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Shell lifts petrochemicals production with successful start-up of new Singapore plants

16 Sep 2015

A new 140,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) high-purity ethylene oxide purification unit and new 140,000 tpa ethoxylates unit are supplying local and regional customers.

Shell today announced that it has more than doubled the production of high-purity ethylene oxide (HPEO) and ethoxylates at its site on Jurong Island, Singapore.

The company has successfully started up a new purification unit with a capacity of 140,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of HPEO. A new world-scale production unit today can manufacture 140,000 tpa of ethoxylates. Shell delivers HPEO through an ethylene oxide pipeline grid to 'over-the-fence' customers and its own expanded ethoxylation operations on Jurong Island. Feedstock for the new HPEO plant comes from Shell's ethylene oxide/mono-ethylene glycol plant, which is integrated with the company's ethylene cracker through to its largest fully-owned refinery on Pulau Bukom.

"The demand for HPEO and alcohol ethoxylates in Asia has been rising over the years. These two projects are part of Shell's strategy to serve the growing needs of existing and new customers locally and in the region," said Graham van't Hoff, Executive Vice-President for Shell Chemicals.

More than six million man-hours went into both projects, which were completed without disruption to existing operations. Some 400 kilometres of cable, 60 kilometres of piping, and 180 pieces of equipment (including columns, reactors, vessels, heat exchangers) were installed across 35,000 square metres of land (about the size of seven football fields), over two years.



Cookie Preferences

Shell's new purification unit on Jurong Island has the capacity to produce 140,000 tpa of HPEO.

Singapore continues to be an important refining and petrochemicals hub for Shell. The two new petrochemicals production units on Jurong Island further strengthen Shell's portfolio of world-class manufacturing facilities, and boost its chemicals footprint in Asia. The availability of both ethylene oxide and propylene oxide (PO) at the same location offers an advantageous value proposition for specialty chemical companies, who commonly use both of these intermediates to produce value-added products.

The HPEO and ethoxylates projects are the latest successes in a string of investments over the last few years, aimed at strengthening Shell's largest oil-chemicals integrated site spanning Singapore's Bukom and Jurong islands.

In 2013, Shell increased polyols capacity by more than 100,000 tpa and added new grades to its product offering. In December 2014, it took 100% control of Ellba Eastern, the then styrene monomer and propylene oxide (PO) joint venture with BASF. The move enabled integration with and optimisation of Shell's existing assets on Jurong Island in a difficult cost environment, and the additional volume of PO allowed the company to make the most of its polyols assets there. Most recently, Shell debottlenecked its Singapore ethylene cracker on Pulau Bukom and increased the capacity of olefins and aromatics by more than 20% to over one million tonnes a year.

Beyond bolstering its own competitive position in the Asian chemicals market, Shell's investments

in Jurong Island have helped to attract millions of dollars of foreign investments from specialty chemicals players, supporting the country's move into this growing niche sector.

"We are pleased to have companies such as Shell partnering us in the development of the energy and chemicals cluster in Singapore," said Mr Yeoh Keat Chuan, Managing Director of the Singapore Economic Development Board. "These new facilities have brought about new investments in the manufacturing of specialty chemicals on Jurong Island, which creates good jobs for Singaporeans. We look forward to writing the next chapter of our chemicals growth story with Shell."



New ethoxylates unit at Shell's site on Jurong Island in Singapore, which can manufacture 140,000 tpa of ethoxylates.

Derived from ethylene oxide, HPEO is used in a wide range of household and industrial applications. Its largest outlet is the ethoxylation industry, which processes HPEO and alcohol into alcohol ethoxylates. These are key ingredients for a variety of products, such as detergents and personal care items like shampoo and body wash.

NOTES TO EDITORS

View the infographic on the Shell HPEO, ethoxylates and polyols value chain in Singapore.

