



Progress beyond

Solvay launches bio-circular silica in Europe, with expansion plans in North America

Solvay's new circular highly dispersible silica (HDS), supported by global tire manufacturers, will significantly increase the use of sustainable raw material and reduce the CO₂ footprint in the tire industry.

Brussels, January 17, 2023

Solvay is investing at its Livorno site, in Italy, to launch the company's first unit of circular highly dispersible silica (HDS), made with bio-based sodium silicate derived from rice husk ash. This new breakthrough silicate process provides a circular solution as it gives a second life to rice husk in a local value chain. Coupled with renewable energy integration at the plant, it will allow Solvay to achieve a 50% reduction in CO₂ per ton of silica. This will make the Livorno site Europe's best in class silica production site in terms of CO₂ footprint. Production is expected to start by the end of 2024.

The Group will gradually replace its existing [Zeosil® portfolio](#) with circular HDS, providing a circular solution for tires that will contribute both to increasing the use of sustainable raw materials and reducing the tire industry's CO₂ footprint. This new generation of precipitated silica will also address the needs of the home & personal care and the feed & food industries.

Solvay, the worldwide innovation leader in highly dispersible silica, is the first company to commit to circular HDS production at a European site within a concrete timeframe and is now focused on building the necessary ecosystem to bring it to market. This involves working with stakeholders across the entire value chain, and Continental is a key partner in this journey. Through the implementation of this competitive rice husk ash (RHA) proprietary process in Europe, the company is able to ensure consistent product quality by leveling out variability of agro feedstocks.

"Silica is essential for the high performance of our tires. And with Solvay's bio-circular silica, our tires will at the same time become more sustainable. It reduces the overall carbon footprint and increases the share of renewable materials in our tires," said Claus Petschick, Head of Sustainability at Continental Tires. He added: "Rice husk is an agricultural by-product that was not used for tire production until very recently. Soon they will take us one step closer to our goal of 100 percent sustainable materials in our tires by 2050 at the latest".

Solvay also has plans to build a new plant in North America over the coming years to expand its HDS capacity, which will significantly increase the Group's footprint in the region. This new facility will be designed for circular raw materials and be aligned with the company's carbon neutrality roadmap. The Group is also investigating projects on circular HDS in Asia and South America.

"Building on our constant drive for progress and innovation, the launch of our circular HDS in Europe is just the first step in a longer-term project that will enable us to offer a circular solution to



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tire manufacturers and other industries across the world, as we continue to reinvent progress with our Silica offering.” said Ilham Kadri, Solvay CEO.

Contacts

Media relations

Nathalie van Ypersele
+32 478 20 10 62

Martial Tardy
+32 475 83 01 14

Peter Boelaert
+32 479 30 91 59

media.relations@solvay.com

Investor relations

Jodi Allen
+1 609 860 4608

Geoffroy d’Oultremont
+32 2 264 2997

Bisser Alexandrov
+32 2 264 3687

Alex Sokolowski
+1 609 860 4732

investor.relations@solvay.com

About Solvay

Solvay is a science company whose technologies bring benefits to many aspects of daily life. With more than 21,000 employees in 63 countries, Solvay bonds people, ideas and elements to reinvent progress. The Group seeks to create sustainable shared value for all, notably through its Solvay One Planet roadmap crafted around three pillars: protecting the climate, preserving resources and fostering a better life. The Group’s innovative solutions contribute to safer, cleaner, and more sustainable products found in homes, food and consumer goods, planes, cars, batteries, smart devices, health care applications, water and air purification systems. Founded in 1863, Solvay today ranks among the world’s top three companies for the vast majority of its activities and delivered net sales of €10.1 billion in 2021. Solvay is listed on Euronext Brussels and Paris (SOLB). Learn more at www.solvay.com.

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