

LG Chem forecasts Acrylic Acid and SAP demand to grow respectively + 5.5% and + 7-8% per year for the 5 coming years

I took the opportunity of this announcement of LG to rephrase the estimated growth of acrylic acid and SAP :

August 19, 2015: LG Chem says it has completed expansion work on its acrylic acid and a super absorbent polymer (SAP) plants at Yeosu, South Korea.

The company announced the 320 billion South Korean won (\$269.7 million) expansion at the end of 2013. The project raised **acrylic acid** capacity from 350 kt/a to **510 kt/a** and added 80 kt/a **SAP** capacity, bringing the total at Yeosu to **360 kt/a**.

LG Chem, following the hike, ranks as the **world's fifth largest** in **acrylic acid** and **fourth-largest** in **SAP** in capacity terms. The company forecasts an additional won300 billion in sales following the new investment.

LG Chem is planning to increase its **acrylic acid and SAP-related sales** by 600 billion won (US\$504 million) or so to at least **1.7 trillion won (US\$1.4 billion)** by 2020. **LG Chem** forecasts the market for **acrylic acid** to grow **from 4.9 mt/a last year to 6.7 mt/a by 2020**, while that of **SAP** is estimated to increase **from 2.3 mt/a to 3.4 mt/a during the next five years**.

LG Chem had delved into the materials since the 1990s and came up with its own acrylic acid catalyst and production techniques in 2004 for the first time in Korea. At present, only a handful of companies such as **BASF**, **Dow**, **NSCL**, and **Mitsubishi** **hi** **have their own processing techniques** in this industry.

Last year, **BASF** and **Sinopec** have inaugurated **two new plants for acrylic acid (160 kt/a)** and **SAP (60 kt/a)** at their Verbund site, BASF-YPC Co., Ltd. in Nanjing, China to further strengthen the C3 (propylene) value chain. (see: *[BASF and Sinopec inaugurate acrylic acid and SAP plants in Nanjing, China](#)*)

In December 2013, **Mitsubishi Chemical** and **SK Global Chemical**, through a strategic alliance with, planned to build an **acrylic acid plant** at **Ulsan, Korea** by 2016. (see: *[SK Global to build acrylic acid and derivatives plants in Korea as part of portfolio diversification](#)*) The plant will be designed to produce **160 kt/a acrylic acid**. SK is considering construction of a SAP plant using acrylic acid from the new plant.

Source: Solvya blog competitive intelligence blog from "Chemweek" and "BusinessKorea"