



Mentoring European Knowledge of the Chemical Regions

CHEMICAL SITES INITIATIVES IN EUROPE

The example of CeChemNet (Saxony-Anhalt) and AIQPA (Asturias)



www.mentorchem.net



Table of contents

<i>Introduction</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>CeChemNet</i>	
<i>CeChemNet - Central European Chemical Network</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>CeChemNet Partners</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Activities</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>AIQPA</i>	
<i>Asociación de industrias químicas y de procesos de Asturias (AIQPA)</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>AIQPA Partners</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Activities</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Conclusions</i>	<i>27</i>

Introduction

In the framework of the project “Mentoring European Knowledge of the Chemical Regions” supported by the pilot action “Regions of Knowledge” the project partners have identified similar experiences and challenges in the area of chemical site development or chemical site initiatives.

Due to the particular production system of the chemical industry, the chemical enterprises are traditionally concentrated in specific locations. These chemical sites are often connected in order to organise the raw material flows. The development of the chemical sites is strongly influenced by the structural change of the chemical industry. A strong orientation on the core business and the outsourcing of other activities (Service, logistics, IT, etc.) has led to the creation of many small and medium sized enterprises. This division between the production and the organisation of a chemical site is facilitated by the establishment of chemical site service providers. The management of chemical sites has become a separate service with its own complexity. Moreover, the chemical park management has a strong importance for the competitiveness of the enterprises on site.

The basis for the added value chain in the chemical industry is the raw material network. An established network creates synergies between the enterprises and increases the opportunities for other settlements and investments. Based on the existing cooperation further topics of joint interest have become visible that have been further developed in areas such as safety and security, waste management, logistics etc. This has strengthened the trend for the cooperation of chemical sites in the region. Moreover chemical parks are also cooperating at national and European level in order to present the advantages of the chemical location Europe in the global competition with Asia and America.

In a knowledge economy the chemical sites can create added value in further developing the innovation capacities. This can happen in the development of specific research and development infrastructure focused on chemistry on the site or in networking the innovation potentials in the nearby research environment.

The cooperation between private and public stakeholders is necessary for the improvement of framework conditions and the strengthening of competitiveness (fast authorisation procedures, joint activities in PPP models etc). Furthermore, the development of industrial services for the chemical industry will be a growth area with multiplying effect for future employment.

This brochure contains the description of the two chemical site initiatives “Central European Chemical Network” – CeChemNet from Saxony-Anhalt and AIQPA from Asturias. Representatives from both initiatives have been working together to compare their specific strengths and challenges. During a joint expert meeting on the 11th of April in Bitterfeld, the experts have identified several areas of joint interest, which are relevant for the interregional exchange of experience. Both initiatives have agreed to further cooperate in the future. The conclusions from this meeting are presented in the final chapter.

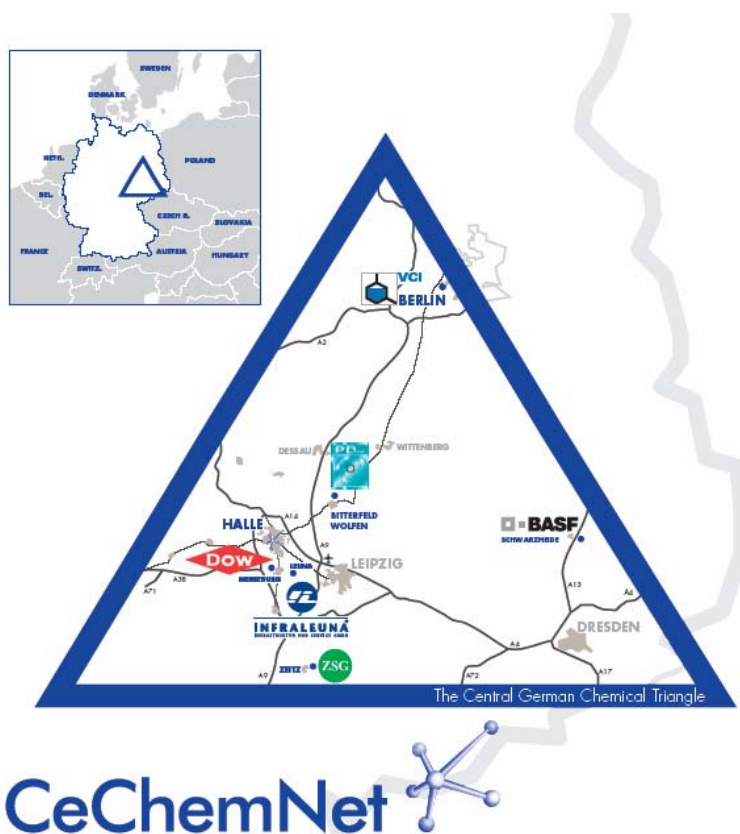


On site inspection of experts from AIQPA and CeChemNet in the Bayer facility in Bitterfeld

