

BASF inaugurates €500m acrylic acid plant in Brazil

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BASF has inaugurated a 160,000 tonne/year acrylic acid plant in the Brazilian state of Bahia following an investment of €500m, the German chemical major said on Friday.

The company said the investment was the largest in its history in South America. The facility will also produce butyl acrylate and superabsorbent polymers.

"This complex will secure national and regional supply of products that are currently imported. In addition, it will positively impact the local economy by encouraging investment and innovation in the region and attracting new companies to the Camacari [Bahia, Brazil] industrial area," said the president of BASF in South America, Ralph Schweens.

The construction of the plant started in 2012 and according to the company will be the only facility in South America producing acrylic acid.

In related news, BASF said it will convert its plant in Guarantigueta, near Sao Paulo, to produce 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, a raw material for the adhesive and coatings industries. Production is expected to start in 2016.

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