

# Acrylamide/polyacrylamide: SNF forms alliance with Lukoil to build units in Russia

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French chemicals group SNF has formed an alliance with Russian giant Lukoil to build a 50,000 tonnes/y acrylamide unit and a 30,000 tonnes/y polyacrylamides unit in Saratov, Russia. Both units should open in 1Q 2016. At a later date, the acrylamide unit's capacity will be increased to 60,000 tonnes/y. Capacity at the polyacrylamides unit could be increased to 100,000 tonnes/y if market conditions are favourable. SNF expects to invest \$50 M in its Russian project. Saratov represents a strategic location as it is where Lukoil's subsidiary Saratovorgsintez is planning to build new units. The company is one of the largest E European producer of acrylonitrile (the raw material for acrylamide and polyacrylamides production). Initially, Saratovorgsintez will supply 20,000 tonnes/y acrylonitrile to SNF's new units. SNF has acquired part of the site to build its infrastructure.

The new units will mainly serve the Russian and E European markets for water treatment, mining, paper production and assisted oil recovery. This means Lukoil will be SNF's leading local supplier as well as its downstream customer. At present, SNF only has commercial installations, storage sites and a mixing unit in Russia (near Saint Petersburg). Meanwhile SNF is planning to begin construction work on new units in Teesside, UK and in Rudong, China. At end 2012 it strengthened its position in China by opening additional units at its site in Taixing.

*SOURCE Chimie Pharma Hebdo*