

# US VAM plant turnarounds scheduled for coming weeks

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At least two and maybe three US vinyl acetate monomer (VAM) plant turnarounds have been scheduled in coming weeks, sources said on Tuesday.

This week, DuPont will begin planned maintenance at its 335,000 tonne/year plant in LaPorte. Sources said it will likely last for 15-20 days, although they did not know the exact duration.

The DuPont turnaround had been scheduled for late January or early February, according to sources.

LyondellBasell has also scheduled a turnaround at its 380,000 tonnes/year plant in LaPorte during the next few weeks, said by one source to begin in mid-March.

Dow Chemical will begin maintenance at its 365,000 tonnes/year plant in Texas City in late April or early May, with the duration unknown, sources said.

Officials at Dow, DuPont and LyondellBasell did not respond immediately to calls for more details on the turnarounds.

All of the five US VAM plants are in the Houston, Texas, area.

Spot VAM prices have held steady in recent weeks following an increase in early February tied to a rise in feedstock US ethylene.

Most sources confirmed the FOB (free-on-board) export range assessed by ICIS at \$1,000-1,100/tonne (€770-847/tonne).

Major US VAM producers include DuPont, Dow Chemical, Celanese and LyondellBasell.

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