



News release

AkzoNobel

Tomorrow's Answers Today

Breakthrough in sustainable degreasing technology

Amersfoort, April 19, 2011 - AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals has entered into a license agreement with Koninklijke Hulshof of the Netherlands for the exclusive use of AkzoNobel's patented DeMythe®LDD technology in the processing of animal skins. This technology is the most cost effective method of degreasing and dehydrating animal skins in the leather and protein processing industries.

AkzoNobel and the Spanish company GRIT have been working together to develop DeMythe®LDD, a sustainable degreasing and dehydration technology, since 2003. The solvent dimethylether (DME) is used in a closed process to degrease and remove water from animal skins. The DME is then separated from the grease and water and reused. This sustainable process means that it is no longer necessary to use huge quantities of water and chemicals. It also guarantees a process improvement and results in cleaner waste water. Under the license agreement, Hulshof will build a facility that will start operating in mid 2012. "Hulshof will be using the most sustainable degreasing technology," says Ton Pichel, AkzoNobel's DME business manager. "This technology offers challenging opportunities for companies in the leather and protein processing industry."

The agreement between multinational AkzoNobel and Lichtenvoorde-based Hulshof is the culmination of years of negotiation. With sustainability a priority for both companies, both are open to further collaboration.

Says director Herman Hulshof: "This innovative technology means that the original waste stream will be a source of income. The result is a more sustainable operation and a healthier future."

The DME will be produced in Rotterdam by AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals, which is based in Amersfoort in the Netherlands. Besides DME, AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals produces and sells salt and energy, chlor-alkali products and derivatives such as monochloroacetic acid (MCA) and metal salts. All products that are essential to daily life which are used, among others, in the production of vehicle parts, food, glass, plastic, medicines, degreasing agents and textiles.

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