Press release

EVONIK
POWER TO CREATE

Evonik celebrates the official groundbreaking of the new polyamide 12 complex in Marl

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- Plant is a response to high demand in attractive markets, ranging from automotive engineering to 3D printing
- Investment strengthens Smart Materials growth engine and solidifies position as a market's leading provider of polyamide 12
- Evonik is investing over €400 million

Essen/Marl. Specialty chemicals company Evonik has officially begun construction on its largest investment to date in Germany. Armin Laschet, the minister president of the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and Christian Kullmann, the chairman of the executive board of Evonik Industries AG, stood in the front row as over 200 shovels were planted in the ground at the construction site in the middle of Marl Chemical Park. The ceremony, which was also attended by customers, employees, and other representatives from the world of politics, signaled the launch of the project. The company is expanding capacity for polyamide 12 (PA 12) by more than 50 percent at its largest site in the world. The project will complement existing PA 12 production there with additional plants for the polymer and its precursors. Startup is scheduled for 2021.

When speaking at the ceremony, Armin Laschet pointed out the special significance of investing over €400 million euros in Germany, and especially in the northern part of the Ruhr region. "That a leading specialty chemicals company like Evonik is investing here in an ultra-modern production site shows that North Rhine-Westphalia is the number one chemical location in Germany and can compete at a global level. Singapore and other countries competed hard for this plant with tax benefits. In the end, the decision was for Marl because here we have the advantage of a network of competent chemical and energy companies. Plastic is a high-tech material and a resource of the future."

Christian Kullmann highlights the significance of the new plant: "This is the biggest single investment our company has made in

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Germany. We're building this plant because we want to continue to grow with innovative specialty chemical products. With our high-performance polymer PA 12 we can supply global strategic growth markets such as 3D printing. But also in the automotive industry, our light-weight and long-lasting plastic makes an important contribution to resource efficiency."

Innovations are also the business of the invited startups and of the digitalization projects, which Claus Rettig, chairman of the management board of Evonik Resource Efficiency GmbH, briefly introduced to those in attendance. "We want to become faster and more flexible when it comes to developing new, customized polymers to help our customers achieve strong growth. We need new technologies to do that, which is why we've taken consistent steps toward utilizing artificial intelligence," says Rettig.

Evonik has been developing custom high-performance polymers for sophisticated applications for over 50 years. The Group is one of the world's leading producers of PA 12, which the company sells under the brand name VESTAMID® Granulate. Demand for the material is considerable in highly attractive markets such as the automotive industry, oil and gas extraction, medicine, and athletics. VESTONSINT®, a powdered version of PA 12, is used in applications such as metal coatings for consumer goods, dishwasher baskets, automobile components, and medical devices. Evonik has also spent years developing specialty polymer powders that allow manufacturers to use 3D printing to produce high-tech components on an industrial scale.

Company information
Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The focus on more specialty businesses, customer-oriented innovative prowess and a trustful and performance-oriented corporate culture form the heart of Evonik's corporate strategy. They are the lever for profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company. Evonik benefits specifically from its customer proximity and leading market positions. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world. In fiscal 2018, the enterprise with more than 32,000 employees generated sales of €13.3 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €2.15 billion from continuing operations.

About Resource Efficiency
The Resource Efficiency segment is led by Evonik Resource Efficiency GmbH and produces high performance materials and specialty additives for environmentally friendly as well as energy-efficient systems to the automotive, paints & coatings, adhesives, construction, and many other industries. This segment employed about 10,000 employees, and generated sales of around €5.5 billion in 2018 from continuing operations.

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