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Pullach and Ludwigshafen, Germany, 3 June 2014 – The Linde Group and BASF SE intend to cooperate in developing and licensing processes for the on-purpose production of linear butenes and butadiene. BASF has developed process technology and catalysts as well as the extraction technologies, while Linde is providing its expertise for the integration, optimization and commercialization of the process.

The new process will deliver an on-purpose route from butane to butadiene via butenes. Currently, the industry relies mainly on butadiene as a co-product from naphtha-cracking to ethylene. The shift to lighter cracker feedstock results in reduced volumes of co-products. Therefore the on-purpose production of higher olefins is gaining more and more importance.

“The new BASF technology is currently being developed by mini plant and pilot plant operation in Ludwigshafen”, said Dr Heinrich-Josef Blankertz, Senior Vice President Global Technology, of BASF’s Petrochemicals division. “We are optimistic that we can offer a new best-in-class technology for the manufacturing of on-purpose butadiene to help producers meet the increasing global demand.”

“We focus on elaborating a solution that provides an efficient process characterized by optimal integration of the whole process chain,” added Dr Ernst Haidegger, Head of Product Line Petrochemical Plants at Linde’s Engineering Division. “This new technology is a welcome addition to our existing portfolio of petrochemical technologies.”

Butadiene is a monomer used for the production of polymers, paper coating and synthetic rubber mainly for the tire production. Butenes are building blocks which are used in the chemical and in refining industries.

About The Linde Group

In the 2013 financial year, The Linde Group generated revenue of EUR 16.655 bn, making it the largest gases and engineering company in the world with approximately 63,500 employees working in more than 100 countries worldwide. The strategy of The Linde Group is geared towards long-term profitable growth and focuses on the expansion of its international business with forward-looking products and services. Linde acts responsibly towards its shareholders, business partners, employees, society and the environment – in every one of its business areas, regions and locations across the globe. The company is committed to technologies and products that unite the goals of customer value

and sustainable development.

For more information, see The Linde Group online at www.linde.com

About BASF

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of about €74 billion in 2013 and over 112,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN).

Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com

Further Information:

Linde AG
Dr Thomas Hagn
Phone: +49.89.35757-1323
E-mail: thomas.hagn@linde.com

BASF
Silvia Müller
Phone: +49 621 60 55084
E-mail: silvia.mueller@basf.com

Linde AG, Klosterhofstrasse 1, 80331 Munich, Germany
Phone +49.89.35757-01, Fax +49.89.35757-1075, Email: info@linde.com