

whiter. Initially, the Goller Creek plant will be producing 200,000 tonnes/y and this will be expanded to 350,000 tonnes/y in 2008/09 and then to 1 M tonnes/y by 2018, if warranted by market demand.

Industrial Minerals, May 2008, 15

China, Indonesia & Thailand: Clariant – plastic masterbatch

Clariant is steadily increasing its capacity for making plastic masterbatches in China and Southeast Asia. The company now has three masterbatch plants in China – at Beijing (with a capacity of 1000 tonnes/y and 40 employees); at Shanghai (3500 tonnes/y and 100 employees); and at Guangzhou (3000 tonnes/y and 70 employees). A project due for completion later this year will raise capacity at Guangzhou by 10%. Meanwhile, a three-layer blow-moulding machine was installed at the Shanghai plant towards the end of 2007 with the aim of developing new colour effects for plastic bottles. Clariant also operates a 5000 tonnes/y plant at Taoyuan (Taiwan).

Clariant's new masterbatch plant at Chon Buri (Thailand) commenced production in 3Q 2007. The company's project to raise masterbatch capacity at Tangerang (Indonesia) was completed in January 2008.

Chimie Pharma Hebdo, 26 May 2008, (424), 9
(Website: <http://www.france-chimie.com>) (in French)
& Plastics News, 12 May 2008 (Website: <http://www.plasticsnews.com>)

China: Cabot/Bluestar – fumed silica

Cabot Corp signed a joint venture agreement with the China National Bluestar group on 16 May for the establishment of a 7000 tonnes/y fumed silica plant at Tianjin, which should be ready for operation by early 2010. The project will cost \$40 M. No indication has been given of the respective financial shares in the joint venture.

Cabot and Bluestar already have a 4800 tonnes/y fumed silica plant in operation at Jiujang-Xinghuo (Jiangxi province). This plant came on-stream in mid-2006 and it cost \$30 M to build, of which 90% was contributed by Cabot and 10% by Bluestar.

Press Release from: Cabot Corp, 2 Seaport Lane, Suite 1300, Boston, MA 02210 2019, USA (16 May 2008)

China: Jindian Mining – zinc oxide

Jindian Mining Co Ltd plans to spend RMB Yuan 20 M to build a new zinc oxide plant in Wengyuan County (Guangdong province). The plant will be capable of producing 23,000 tonnes/y of zinc oxide, of which 5000 tonnes/y as nanoparticulate ZnO. It will employ about 100 people. An environmental impact report was submitted with the project application, indicating that appropriate measures will be put in place to deal with the sulfur oxide and sulfuric acid mist emissions.

China Chemical Reporter, 26 Mar 2008, 19 (9), 15

China: Schlenk – aluminium pigments

The Schlenk group has opened a new aluminium pigments plant at Taixing, following a three-year construction programme. The plant incorporates the same process and product quality standards that apply at its plants in Roth-Barmsdorf and Bitterfeld (Germany) and Ashland, MA (United States). The parent company was founded by Mr Carl Schlenk in 1879 and it changed its official name to Schlenk Metallic Pigments GmbH last November.

Paint & Coatings Industry (PCI), May 2008, 24 (5), 22

China: Sichuan Lomon – TiO₂

The massive earthquake that hit Sichuan provinces on 12 May 2008, followed by a number of strong aftershocks, severely damaged several chemical facilities and caused major disruptions to the transportation of chemicals and raw materials. At an early stage, the Central Government's State Administration of Work Safety ordered all chemical plants, power generating facilities and coal mines near the epicentre to stop production in order to prevent additional casualties and to facilitate emergency rescue and relief efforts. Sichuan Lomon duly closed its 80,000 tonnes/y TiO₂ pigment plant at Mianzhu (Deyang County, near the city of Chengdu). It is interesting to note that 'ICIS-CBN' reports the plant location as Chengdu, whereas 'JCW' refers to the more precise location – Mianzhu.

Only a few weeks before the earthquake, Sichuan Lomon had declared its intention to expand its

TiO₂ capacity to 200,000 tonnes/y next year, with plans to raise its exports to 70,000-80,000 tonnes/y. 'JCW' noted that the existing plant consisted of two 40,000 tonnes production lines and that the expansion designed by Sichuan Lomon's own engineers would entail the installation of two 60,000 tonnes/y production lines. In the next stage of the company's programme, TiO₂ pigment capacity was to be boosted to 500,000 tonnes/y by 2015. It is too early to assess whether the earthquake-related damage will result in serious delays to this programme.

ICIS Chemical Business, 28 Apr 2008 & 19 May 2008, (Website: <http://icischemicalbusiness.com>) & Japan Chemical Week, 17 Apr 2008, 49 (2462), 10

Czech Republic: Lasselsberger - kaolin

The Lasselsberger group (headquartered at Poechlarn, Niederösterreich) joined the ranks of Europe's kaolin producers in the late 1990s with the acquisition of controlling interests in Chlumcanske Keramicke Zavody (CHKZ) and Keramika Horni Briza (KHB), both in the Czech Republic. Lasselsberger's production of kaolin last year reached 500,000 tonnes, of which 35% was paper-grade, 34% was fibreglass-grade and 22% was ceramics-grade. The other 9% was accounted for by other grades. The company currently operates three kaolin mines in the Plzen region – at Kaznejov, Horni Briza and Chlumcany.

As well as kaolin, Lasselsberger produces several other mineral products for the ceramics sector, notably 400,000 tonnes/y of ball clays and 200,000 tonnes/y of feldspar. A significant proportion of its mineral output is consumed captive.

Lasselsberger is one of the world's top four ceramic tile manufacturers, with 55 production lines at 12 different sites in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. It reported tile production at 58 M sq m for full-year 2007.

Industrial Minerals, Mar 2008, (486), 69-71

France & Thailand: Toyo Ink – colorants for inks & plastics

Toyo Ink is poised to bring on-stream three new plants as part of its business growth plan. At Villiers St Paul (France), Toyo Ink is