CeChemNet - Central European Chemical Network

Chemical enterprises, specialised service providers, research and education institutes from the Central German Triangle have joined their forces in the regional network "CeChemNet" – Central European Chemical Network for the development of a new quality of cooperation and bundling of competencies in various areas of work of the local chemical sites. Today, CeChemNet can be seen as the core and the driving force of the cluster process in Saxony-Anhalt.

The partners of the network are: InfraLeuna Infrastructure and Service GmbH, Dow Olefinverbund GmbH - ValuePark® Schkopau-Böhlen, Preiss - Daimler Chemiepark Bitterfeld - Wolfen GmbH, BASF Schwarzheide GmbH, ZSG Zeitzer Standortgesellschaft mbH, isw Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Beratung und Dienstleistung GmbH, der BVCT Bildungsverbund Chemie und Technik e.V. and the Association of the Chemical Industry– Landesgruppe Nord-Ost.



The Central German Chemical Triangle comprises six excellently equipped chemical sites with industrial specific profiles on over 5,500 hectares. This triangle in Central Germany extracts its power by creating and using synergies. The chemical sites offer best conditions for new settlements.

The complete infrastructure, the production plants and the environmentally compatible supply and disposal facilities were set up with the most modern standards.

The combination of comprehensive chemistry competencies and regional acceptance create competitive advantages that are based on the favourable location conditions, an infrastructure suitable for productions and high qualified and motivated employees.

CeChemNet Partners

ChemiePark Bitterfeld Wolfen

Preiss-Daimler ChemiePark Bitterfeld Wolfen GmbH

Matthias Gabriel, Managing Director

Post-Office Box 11 51

D-06731 Bitterfeld

phone: +49 (0) 3493 7 24 88

fax: +49 (0) 3493 7 28 17

email: chemiepark-gmbh@tpnet.de

www.chemiepark.de



The PD ChemiePark GmbH is the chemical park company in Bitterfeld – Wolfen. After privatisation in 2001, the Preiss-Daimler Group accelerated the work already initiated on the chemical park's infrastructure. Today the companies can concentrate on their core business because they have an extensive supply of services at their fingertips in the Bitterfeld Wolfen Chemical Park. The privatised service suppliers on hand have everything that established businesses or start-ups need to get their business going.

total area:	1,200 hectares	Bayer Bitterfeld GmbH,
available area:	208 hectares	Akzo Nobel Chemicals GmbH,
investment volume:	3.5 billion €	Degussa AG, Heraeus Tenevo AG,
companies:	above 350	Solvay Interlox Bitterfeld GmbH,
employees:	approx. 10.000	Guardian Flachglas GmbH

Chemical Site Infraleuna

InfraLeuna Infrastruktur und Service GmbH

Andreas Hiltermann, Managing Director

Am Haupttor

D-06237 Leuna

phone: +49 (0) 3461 43 30 01

fax: +49 (0) 3461 43 42 90

email: a.hiltermann@infraleuna.de

www.infraleuna.de



InfraLeuna Infrastruktur und Service GmbH is the proprietor and operator of the infrastructure at the Leuna Chemical Site. InfraLeuna's attractive selection of services encompasses generating and supplying power, supplying and disposing of water, security services including fire brigade, analytical services, logistics, telecommunications and a lot more. InfraLeuna is also the site developer that provides assistance to new companies coming to Leuna.

total area:	1,300 hectares	TOTAL, DOMO Group, Linde AG, Rhodia Syntech, TAMINCO, ARKEMA, Dow, LEUNA-Tenside, LEUNA-Miramid, KataLeuna, LEUNA-Harze, Kartogroup , ChemComm, LEUNA Polymer, ADDINOL, enviaM, ThyssenKrupp, VEA Group
available area:	110 hectares	
investment volume:	more than 5 billion €	
companies:	more than 100	
employees:	approx. 9.000	

