



Press Release

Covestro receives first delivery of sustainable benzene from Total

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- **Total supplies 2,000 tons of ISCC Plus-certified benzene**
- **Covestro uses it to produce important precursor for different applications**
- **Drop-in solution with alternative raw material for more sustainable insulation boards, automotive parts and cooling units**

[Covestro](#) has received its first delivery of 2,000 metric tons of sustainable benzene from [Total](#) and by that achieved a further milestone on its way towards a [Circular Economy](#). The ISCC Plus-certified raw material was supplied by Total Refining and Petrochemicals Normandy platform in northwestern France, and transported to Covestro's Antwerp site. There it serves as a precursor for aniline, an important chemical product from which Covestro produces diphenylmethane diisocyanate (MDI) at the Krefeld-Uerdingen Chempark. MDI is the initial base for rigid polyurethane foam, which for decades has provided highly efficient thermal insulation for buildings and refrigeration equipment, as well as for applications in the automotive and many other industries.

“Through the partnership with Total, we are supporting our customers in the rigid foam sector to make their production even more sustainable and to position themselves accordingly,” says Daniel Meyer, Global Head of the Polyurethanes segment at Covestro. “They can use this drop-in solution immediately in their existing manufacturing processes without any technical conversion. The product quality is on par with that of petrochemical-based products.”

“This commercial partnership with Covestro demonstrates Total's goal to produce and commercialize new sustainable products, helping our clients to reduce their carbon footprint,” says Jean-François Renglet, Vice President Marketing Base Chemicals Division at Total Refining and Chemicals. “It is in line with Total's ambition to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 for all its activities worldwide, from production to the energy products used by its customers.”

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Gradual transition to alternative raw materials

By gradually transitioning its production to alternative raw materials, Covestro aims to replace fossil raw materials and make its value chains more sustainable. Just recently, the company itself received ISCC Plus certification for the production of renewable aniline in Antwerp and MDI in Uerdingen, as well as for the production of polycarbonate at both sites. For Covestro, the project is part of a comprehensive program with which the company, together with partners, aims to propel the transition to a circular economy and ultimately become fully circular itself.

Mass balance certification across the entire value chain makes production more sustainable – reducing the product's CO₂ footprint and the use of fossil raw materials – and more transparent. The acronym ISCC stands for International Sustainability and Carbon Certification, an internationally recognized system for the sustainability certification of biomass and bioenergy.

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.

About Total:

Total is a broad energy company that produces and markets fuels, natural gas and electricity. Our 100,000 employees are committed to better energy that is more affordable, more reliable, cleaner and accessible to as many people as possible. Active in more than 130 countries, our ambition is to become the responsible energy major.

Forward-looking statements

This press 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. These reports are available at www.covestro.com. The company assumes no liability whatsoever to update these forward-looking statements or to make them conform to future events or developments.