

BASF plans major invest in new superabsorbent polymerisation

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The world's biggest chemical company has big plans for its superabsorbent business: BASF plans to invest some € 500 million to equip its global production sites with newly developed droplet polymerization capacities.

BASF researchers have worked intensively in the last decade to develop a new technology and optimize the corresponding production processes. Now the first product with the superabsorbent shall be marketed under the brand name Saviva. This polymer shall have round-shaped particles with micro-pores, enabling a better liquid distribution mechanism, the company claims.

"To launch this breakthrough innovation in a fast and efficient way, BASF has developed a revamp strategy. In order to keep time-to-market as short as possible, we will extend and modify already existing production sites," said Michael Heinz, Member of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF. Existing facilities will in future be able to produce both the new Saviva and BASF's current product. The first wave of revamping existing plants will be kicked off in Europe, closely followed by plants in Asia and the Americas.

Superabsorbents are polymers that can absorb and retain extremely large amounts of liquid relative to their own mass. They are used as a main component in baby diapers, incontinence products and feminine hygiene products. With a global network of research, production and service sites and an annual production capacity of 590,000 metric tons, BASF is a leading producer of these polymers.

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