Dow ValuePark® Schkopau, Böhlen

Dow Olefinverbund GmbH , ValuePark®

Klaus-Dieter Heinze, ValuePark® Manager

Post-Office Box 1163

D-06201 Merseburg

phone: +49 (0) 3461 49 0

fax: +49 (0) 3461 49 31 79

email: dhheinze@dow.com

www.dow.com/ValuePark



Dow Olefinverbund GmbH set up the ValuePark® as a concept to invite business partners in the value chain, logistic and service alliance to relocate to Central Germany. They supply services and manufacture products in the immediate vicinity of the Dow plants. To date, thirteen companies have invested 300 million Euros in the ValuePark® in Schkopau. Dow offers all necessary services from one source such as formulating and making investments and providing the services and resources for production operations.

total area:	150 hectares	EVC, Fraunhofer Institute Pilot-Plant-Center for Polymer Synthesis and Processing, Hoyer, Manuli Stretch, RP Compounds, Mitteldeutsche Kunststofflogistik GmbH & CoKG
investment volume:	300 million €	
companies:	13	
employees:	600	

BASF Schwarzheide

BASF Schwarzheide GmbH

Dr. Volker Knabe, Chairman of the management

Bernd Güttes, Leader of settlement management

Schipkauer Straße 1,

D-01986 Schwarzheide

phone: +49 (0) 357 526 25 61

fax: +49 (0) 357 526 29 77

email: bernd.guettes@basf-sh.de

www.basf-schwarzheide.de



BASF Schwarzheide GmbH offers new investors a chemical site with a modern and economical infrastructure with the proximity to the future markets in Central and Eastern Europe. The Schwarzheide site can look back on a long tradition in chemical industry. During the last years the BASF Company has invested for the complete modernization and extension of the site.

total area : 230 hectares	Air Liquide GmbH, BASF Schwarzheide GmbH, BASF IT Service GmbH
still available area : 100 hectares	
investment volume: 1,3 billion €	Bertschi Kombiterminal, Biodiesel Schwarzheide GmbH; Cyclics Europe GmbH;
companies: 20	FEBRA Kunststoffe GmbH und Co. KG; Plastics Competence Center

Chemical and Industrial Park Zeitz

ZSG Zeitzer Standortgesellschaft mbH

Dr.-Ing. Peter Schwarz, Managing Director

Wolfgang Bauer, Managing Director

Hauptstraße 30

D-06729 Elsteraue OT Alttröglitz

phone: +49 (0) 3441 84 24 02

fax: +49 (0) 3441 84 20 29

email: zsg_mbH@t-online.de

www.industriepark-zeitz.com



The Zeitzer Standortgesellschaft mbH ZSG is the park management and service company on the Chemical and Industrial Park Zeitz. The Chemical and Industrial Park Zeitz offers an extensive variety of services for the companies while they can concentrate on their core business. The ZSG offers superior conditions both for large-scale industry on larger areas and small businesses wishing to move here.

total area:	237 hectares	Radici Deutschland GmbH, Puralube GmbH, Jowat, Klebstoffe GmbH, Deurex Micro, Technologies GmbH, SITA Rohstoffwirtschaft GmbH
available area:	100 hectares	
investment volume:	357 million €	
companies:	40	
employees:	approx. 1.000	

Association of the Chemical Industry – VCI Landesgruppe Nordost

Rolf Siegert, Managing Director
Verbände Nordostchemie
VCI Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.
Landesverband Nordost
Hallerstraße 3-6
D 10587 Berlin
phone.: +49 (30) 343 816 0
fax: +49 (30) 343 819 28
email: post@lv-no.vci.de
www.nordostchemie.de

Gemeinsam gestalten wir die Zukunft.

Nordostchemie

The associations Nordostchemie represent economic and socio-political interests of 320 member enterprises of the chemical industry with approximately 49,000 persons employed in East Germany. The associations stand for the protection of interests towards authorities, organisations, trade union and opinion makers. They support and advise the East German chemical industry.

BVCT Bildungsverbund Chemie und Technik e.V.

