

# Thai PTT Asahi Chemical starts commercial prod at ACN, MMA plants

RELEASED ON 13/02/13 (DD/MM/YY)

Thailand-based PTT Asahi Chemical has started commercial production at its 200,000 tonne/year acrylonitrile (ACN) and 70,000 tonne/year methyl methacrylate (MMA) plants in Mab Ta Phut, Thailand, its Japanese parent Asahi Kasei said on Wednesday.

The producer had held a celebration ceremony at the site on 11 February, Asahi Kasei said in a statement.

The plants were currently operating at nearly full rate, an Asahi Kasei spokeswoman said on the phone.

PTT Asahi Chemical originally planned to start commercial production at the ACN and MMA plants in 2010, but it was delayed partly due to the Thai government's change of policies, the spokeswoman added.

Another reason for the delay was because it took longer than expected to adjust the facilities so they could sustain stable operations, she said.

PTT Asahi Chemical first fed feedstocks into the ACN and the MMA plants at the end of 2011, the spokeswoman added.

It took more than a year before the plants could stably operate at full rate on commercial basis, she said.

PTT Asahi Chemical is a joint venture between Asahi Kasei Chemicals, PTT and Japanese trading firm Marubeni.

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