

USD 189 million from IACMI's partners. IACMI is the fifth named institute of President Obama's National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. Evonik manufactures a range of products that can be found in almost all components of fibre-reinforced composites. The

company supplies core materials for sandwich construction, thermoplastic and thermosetting resin matrices, as well as the essential components for matrices such as crosslinkers, catalysts, impact strength modifiers or processing and process additives.

BCI to open new production site in the UAE

Baalbaki Chemical Industries (BCI) announced that its new polyesters and pre-polymers manufacturing facility located in the Hamriyah Free Zone in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be fully operational in April 2015. According to BCI, the facility adds 40,000 t/y of aromatic/aliphatic polyester polyols and isocyanate pre-polymer capacity to its already installed capacities in Egypt. BCI said the facility will help the company to serve customers in the GCC, Pakistan, India and the South-east Asia region with rigid, cold cure, footwear PU systems, aromatic and aliphatic polyester polyols, as well as speciality adhesives for

the flexible packaging industry.

In 2014, BCI focused on developing its Egyptian operations by ramping up its system house, pre-polymer plant and polyester plant, and expanding into new segments such as cold cure applications, rebonded foam adhesives, and silicone release agents. **BCI-Egypt** also purchased the business, technology and trademarks of **Egycoll**, the largest producer of TPU and neoprene-based adhesives in Egypt. BCI-Egypt is also in the process of setting up a state-of-the-art lab and TS centre in the 6th of October industrial city in Egypt.



Bayer and IAF collaborate in coated fabrics

Bayer MaterialScience and the **International Apparel Federation (IAF)** have entered into a collaboration aimed at improving the innovation and sustainability in the apparel and footwear industry. As a first step, both partners have run a number of **Insqin** series workshops which took place across three continents. Bayer says the workshops proved to be essential events for footwear and apparel brand owners that use PU-coated fabrics, e. g. PU synthetic leather. Insqin pure waterborne PU technology enables

PU leather to be manufactured in a new process that does not require the use of any solvents. The technology presents a wide range of possibilities to enhance and transform fabrics. Another topic covered during the workshops was how to secure supply chain transparency. For this reason, Bayer has developed the Insqin Partner Manufacturer Program that through professional third party audit verifies the management system and production processes of manufacturers using the technology.

Tokyo extends anti-dumping investigation on TDI from China

According to the news service "PetroChemical News", Japan's **Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)** and the **Ministry of Finance Japan** have decided to extend an anti-dumping probe by four months on TDI imported from China. The investigation, which began on 14 February 2014, was in response to an application filed on 17 December 2013 by **Mitsui**

Chemicals for the imposition of an anti-dumping duty on TDI originating in China. The investigation, originally expected to end after one year, has been extended to 13 June 2015, at which time it will be determined if the dumped product has caused material injury to the domestic industry. The government will then make a decision whether or not to impose an anti-dumping duty.

Two Chem-Trend facilities achieve AS9100C quality standard

The release agents and casting lubricants specialist **Chem-Trend** announced that it has achieved the highest global certificate of registration for its quality management systems at two manufacturing facilities in Howell, MI, USA. The **NSF International Strategic Registrations (NSF-ISR)** recognised the Grand River and McPherson

Park plants for conforming to the AS9100 requirements for aviation standards. AS9100 is a widely adopted and standardised quality management system developed by the **International Aerospace Quality Group**. It encompasses ISO 9000, with additional requirements for quality and safety specific to aerospace.

Smithers Rapra analyses the global market for polymer foams

According to the report **The Future of Polymer Foams to 2019** from **Smithers Rapra**, the global market for polymer foams totalled 19.1 million t in 2013, representing nearly USD 87 billion, including those used in construction, packaging, automotive and comfort applications. By 2019 the market is expected to consume 25.1 million t. This report explores growth rates by resin, end-use application and region, and describes product, market developments, legislation requirements in each region, and technological advances. Other new market studies:

- **Global Thermoplastic Polyurethane Market 2015–2019**
Technavio – Infiniti Research Limited, 2015, 74 p., from USD 2,500
- **World furniture outlook 2015**
CSIL – Centre for Industrial Studies, Milano, Italy, 2014, 124 p., from EUR 1,600
- **The Furniture Industry in the Gulf Countries: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar**
CSIL – Centre for Industrial Studies, Milano, Italy, 2015, 276 p., from EUR 1,800