Dr. Frank Schmidt, Managing Director
Nietlebener Straße 2
D 06126 Halle / Saale
phone: +49 (0) 345 69 26 90
fax: +49 (0) 345 69 26 999
email: info@bvct.de
www.bvct.de



The Bildungsverbund Chemie und Technik e.V. BVCT in Halle is an important training and education centre for the chemical and petrochemical industry in Central Germany. BVCT offers suited programs, special equipment and training mechanisms, operates its own plant and its own simulation centre for each kind of chemical process, reactions and for dangerous incidents. In the locations Halle, Wolfen and Leuna and also directly in the enterprises 15.000 employees have been qualified to improve their knowledge and competencies.

isw Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Beratung und Dienstleistung GmbH,

Hans-Joachim Kunze, Managing Director

Hoher Weg 3,

D-06120 Halle (Saale)

phone: +49 (0) 345 299 82 70

fax: +49 (0) 0345 299 82 711

email: info@isw-gmbh.de

www.isw-gmbh.de



The isw GmbH was founded in 1992 with the objective to provide services and advise based on scientific results in several policy areas such as human resource development, regional development, urban planning, empirical research, event management and public relation. The isw GmbH has an extensive knowledge and experience for the development and implementation of complex projects at regional, national and European level such as the management, financial reporting and thematic research. It fulfils the role of the coordination office for CeChemNet and is an important moderator of the cluster process.

CeChemNet – Central European Chemical Network

Coordinated by isw GmbH

Peggy Padur, Coordinator

Hoher Weg 3

D-06120 Halle (Saale)

phone: +49 (0) 345 299 827 18

fax: +49 (0) 345 299 827 11

email: peggy.padur@cechemnet.de

www.cechemnet.de



Central european Chemical Network

Activities

Chemical Site Management Expertise

The “Central European Network” is an interdisciplinary network that combines a wide range of expertise, specialised engineering excellence and successful site management. It focuses regional capacities in chemical site development, creates synergies with its feedstock cooperation while promoting the cross acquisition of know-how in its six chemical facilities.

The approach of the network is based on the development of the chemical industry in Central Germany, which is primarily concerned with traditional chemical locations. All sites are characterised by a specific development scheme caused by the process of privatisation. The result of the transformation process is the development of specific know-how for the management of complex processes for the restructuring and the development of chemical sites.

The key priority is to apply the network’s chemical site management in two areas:

- CeChemNet is committed to attract new companies to invest in the Central German Chemical sites to develop and expand existing operations;
- The network business partners aim to advise and support companies from Eastern European chemical sites to solve their problems in restructuring and developing projects.

In this context CeChemNet offers its activities to outside investors, developing a network of tailor-made strategies for companies to settle in the Central German chemical triangle. With its outstanding expertise the network provides an innovative compendium of practicable solutions in site management especially for the regions in Eastern Europe, which face similar restructuring processes as Central Germany. Its range of services includes experience with renovating contaminated industrial sites, identifying, systemising and describing of existing or needed expertise and outlining the technical, organisational, financial and promotional potential for developing sites.

CeChemNet – best-practise solutions

Each of the CechemNet’s sites is specialised in a certain field of engineering excellence that has emerged from their historical background and through a variety of privatisation models. This means that each facility has its own expertise in solving the problems presented by restructuring processes. These competencies have been further systematically developed in a mutual exchange of experience. Approximately 100 actors from the working level of the participating project partners are involved in the working groups related to the project’s 11 modules. An important result of the cooperation process is the development of a service catalogue with “best-practice” solutions. The result is an extensive package of services that the network has tailored for the needs of particular target groups.

