's optical particle measurement solutions have yielded excellent response for the offshore oil and gas industry and successfully replaced the conventional membrane analysis techniques. Besides the use in offshore applications, Pamas particle counters are used in a variety of different sectors, including lubricating oil systems, water analysis, pharmaceutical applications, filter test rigs and component cleanliness. Customers in the industries such as pharmaceutical, oil, automotive and filter market for instance have a high demand for particle counters that are able to detect particle sizes smaller than 3 µm(c). From 1992 until 2008, the company's particle sensors worked with the principle of light extinction. These sensors do have a broad detection interval and are able to reliably detect and measure particle sizes up to 8000 µm. Due to the increasing demand for the measurement of smaller particle sizes, PAMAS developed in 2008 a sensor working with light scattering technology that is able to reliably detect particle sizes down to 0.5 µm.

PAMAS experts actively contribute to work out sector-specific standards like for instance the standard ISO 11171 for the calibration of automatic particle counters published by the International Organization for Standardization in Geneva and several other standardization committees.