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About Shell Chemicals

- The term 'Shell Chemicals' collectively refers to Shell Group companies engaged in the chemicals business.
- Shell Chemicals has a heritage of more than 85 years. We rank among the world's Top 10 chemicals suppliers, selling over 17 million tonnes of petrochemicals per year to customers, many of whom are leaders in their own fields.
- Our world-class integrated manufacturing plants are in Asia-Pacific (Singapore), Europe (Netherlands, Germany), and North America (the US Gulf Coast and Canada).
- We have three leading research centres in the US, the Netherlands and India, with nearly 3,000 scientists and support staff.
- Our market-leading proprietary technologies underpin our strong product portfolio. We also invest to develop next-generation technologies that could use new types of feedstocks, at lower costs and with reduced environmental impact.
- We draw strength from being part of an integrated energy company, benefitting from shared infrastructures, access to a variety of feedstocks, and deep manufacturing and processing expertise. This gives Shell a competitive advantage over stand-alone chemicals companies.

- For more details, visit www.shell.com/chemicals & [Shell Eastern Petrochemicals Complex](#)

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The companies in which Royal Dutch Shell plc directly and indirectly owns investments are separate entities. In this presentation "Shell", "Shell group" and "Royal Dutch Shell" are sometimes used for convenience where references are made to Royal Dutch Shell plc and its subsidiaries in general. Likewise, the words "we", "us" and "our" are also used to refer to subsidiaries in general or to those who work for them. These expressions are also used where no useful purpose is served by identifying the particular company or companies. "Subsidiaries", "Shell subsidiaries" and "Shell companies" as used in this presentation refer to companies in which Royal Dutch Shell either directly or indirectly has control. Companies over which Shell has joint control are generally referred to as "joint ventures" and companies over which Shell has significant influence but neither control nor joint control are referred to as "associates". The term "Shell interest" is used for convenience to indicate the direct and/or indirect ownership interest held by Shell in a venture, partnership or company, after exclusion of all third-party interest.

This announcement contains forward looking statements concerning the financial condition, results of operations and businesses of Shell and the Shell Group. All statements other than statements of historical fact are, or may be deemed to be, forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are statements of future expectations that are based on management's current expectations and assumptions and involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results, performance or events to differ materially from those expressed or implied in these statements. Forward-looking statements include, among other things, statements concerning the potential exposure of Shell and the Shell Group to market risks and statements expressing management's expectations, beliefs, estimates, forecasts, projections and assumptions. These forward looking statements are identified by their use of terms and phrases such as "anticipate", "believe", "could", "estimate", "expect", "goals", "intend", "may", "objectives", "outlook", "plan", "probably", "project", "risks", "seek", "should", "target", "will" and similar terms and phrases. There are a number of factors that could affect the future operations of Shell and the Shell Group and could cause those results to differ materially from those expressed in the forward looking statements included in this announcement, including (without limitation): (a) price fluctuations in crude oil and natural gas; (b) changes in demand for Shell's products; (c) currency fluctuations; (d) drilling and production results; (e) reserves estimates; (f) loss of market share and industry competition; (g) environmental and physical risks; (h) risks associated with the identification of suitable potential acquisition properties and targets, and successful negotiation and completion of such transactions; (i) the risk of doing business in developing countries and countries subject to international sanctions; (j) legislative, fiscal and regulatory developments including regulatory measures addressing climate change; (k) economic and financial market conditions in various countries and regions; (l) political risks, including the risks of expropriation and renegotiation of the terms of contracts with governmental entities, delays or advancements in the approval of projects and delays in the reimbursement for shared costs; and (m) changes in trading conditions. All forward looking statements contained in this announcement are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. Readers should not place undue reliance on forward looking statements. Additional factors that may affect future results are contained in Shell's 20-F for the year ended 31 December 2014 (available at www.shell.com/investor and www.sec.gov). These factors also should be considered by the reader. Each forward looking statement speaks only as of the date of this announcement, 16 September 2015. Neither Shell nor any of its subsidiaries nor the Shell Group undertake any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward looking statement as a result of new information, future events or other information. In light of these risks, results could differ materially from those stated, implied or inferred from the forward looking statements contained in this announcement.

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