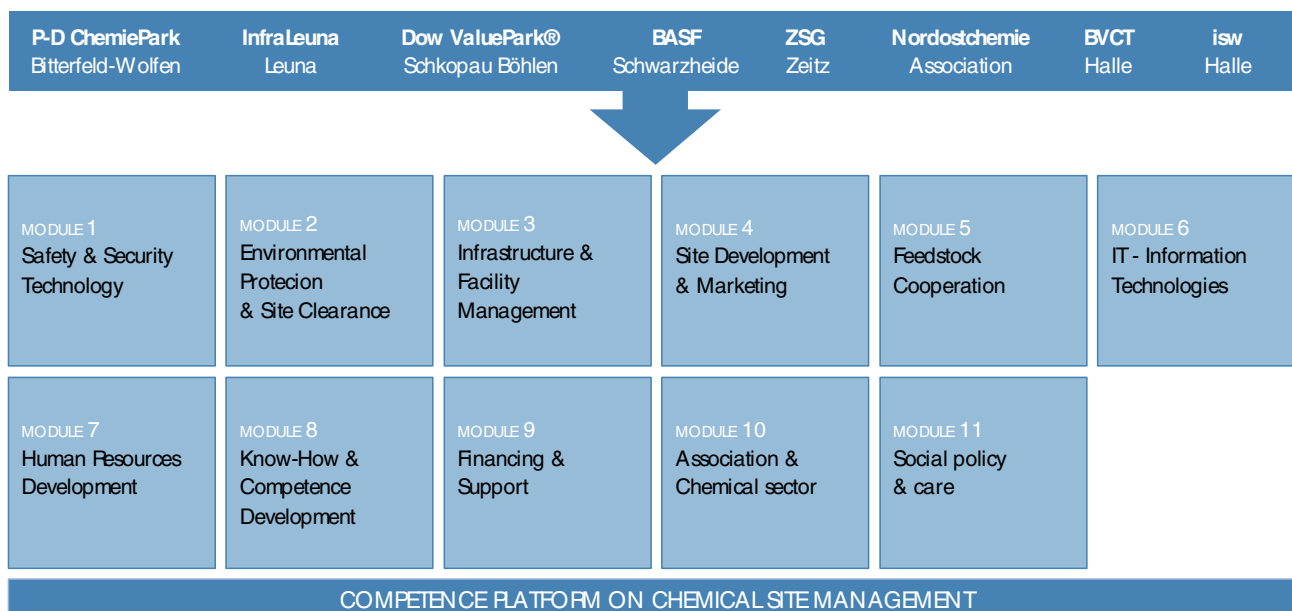
CHEMICAL SITE MANAGEMENT COMPETENCES

CeChemNet

Cooperation between the Chemical Sites of Central Germany,
The Nordostchemie Association and other local partners

Chemical Site Management Competences

8 project partners, 11 module teams, about 100 specialists of the Chemical Site Management



The partners of the network advise and support enterprises, particularly in mastering complex restructuring and development projects for East European chemistry locations

The best-practise solutions include following areas:

- **Safety & Security Management** (safety organisation, access control, fire brigade, emergency management for “closed” chemical sites and “open” sites according to the respective framework conditions and structures);
- **Environment Protection & Site Clearance** (e.g. registering, evaluation, planning and implementation of clean settlement areas, project management for the redevelopment and the disposal of old chemical sites, implementation of current EU and national directives, laws and regulation in respect to the environment protection, environment management and monitoring of working processes);
- **Infrastructure & Facility Management** (e.g. property questions, models for waste disposal and transport infrastructure);
- **Site development & Marketing** (e.g. construction planning, expert reports, site marketing, acquisition and project assistance);
- **Feedstock Cooperation**
- **IT Information Technologies** (information technology for site management, infrastructure, environment and safety management, IT applications, GIS, CAD);
- **Human Resources Management;**
- **Competence Development** (bundling of know-how)
- **Financing and Support** (incl. strategic focus for the implementation of financial assistance, innovative PPP models, EU assistance);
- **Association and Chemical Sector** (representation of interests of enterprises, forming of financial instruments, influencing the decision-makers at regional, nation and the EU-levels);
- **Social Policy and Care** (e.g. staff development, the sociable restructuring, social partnerships, legal fundamentals, social security and working safety).

Main focus of the cooperation between the chemical sites

Based on the already well-established structures and various activities between the partners, CeChemNet will intensify the cooperation to support the further development of the chemical cluster in the region. There is a clear benefit for the chemical sites in the knowledge transfer and joint activities in several areas. It is the objective to better present the existing competencies in the region in order to increase the visibility of the network and to attract new settlements. There is big potential for the transfer of know-how to other locations in Europe that should be actively promoted in the future. The chemical industry in Central Germany provides a best-practice example for a successful cluster process. The regional cooperation will be further developed to strengthen the competitive advantages and innovation capacities. A special focus will be the integration in international activities for articulation of interest and the exchange of experience.

Sites cooperation in the Central German Chemical Triangle:

- To use the existing potentials for the development of synergies between the individual chemical sites and inside CeChemNet for the strengthening of competitive advantages.
- To use the synergies of the Central German Raw Materials Network
- The knowledge transfer between the chemical sites and the strengthening of the competitiveness.
- Active joint development of the chemical sites concerning relevant framework conditions.

