

use in the textile, personal-care, rigid and flexible polyurethane foam, and agrochemical sectors. In PU foams, e.g., for car interior trim and insulation materials, functional silicone fluids serve as additives for adjusting the cell structure. The investment for the plant amounted to around EUR 6 million. "With this expansion of our production, we are broadening our product portfolio and can thereby open up new markets in the growth regions of India and Southeast Asia," said **Christian Hartel**, Executive Board member at **Wacker Chemie AG**.

www.wacker.com

Sabic acquires stake in Clariant

Sabic has acquired a 24.99 % equity stake in **Clariant**, previously held by the investors **40 North** and **White Tale** (through **Corvex Management**). The acquisition makes Sabic the largest Clariant shareholder. The two companies are also partners in the catalyst joint venture **Scientific Design**. White Tale had previously prevented a proposed USD 20 billion merger of Clariant and **Huntsman** in 2017.

www.clariant.com · www.huntsman.com

www.sabic.com · www.standardindustries.com/40-north/

Aston Martin and Dow continue partnership

Aston Martin and **Dow** have announced the continuation of their successful technical development partnership. For more than 25 years, Dow Automotive Systems has supplied Aston Martin models, such as the **DB11** and the **Vanquish**, with structural adhesive solutions that facilitate multi-material lightweight constructions, while also offering structural strength and stiffness. According to Dow, its **Betamate**, **Betaforce** and **Betaseal** material solutions are able to meet broad industry needs and production processes. These customised adhesives meet a wide range of open time and cure time requirements and bond a broad range of materials including electro-coated aluminium and steel, anodised aluminium, carbon fibre and glass fibre reinforced composites as well as glazing applications.

www.astonmartin.com · www.dow.com



BASF to double MDI capacity in North America

BASF will start construction of a new MDI synthesis unit at its site in Geismar, LA, USA, in early Q2 2018. Planning and engineering started in 2016 and were completed at the end of January 2018. According to BASF, the plant is an important step to double its MDI capacity at the site from 300,000 t/y to close to 600,000 t/y in the medium term.

www.basf.com

Sonderhoff further grows in China

Sonderhoff (Suzhou) Sealing Systems Co. Ltd., part of **Henkel AG & Co. KGaA**, is a leading supplier of formed in-place (FIP) sealing technology in China. At Chinaplas 2018, the system supplier of machines, materials and process automation will exhibit in hall 2H, stand 2J85. Customers will see a broad selection of two-component foam sealing, gluing and potting systems based on polyurethane or silicone. For the automated FIP material application, customers use Sonderhoff's two- and multi-component mixing and dosing systems. The company has laid the foundation for further growth with its own polyurethane material production in Suzhou and the expansion of contract manufacturing for the foam sealing, gluing and potting of customer components. Its spectrum ranges from individual sampling of prototypes to small series up to serial production.

The Chinese subsidiary of Sonderhoff is located in the Singapore Industrial Park in Suzhou. The company has developed very well in the Chinese market since its founding in 2009 as a specialist in formed in-place (FIP) sealing technology. With the takeover of Sonderhoff by Henkel half a year ago, the prospects for further growth in China have improved even further.

www.sonderhoff.com

Global PU market worth USD 56.76 billion by 2021

According to **Markets and Markets**, the global PU market is projected to reach USD 56.76 billion by 2021 at a CAGR of 5.6 %. The growing middle class with increasing disposable incomes as well as the rising urbanisation supplemented by investments in infrastructure are said to be the main drivers. PU flexible foam is estimated to remain the largest product segment till 2021. Beddings, automotive interiors and footwear are said to be the main applications for flexible foams. A major driver in the flexible foam market is the use of memory foam in bedding. Driven by the growing automotive industry, the Asia-Pacific region is forecast to remain the largest PU market in terms of value and volume. ("Polyurethane Market by Raw Material (MDI, TDI, Polyols), Product (Coatings, Adhesives & Sealants, Flexible & Rigid Foams, Elastomers), End User (Building & Construction, Automotive & Transportation, Bedding & Furniture) – Global Forecast to 2021").

www.marketsandmarkets.com