

## Chem-Trend opens facility in China

US-BASED Chem-Trend, a manufacturer of release agents and other process chemical specialities for the composites, thermoplastics and other industries, has started production in China.

The company's new 300 000 ft<sup>2</sup> complex, located in Qingpu, near Shanghai, was built for joint use by Chem-Trend and its German sister company Kluber Lubrication, for the production of release agents and speciality lubricants.

At around RMB200 million (US\$28 million), the new facility is one of Chem-Trend and Kluber's largest investments. The site is designed for a maximum annual capacity of almost 13 000 tonnes of release agents and lubricants. The site layout

includes an optional area of over 200 000 ft<sup>2</sup>, which is intended to house a technical service and research laboratory.

"Our new manufacturing facility in China will allow Chem-Trend to better serve our customers with premium release agents in the rapidly expanding Chinese market," says Chem-Trend President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Quinn. "As part of our globalisation strategy, it is Chem-Trend's desire to provide superior technology, high quality products and responsive technical support to help our customers maximise their processing cost efficiency and productivity."

The burgeoning Chinese market prompted the decision

to invest in the region, according to Quinn, where strong growth sectors include the automotive, composites, tyre and plastics industries.

"As China's manufacturers strive to meet global quality standards, we will be able to efficiently provide products that have been proven in the global marketplace, building upon an already established position of strength in the Asian marketplace," adds Quinn.

Chem-Trend and Kluber currently employ around 170 people in China, the majority of which are based at the Qingpu site.

Chem-Trend;  
[www.chemtrend.com](http://www.chemtrend.com)

## PPG increases prices

PPG INDUSTRIES' fibre glass business is raising prices for products in the Americas from 1 May, or as contracts allow. The increases will affect all reinforcements for thermoset and thermoplastic resins as well as yarn products.

Rising costs for energy, transportation, raw materials and precious metals are behind the move. "While we want to continue to invest in technology and capacity, we find ourselves in a position where current economics will not justify these necessary investments," says Greg Benckart, PPG general manager, fibre glass.

PPG Industries; [www.ppg.com](http://www.ppg.com)