Chemical Park Marketing in the Central German Chemical Triangle:

- Joint marketing strategies for the presentation of the sites and the Central German Raw Materials Network.
- Cooperation concerning sites management and the settlement of enterprises.
- Increased international visibility of the network.
- New quality in connection with federal supported marketing, image formation and sites management.

Competencies of Chemical Site Management as an exclusive feature

- Uniting and marketing of competencies of the successful chemical site management
- Marketing of special know-how resulting from transformation processes of the Eastern German chemical industry
- Formation of competencies as a location advantage / increased attractiveness for an international cooperation

Central German Future Cluster Chemistry and Plastics

- CeChemNet is an essential partner of the cluster
- Concentration on future clusters as active lobby work
- Deepening of the regional cooperation particularly chemistry/plastics and science – Strengthening of innovation capacities in the chemistry cluster.
- Developing of synergies to other Central German Future Clusters in particular Automotive Cluster, Biotech Cluster and Environment Cluster.

Strengthening of international activities

- Integrating interests of East German chemical sites in the platform of the European Chemical Regions Network (Regional Partner Function)
- Developing the cooperation with Central and East European regions for intensive exchange of experiences and establishment of concrete regional partnerships.
- Opening access to international network structures particularly for SMEs - Involving the enterprises into international cooperation and network structures
- Providing regional expertise for international cooperation projects such as European Chemical Regions Network (ECRN), Mentoring European Knowledge of Chemical Regions (MentorChem) or ChemSME

Perspectives

The forming of a typical chemical site competence and knowledge management is an increasingly important competitive advantage in a developing knowledge society. Chemical sites are complex “learning organisations” that collect, mediate and develop knowledge. In particular, the bundling of competencies in activities that are not part of the “core activities” of the enterprises and chemical site provider creates new synergy potentials. Therefore, the integration of the chemical sites in the innovation landscape, especially with universities and research institutes, will play a bigger role in the future.

One of the core objectives is the stronger integration of the enterprises in international cooperation. On the basis of an intense exchange of experience and the cooperation of chemical regions of Central and Eastern Europe, existing competencies should be used for international partnerships. This will ease the access to international network structures especially for small and medium sized enterprises on the chemical sites and can be used for the development of concrete projects in interregional partnerships. In this context the CeChemNet represents and integrates the interests of East German chemical sites in the European Network Chemical Regions Network (ECRN). The exchange of experience with the Spanish chemical initiative AIQPA that has been initiated in the project MentorChem is another example of further internationalisation. Based on the identified topics of joint interests this cooperation should be further developed in the future.

Source: CeChemNet

www.cechemnet.de

Asociación de industrias químicas y de procesos de Asturias (AIQPA)

The *Asociación de industrias químicas y de procesos de Asturias* (AIQPA) was founded in 1999 with the general objectives of contributing to the promotion and development of the Chemical Sector in the region, cooperating in activities of common concern, defining necessities in the sector and looking into synergies, foreseeing of future problems and situations, and dissemination of activities

AIQPA Partners

Nowadays, nine national and international companies are members (in alphabetical order):

ASTURPHARMA
Polígono de Silvota, parcelas 22B-23
33191, Silvota – Llanera
web page: www.asturpharma.com



Asturpharma manufactures active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) for the Generics Pharmaceutical Market. Asturpharma exports more than 95 % of its production, mainly to Middle and Far East, Latin America, Japan, European Union and the United States.

BAYER
C/Alonso Fueyo, 77
33930, La Felguera
web page: www.bayer.es



Founded as PROQUISA (Chemical Synthetic Products S.A.) in 1942, the factory was acquired by BAYER in 1981. The factory of La Felguera is the main producer in the world of acetylsalicylic acid.

DUPONT
Valle de Tamón, s/n
33469, Carreño-Corvera de Asturias
web page: www.dupont.com
www.eu.dupont.com



Tamón is the fifth industrial European complex of Dupont, and was inaugurated in November, 1989. At present, approximately 800 persons are employed at the facilities of the Company, including personnel and contractors.

At the core of thousands of applications in our world are ingredients that have origins in DuPont science and innovation. Some of the DuPont products are: additives, building and construction materials, coatings, consumer products, fibers, films, food ingredients, insecticides, paint, plastics, polymers, refractory and many more.

