Covestro pushes digitization for production and customer processes

**Artificial intelligence to make chemical industry faster and smarter**

* **Data-based technologies for more sustainability and efficiency**
* **Pilot projects in various divisions**
* **Important findings for the entire chemical industry**

Covestro is driving forward the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the company as well as throughout the entire chemical industry. As part of these efforts, the Leverkusen-based materials manufacturer is conducting several pilot projects across different divisions to investigate how digital technologies can make processes more efficient and sustainable.

“With the help of artificial intelligence, we will be able to find digital solutions across departmental boundaries in the future that were not possible before. This opens up completely new possibilities to achieve greater sustainability with improved resource utilization and thus to serve the needs of our customers even more precisely,” says Sucheta Govil, Chief Commercial Officer of Covestro.

**Pilot projects put the use of AI to the test**

At its Dormagen production site, Covestro is testing how the manufacturing process for polyesters can be optimized. Polyesters are needed for the production of polyurethanes. The use of artificial intelligence in the processing of the company’s comprehensive process data is intended to create free production capacities and minimize energy consumption. Digital technologies are also used in Dormagen and at the Leverkusen and Krefeld-Uerdingen sites to predict the peak steam consumption of production plants. In this way, energy consumption and costs can be reduced in the long term.

Another project deals with the digital customer experience. Machine learning is used to help to identify potential customers for Covestro at all digital touch points on the Internet and social media. The aim is to win them over as customers in the long term through consultation and information. Artificial intelligence will also be used in Covestro’s purchasing department in the future. Faulty invoices can then be identified with less effort, making the invoicing acknowledgement process much more efficient.

**Utilizing data science for more intelligent production**

“AI is a fascinating opportunity for Covestro worldwide. The ongoing projects show that data and its proper use not only make the entire industry smarter and faster, but can also contribute to the bottom line,” says Nils Janus, Head of Advanced Analytics at Covestro. To make optimum use of data-based findings in the future, the materials manufacturer has developed the Covestro Analytics Platform (CAP), a platform for data scientists. It collects raw data from production plants, research results, and business processes and supplements it with external databases to perform analyses and train machine learning models. In this way, Covestro is taking another important step towards digitalization and data-driven business management.

**About Covestro:**

With sales of EUR 12.4 billion in 2019, Covestro is among the world’s largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main industries served are the automotive, construction, wood processing and furniture, and electrical and electronics industries. Other sectors include sports and leisure, cosmetics, healthcare and the chemical industry itself. Covestro has 30 production sites worldwide and employs approximately 17,200 people (calculated as full-time equivalents) as of the end of 2019.

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