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AkzoNobel and Atul Limited planning Indian MCA joint venture

AkzoNobel and Atul have signed a Letter of Intent to explore the feasibility of setting up a manufacturing joint venture for the production of monochloroacetic acid (MCA) in India.

The two companies plan to install a world scale MCA plant at Atul's facility in Gujarat, subject to the necessary regulatory approvals, building on Atul's status as a leading supplier of crop protection chemicals (which uses MCA as a key raw material) and AkzoNobel's leading global position in MCA, with plants in the Netherlands, China, Japan and the US.

The intended joint venture will use chlorine and hydrogen manufactured by Atul to produce MCA, taking advantage of Atul's existing infrastructure and AkzoNobel's latest eco-friendly hydrogenation technology. The proposed facility will mainly serve the Indian MCA market, as well as meeting the captive requirements of Atul.

“As a company we are committed to achieving growth in India and this cooperation presents a unique opportunity for us to participate in the Indian MCA market,” said Werner Fuhrmann, AkzoNobel's Executive Committee member responsible for Specialty Chemicals.

Added Sunil Lalbhai, Chairman and Managing Director of Atul: “We are extremely passionate about taking forward the ‘Make in India’ initiative led by our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, by bringing in state-of-the-art, eco-friendly technologies from world class companies.”

MCA is an essential building block in the chemical industry and is used in a wide variety of chemicals. For example, AkzoNobel's customers use MCA to produce thickening agents for the food, oil, mining, personal care and detergent industries. The product is also used in agrochemicals, adhesives, pharmaceuticals, thermo stabilizers, surfactants and cosmetics.

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About AkzoNobel

AkzoNobel creates everyday essentials to make people's lives more liveable and inspiring. As a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals, we supply essential ingredients, essential protection and essential color to industries and consumers worldwide. Backed by a pioneering heritage, our innovative products and sustainable technologies are designed to meet the growing demands of our fast-changing planet, while making life easier. Headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we have approximately 45,000 people in around 80 countries, while our portfolio includes well-known brands such as Dulux, Sikkens, International, Interpon and Eka. Consistently ranked as a leader in sustainability, we are dedicated to energizing cities and communities while creating a protected, colorful world where life is improved by what we do.

About Atul

Established in 1947 by the legendary Indian, Mr Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Atul is the first private sector company of independent India to be inaugurated by the first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We manufacture about 900 products and 450 formulations. We are an improvement driven, integrated chemical company serving about 5,700 customers belonging to 31 industries across the world. We established subsidiary companies in the USA (1994), the UK (1996), Germany (1998), China (2004), Brazil (2012) and the UAE (2015) to serve our customers and thus enhance the breadth and depth of our business.

Not for publication – for more information