ENCE
C/ Armental, s/n
33710 - Navia
web page: www.ence.es



The factory of "*Celulosas de Asturias, S.A.*"(CEASA) was settled in Navia in 1973. In 1995, CEASA was acquired by the Group Parsons & Whittemore in 1995 and, in 1999 was bought by ENCE. The Factory produces both Totally Chlorine Free (TCF) and Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) cellulose pulp. The product is exported to Germany, United Kingdom, France, Spain, Holland, Italy, Switzerland and others.

FERTIBERIA
Ctra. Avilés-Gijón Km 7
Apartado nº8, Avilés
web page: www.fertiberia.com



Fertiberia, with an industrial structure of nine factories distributed through the whole national geography, produces more than seven million tons per year among intermediate and final products, and is nowadays the first national producer of fertilizers and the fourth in the European Union. The factory of Avilés devotes itself to the production of nitric acid, ammonium-calcium nitrates (NAC), complex fertilizers (NPK) and soluble fertilizers.

INDUSTRIAL QUÍMICA DEL NALÓN, S.A.
Avenida de Galicia, 31, bajo
33005 – Oviedo
Web page: www.nalonchem.com



Industrial Química del Nalón, S.A.
NalónChem

In 1943 *Industrial Química del Nalón, S.A.* (IQN) was founded, with a clear vocation of developing, producing and commercializing chemical products based on coal and coal derivatives. IQN has two production plants in Asturias: Trubia (Division Carbochemical Division) and Langreo (Coke Division), and has logistic facilities in the ports of Avilés (Spain), Szczecin (Poland) and Marseille (France). Its main products are: Coke of smelting, tars and Naphthalene of diverse degrees and presentations, as well as technical oils.

PRAXAIR
Apartado 109
33280 - Gijón
web page: www.praxair.es



The activity of Praxair began in Spain in 1953 under the name of ARGON, S.A., producing and selling industrial gases and welding equipment, as well as services. Praxair Spain is, from November 1st 1996, the result of the merge of ARGON, S.A. and LIQUID CARBONIC OF SPAIN, S.A., that took the name of the major shareholder, Praxair, Inc. Nowadays PRAXAIR has 38 operational plants in Spain of air separation, dioxide of carbon, production of acetylene and hydrogen, stations of filling, production of porous mass, and companies of equipments of weld .

RIOGLASS
Polígono Industrial Sovilla
Mieres
web page: www.rioglass.com



The production of tempered glass first began in 1992, complementing windscreen production, which had begun a year earlier, and giving rise to the present composition of RIOGLASS. Exports account for more than three quarters of our sales, and it can rely on more than 300 active customers in some 30 countries.

ROKO
Peña Brava 25, Polígono de Silvota
33192 - Llanera
web page: www.rokoagar.com



Founded in 1974, ROKO is devoted to the production of Agar-agar for the Food Industry, with different quality requirements: food, bacteriological, dental, pharmaceutical, and botanical. Agar-agar is available in powder and scales, with a variety of grains and resistances.

Activities

The activities of AIQPA are organised through committees, devoted to specific areas of common interest such as safety, environment, human resources, structural topics, etc.

The different committees organise seminars, courses, conferences, and working panels on subjects such as new technical regulations, new organisational tools.

SEMINARS organised recently are the following:

- "ADR, RID, IMO-IMGD 2003. "Common aspects and main differences"
- "Development of the Directive IPPC and implications in the mid term for the chemical companies"
- "The new electronic system of report of accidents DELTA"
- "Basic directive and elaboration of safety studies"
- "ATEX regulation: documentary implications and techniques in the development of projects and the management of the security"
- "SQAS. System of integral securing of quality, security and environmental management in logistic services"

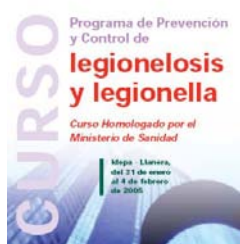
WORKING PANNELS that have been hold bay AIQPA in the last year:

- "IPPC". Working Pannel with Mr Miguel Angel Aguado. European Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Bureau (EIPPCB). Seville
- "Development of the Directive IPPC and implications in the mid term for the chemical companies". Dr. Fabián González. Head of Environmental Department of Bayer Hispania Group
- "Experiences and activities of the Asociación Vizcaína de Empresas Químicas" (AVEQ). Mr Luis Blanco-Urgoiti. General Secretary. AVEQ-KIMICA

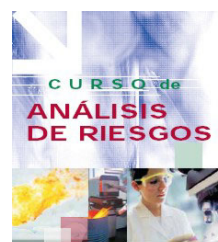


AIQPA currently organises training **COURSES** for workers and professionals of member and non-member chemical companies settled in Asturias, such as:

- “Quantitative Analysis of Industrial Hazards”, (INERCO).
- “Prevention of Legionellosis” (NALCO).



