



Press release

Minister-President Carstensen officially commissions new ethylene pipeline

Brunsbüttel, 19 March 2007- By symbolically pressing a button, Peter-Harry Carstensen, minister-president of Schleswig-Holstein, today officially commissioned Sasol Germany's ethylene pipeline at the Brunsbüttel plant. The pipeline runs from Stade to Brunsbüttel across a length of 54 km. "This pipeline will enable us to secure additional sources of supply", explains Dr. Kay Luttmann, Head of the Brunsbüttel plant. "We can now buy ethylene across the globe, have it shipped to Stade and pump it by pipeline to our plant. In doing so, we have simultaneously created the basis for further growth and for securing our location."

The pipeline is the centrepiece of an extensive investment project amounting to € 70 million, which Sasol had announced in January 2004. Moreover, this project will be instrumental in modernising and extending the production facilities for alcohols and alumina as well as downstream processing facilities. These will also include a new spray drier and a calciner unit for the production of special aluminas, measures to improve the ethylene yield as well as enhanced flexibility in the production of Ziegler alcohols. All individual projects will be implemented by the end of 2007.

The pipeline construction proceeded without any major problems and in harmony with the owners of the properties it traversed. In order to protect the environment and nature, vegetation periods and breeding times of birds were taken into account; as a result, it was only possible to lay the pipeline at exactly pre-determined times. State-of-the-art electronic equipment is used to monitor daily operation of the pipeline.

The task of crossing the Elbe river underneath its bed, from St. Margarethen to Krummdeich in Lower Saxony, represented a significant technological challenge. To this end, paths were drilled from both banks of the Elbe and aligned in such a manner as to ensure that the drill bits met at exactly the same point. With a total length of 2,626 m, this drilling operation represented a world record. Never before had a horizontal well been drilled on this scale using the HDD (horizontal directional drilling) method. Another major achievement was the work on a tunnel underneath Kiel Canal. To this end, 310 meters of pipeline were laid in an already existing utility shaft at a depth of 25 metres.



The realisation of the entire investment project worth approx. € 70 million was only possible thanks to the support of the government of the state of Schleswig-Holstein, which endorsed the project as part of the programme, “*Gemeinschaftsaufgabe: Förderung der regionalen Wirtschaftsstruktur*” (a joint task force for promotion of the regional economic structure) and the European Fund for Regional Development - EFRE.

“The ethylene pipeline was the prerequisite for further growth of the plant”, Luttmann emphasized. “However, Sasol would have had considerable difficulties in making the pipeline construction economically viable without any support for the overall project as such.” In return, Sasol undertook to secure the jobs at the Brunsbüttel site in years to come. At present, the plant has a workforce of 536 employees; its primary products are fatty alcohols and high-purity aluminas.

The Brunsbüttel unit is one of three plants operated by Sasol Germany and thus belongs to the South African Sasol Group, an oil, gas and chemicals enterprise with a global reach, headquartered in Johannesburg. Sasol Germany produces chemical feedstocks and specialties such as fatty alcohols, aluminas, tensides, heat transfer fluids and oleochemicals. The company has a workforce of approx. 1,600.

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