



Press Release

Leverkusen/Barcelona,
February 6, 2023

Covestro AG
Communications
51365 Leverkusen
Germany

Contact
Lars Boelke
Telephone
+49 1522 8860494
EMail
Lars.Boelke
@covestro.com

Contact
Przemyslaw Jedrysik
Telephone
+49 162 3860218
EMail
Przemyslaw.Jedrysik
@covestro.com

Contact
Dr. Frank Rothbarth
Telephone
+49 175 30 25363
EMail
Frank.Rothbarth
@covestro.com

Investment project

Covestro successfully starts up a new world-scale chlorine plant in Tarragona

- **First world-scale plant based upon energy efficient ODC technology**
- **New plant strengthens European MDI production network of Covestro**
- **Investment of 200 million euros creates 50 new jobs in Tarragona**

Covestro has successfully started up a new world-scale facility for the production of chlorine in Tarragona, Spain. It is the first world-scale production plant for chlorine based upon the highly innovative and energy efficient ODC (oxygen depolarized cathode) technology invented by Covestro and its partners. The new plant ensures an efficient, permanent and independent supply of chlorine and caustic soda to MDI production in Tarragona. This will strengthen the European production network for MDI – a precursor for the manufacture of rigid polyurethane foam used to insulate refrigeration appliances and buildings. The 200 million euro investment has created 50 new jobs on site.

"The successful start-up of the new plant is good news, both economically and ecologically, for Covestro as well as for our site in Tarragona", said CEO Dr. Markus Steilemann. "The plant demonstrates how new technologies enable us to advance our vision of the circular economy and further reduce resource consumption while increasing the robustness and efficiency of our production network."

The new chlorine facility is the first industrial-scale plant in the world to use the innovative oxygen depolarized cathode technology (ODC). The technology has been developed by Covestro in collaboration with thyssenkrupp nucera. Compared to the currently predominant conventional chlor-alkali electrolysis, the new process requires a lower voltage, which results in energy savings of up to 25 percent. At the new plant in Tarragona, this can avoid up to 22,000 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per year compared with existing processes – based on the energy mix at the start of construction planning in 2018. The new plant will thus make an important contribution to Covestro's goal of being operationally climate-neutral by 2035.

The chlorine is used on site as a raw material for the production of MDI, a precursor for the manufacture of rigid polyurethane foams as used for producing energy-efficient insulation solutions for buildings and refrigerating devices. In 2019, the global MDI market had a volume of around 7,500 kilotons and is expected to further grow in the long term. In addition to chlorine, the plant will also produce caustic soda for the Iberian and European markets. Both chlorine and caustic soda are two indispensable basic chemicals for the chemical industry, and are also key raw materials for many other strategic sectors.



Andrea Firenze, General Manager of Covestro in Spain, added: "The arrival of this plant allows us to significantly strengthen Covestro's MDI production in Tarragona. Being able to have our own, independent supply of chlorine gives us the ability to further increase the efficiency and competitiveness of our MDI plant. Moreover, the new plant also strengthens Tarragona's position as the benchmark for chemistry in southern Europe, promotes the economic and social development of the area and both directly as well as indirectly generates new jobs. I would therefore like to sincerely thank all my colleagues who have contributed to the success of this project with their work."

About Covestro:

Covestro is one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-quality polymer materials and their components. With its innovative products, processes and methods, the company helps enhance sustainability and the quality of life in many areas. Covestro supplies customers around the world in key industries such as mobility, building and living, as well as the electrical and electronics sector. In addition, polymers from Covestro are also used in sectors such as sports and leisure, cosmetics and health, as well as in the chemical industry itself.

The company is committed to becoming fully circular and is striving to become climate neutral by 2035 (scope 1 and 2). Covestro generated sales of EUR 15.9 billion in fiscal 2021. At the end of 2021, the company had 50 production sites worldwide and employed approximately 17,900 people (calculated as full-time equivalents).

Find more information at the [Covestro Homepage](#).

Read our [Corporate Blog](#).

Follow us on the Covestro Social Media Channels:    

Forward-looking statements

This news release may contain forward-looking statements based on current assumptions and forecasts made by Covestro AG. Various known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors could lead to material differences between the actual future results, financial situation, development or performance of the company and the estimates given here. These factors include those discussed in Covestro's public reports which are available at www.covestro.com. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to conform them to future events or developments.