

New Catalyst Introduced at GEOTEM Conference

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The GS Catalyst business announced a variety of new catalyst portfolio introductions at the 2007 Global Ethylene Oxide Technical Meeting (GEOTEM) in San Francisco. During the five-day conference in July, more than 150 attendees, including ethylene oxide (EO) catalyst and licensing customers from 20 countries, participated in a series of technology and safety presentations.

The GS Catalyst business announced the introduction of two new next generation ethylene oxide (EO) catalysts, new and improved licensing process designs and a new world-scale EO catalyst manufacturing plant in Belgium.

In a variety of engaging presentations, representatives of the GS Catalyst business emphasised their unique position as developers of the worlds leading EO/MEG process and catalyst technology.

Don Roche, of the Catalyst Business, hosted the meeting. He said: "We have the industry's leading EO (Ethylene Glycol) process development engineers and the world's best EO catalyst development scientists and R&D program. Additionally Shell Chemicals, as the first implementer of new process and catalysts, develops the best operational experience on these new technologies and the best HSSE practices."

GEOTEM is part of the continuing series of technical meetings held every four years that aim to highlight technology developments in EO catalyst and the EO/EG process. Previous venues have included Singapore and Barcelona. The portfolio introductions will improve EO/EG plant profitability and enable catalyst and process partners to ensure future success.

Don added: "S-886, an EO catalyst with the highest selectivity, will be used in most low Co2 plants. The S-891, a new generation hybrid EO catalyst with selectivity significantly higher than any current hybrid catalyst, will have very broad applicability in mid to high Co2 plants.

"Both new catalysts will help improve the economics of the EO/EG plants, where they are used and provide significant growth for the GS Catalyst business."

In EO process licensing, a new improved design based on the new S-886 EO catalyst was introduced as well as improvements to the OMEGA EO process design. These new process innovations are step out process technologies that make Shell the clear leader in EO/EG process technology.

In addition to the announced technology advances, a second world-scale EO catalyst manufacturing plant being built in Belgium will manufacture product in 2008. Don said: "This will help secure supply to all of our customers and double the manufacturing capability of EO catalyst for the Industry."

The conference message was short and clear - 'Keeping It S-I-M-P-L-E', emphasising the benefits for customers to choose Shell as their Technology partner:

S - Superior Technical Service

I - Innovation in EO process and catalyst 20-year successful track record

- M –Manufacturing capability - Two world scale plants
- P- Process technology- Leading EO/EG processes
- L- Licensing capabilities – Technical and Commercial experience
- E- Excellence in Combined catalyst and Process technology Development