

# PRESS RELEASE

Number 18

## WACKER OFFICIALLY OPENS NEW PRODUCTION SITE IN THE USA

- ◆ POLYSILICON PRODUCTION SITE WITH OVER 20,000 METRIC TONS/YEAR OF CAPACITY AND 650 JOBS IN THE US STATE OF TENNESSEE
- ◆ CONSTRUCTION OF WACKER'S LARGEST SINGLE INVESTMENT OF SOME US\$ 2.5 BILLION NOW SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED
- ◆ POLYSILICON PRODUCTION LAUNCHED, WITH ALL FACILITIES EXPECTED TO BE FULLY ON STREAM BY Q3 2016
- ◆ CEO RUDOLF STAUDIGL: "CHARLESTON GIVES US THE CAPACITY TO MEET DEMAND GROWTH FOR OUR HIGH-GRADE POLYSILICON AND THE BASIS FOR A FULLY INTEGRATED PRODUCTION SITE IN THE WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST CHEMICAL MARKET"

Charleston (TN) and Munich, April 18, 2016 – Today, Wacker Chemie AG officially opened its new polysilicon production site in the US State of Tennessee. The ceremony in Charleston was attended by numerous guests from politics, business and government, including Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam and the state's two US Senators, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker. The new site is WACKER's largest single investment ever, totaling some US\$ 2.5 billion. WACKER began starting up individual plant sections at Charleston in December after a construction period of just under five years. So far, about 1,000 metric tons of polysilicon have been produced there. In the coming months,

WACKER will gradually ramp up production and expects to reach Charleston's full capacity of over 20,000 metric tons per year in the third quarter of 2016. Currently, the site has about 600 employees and, when fully operational, should have some 650.

In his speech, WACKER CEO Rudolf Staudigl highlighted the fact that growth opportunities are arising due to photovoltaics' continued progress around the globe. "Cost for electricity produced by photovoltaic systems has declined markedly in recent years. Consequently, this way of generating energy has become even more competitive, which is opening up new markets," explained Staudigl. Newly installed global capacity would grow again this year, he said, and amount to between 60 and 70 gigawatts according to WACKER's estimates. Capacity additions would be particularly high in China, the USA, Japan and India. "This will spur demand for high-grade material of the best quality, as supplied by WACKER," emphasized Staudigl. In the photovoltaic sector, silicon technology has clearly beaten other technologies, he said.

Charleston, continued Staudigl, would give WACKER the basis in the long term for a fully integrated silicon site in the USA, the world's second-largest chemical market. Currently, WACKER is looking into constructing a new production facility there for its HDK<sup>®</sup> pyrogenic silica. Ultrapure amorphous silicon dioxide powder is used as a filler in silicone elastomers and as a viscosity-adjusting agent, for example, in coatings, printing inks and adhesives. It also serves as a flow aid in the cosmetics, pharmaceutical and food industries. WACKER is the world's third-largest manufacturer in this sector.



Distillation columns at the polysilicon site in Charleston, Tennessee (USA): WACKER started commissioning the production facilities as planned at the end of 2015. The new site will increase the Munich-based chemical company's capacity for hyperpure polysilicon by more than 20,000 metric tons per year.

(Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)




Note:

You can download this photo at:

<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

*This press release contains forward-looking statements based on assumptions and estimates of WACKER's Executive Board. Although we assume the expectations in these forward-looking statements are realistic, we cannot guarantee they will prove to be correct. The assumptions may harbor risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual figures to differ considerably from the forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause such discrepancies include, among other things, changes in the economic and business environment, variations in exchange and interest rates, the introduction of competing products, lack of acceptance for new products or services, and changes in corporate strategy. WACKER does not plan to update the forward-looking statements, nor does it assume the obligation to do so.*

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**The company in brief:**

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 17,000 employees and annual sales of around €5.3 billion (2015). WACKER has a global network of 25 production sites, 22 technical competence centers and 50 sales offices.

**WACKER SILICONES**

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

**WACKER POLYMERS**

Polyvinyl acetates and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions, solid resins and solutions

**WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS**

Biotech products such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and PVAc solid resins

**WACKER POLYSILICON**

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaic industries

**Siltronic**

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor components