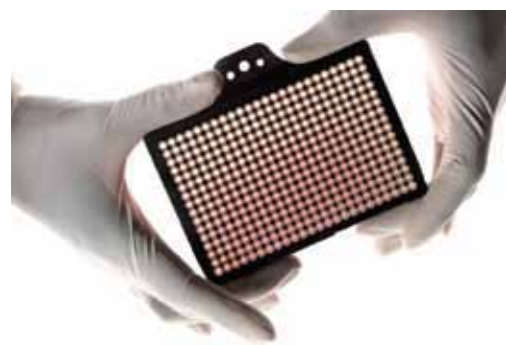


SOLVAY: CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL GROUP

Managing challenges



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 chemical and pharmaceutical Group with headquarters in Brussels and with more than 29 000 people in 50 countries on every continent. In 2008, its consolidated sales amounted to EUR 9.5 billion, generated by profitable and growing businesses in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and selected plastics, with a balanced portfolio of activities delivering sustainable and profitable growth.

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 Pharmaceuticals operates in two key therapeutic fields, in which it undertakes a full range of Research and Development activities: Cardiometabolics (including the fenofibrate franchise) and Neuroscience. These are supplemented by two niche areas in which Solvay is well established, with extensive know-how: Flu vaccines and Pancreatic enzymes. And by two other commercially important fields where existing products receive management and R&D support: Female and male hormone treatments, and Gastroenterology.

Over the past 12 years, Solvay Pharmaceuticals sales have risen significantly, from EUR 1,049 million in 1997 to EUR 2,699 million in 2008.

Everyday, 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.

For further information, please contact:

SOLVAY

Rue du Prince Albert 33

Prins Albertstraat

B-1050 Brussels

investor.relations@solvay.com

www.solvay.com



a Passion for Progress*