

LANXESS conducts rubber research in India

New Delhi/Leverkusen – Specialty chemicals group LANXESS is expanding its global research network and has signed a cooperation agreement with the leading Indian rubber research institute. Partnering LANXESS will be the independent Hari Shankar Singhania Elastomer and Tyre Research Institute (HASETRI) headquartered in Kankroli in the Federal State of Rajasthan.

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“With the HASETRI Institute’s acknowledged expertise, we shall accelerate the development of our business in high-performance and safe tires on India’s rapidly growing market,” said Chairman of the LANXESS Board of Management Axel C. Heitmann in front of around 250 guests at the first Rubber Day in India. At the one-day symposium focusing on road safety, high-ranking representatives from industry, science, politics and the associations are discussing innovations, future developments and the market potential of the versatile material synthetic rubber. One key aspect is the positive effect of high-performance tires on vehicle driving performance and braking distance. Among the guests attending is the Indian Minister for Science and Technology Prithviraj Chauhan and German Ambassador to India Thomas Matussek.

The cooperation agreement with the institute, which was founded in 1991, is initially limited to one year and its purpose is to help open up the rapidly growing tire market. According to recent studies, Indian tire manufacturers are approaching the magic threshold of 100 million tires. In the coming year tire production is expected to grow by seven percent, with a further plus of around five percent forecast by 2015. Manufacturers are encouraged by significantly increased demand from local OEMs and the replacement tire market. LANXESS’s Indian customers include tire manufacturers Apollo, JK Tyres, MRF and Ceat.

Under the cooperation agreement, the ISO-certified and internationally recognized HASETRI Institute with its 40 or so staff will assist current and future customers on the subcontinent of LANXESS high-performance PBR and SSBR (solution styrene-butadiene rubber) with application issues. The institute has modern facilities and acknowledged expertise in tire and rubber product research, designs, machinery and equipment for the rubber industry and the testing of rubber materials and products.

HASETRI will work closely with LANXESS's Innovation department and the Performance Butadiene Rubbers business unit's Asian experts. Through the resulting studies LANXESS will acquaint local tire manufacturers with the advantages of its high-performance rubber products. The results of the studies will be then applied in production. Three years ago LANXESS established a similar collaboration with the Beijing Research and Design Institute of the Rubber Industry (BRDI) in China.

LANXESS launched the "Rubber Day" series of events in 2009 with the World Rubber Day in Cologne in September 2009. In the mean time, Rubber Days have also been organized in Brazil and China. Around 1,000 guests have attended these so far. LANXESS aims to continue this rubber conference concept with further symposia in 2011. This series of events has become a firm fixture in the rubber industry's calendar, serving as a globally recognized networking platform.

LANXESS is the leading manufacturer of synthetic rubber, which is used primarily by tire manufacturers. According to a recent study, LANXESS's high-performance products help to improve road safety, since good grip on the part of a high-performance tire can halve car braking distance. The full version of the study is available at <http://rubber.lanxess.com/en/rubber-day-new-delhi-india/study-road-safety-in-india/>.

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LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 5.06 billion in 2009 and currently around 14,300 employees in 23 countries. The company is represented at 43 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of plastics, rubber, intermediates and specialty chemicals.

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Forward-Looking Statements

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Information for editors:

All LANXESS news releases and their accompanying photos can be found at <http://corporate.lanxess.de/en/media/press-releases/>. Recent photos of the Board of Management and other LANXESS image material are available at http://fotos.lanxess.de/index_en.html. The latest TV footage, audiofiles and podcasts can be found at <http://corporate.lanxess.com/en/media/audio-video/>.

You can find further information concerning LANXESS chemistry in our WebMagazine at <http://webmagazine.lanxess.com>.

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