Prevention and Control of Legionella and legionellosis



Quantitative Analysis of Industrial Hazards



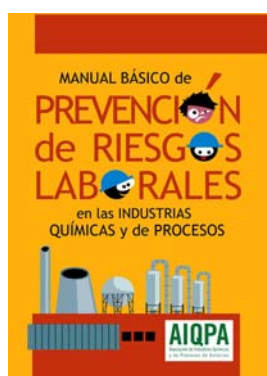
AIQPA held, in November 2003, a **CONFERENCE** on “Trends of the Chemical Sector” that was attended by more than 300 participants, managers and directors of European Organisations, and national and international firms. The Congress comprised 4 major Lectures, 4 working panels, and 20 lecturers. The conclusions were published in a book distributed among the major chemical companies at European level.



TENDENCIAS DE LA INDUSTRIA QUÍMICA Y DE PROCESOS
Mario Díez (coord.)

Ariel

As a part of the activities of AIQPA on **SAFETY and ENVIRONMENTAL** issues, a “Handbook of Safety and Prevention of Hazards in the Chemical Industry” was published in February 2005, as a first tool to achieve a common safety standard in the industries settled in Asturias. This target is intended, not only to the chemical companies, but also to the suppliers and contractors, whose workers interact with a chemical facility, and are subjected to the same hazards as the workers of the chemical companies. 6000 copies have been distributed.



This project will be completed with electronic tools that will help trainers, and also self training of employees.



Very recently AIQPA was committed by IDEPA to perform **TECHNICAL REPORT** on the economic impact of the implementation of the European Regulation Proposal REACH on the Industrial sector in Asturias. The results were made public in an international conference held in Oviedo on the 4th of May, 2005.

COLLABORATION WITH THE REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

AIQPA currently collaborates with the Regional Administration on technical issues in regard with the Chemical Sector in Asturias, from 2001. Our assessments on the REACH proposal of European Regulation, the Organisation of the Chemical Conference in Asturias, are two examples.

THE FUTURE . . .

AIQPA is a young organisation, committed to participate in projects that may contribute to develop Asturias as a Chemical Region: a Congress on the new Trends on the Chemical Sector will be organised periodically, and follow up panels will be held yearly. A report on the technical requirements for the settlement of the Chemical Industries in Asturias is also being prepared.

Conclusions

During the joint expert meeting on 11th of April in Bitterfeld, the representatives from AIQPA and CeChemNet agreed that there is a high potential for the mutual learning between both initiatives. This first visit should be the starting point to explore further areas of cooperation. The following topics have been intensively discussed.

The development of research cooperation in European RTD projects is an interesting point for AIQPA. Mr. Diaz proposed to jointly develop CRAFT applications based on the established partnerships of the MentorChem project. Furthermore an evaluation of the competitiveness of the different locations and the specific unique selling points of the chemical parks would be a challenging topic. Especially the raising competition from Asia will force the chemical industry in Europe to strengthen their innovation capacity and to establish cooperation.

Safety and Security Management is one of the core activities of AIQPA. Several events have been organised and a joint publication has been published in this area. Raising standards and the need for standardised procedures in different companies will be a challenge for all stakeholders. Also CeChemNet has a module on Safety and Security – this could be the starting point for a comparative analysis of the different approaches in order to identify best-practice for the transfer and implementation in the other regions.

AIQPA is very interested in the Human Resource Management topic. The establishment of continuous training and education are important for the qualification of the employees in the chemical industry. Modern technical equipment and IT applications require a constant qualification of the workers in order to manage the production process and to increase productivity and innovation capacity. Saxony-Anhalt has some best practice in the HR Development, that are described in one of the thematic modules of CeChemNet. At the moment there is one Leonardo project working on the development of a European Credit Transfer System for chemical workers with 20 partners from 9 European Countries. The results of this project could be interesting for AIQPA. The partners will further explore topics for cooperation in this area.

The social image of the chemical industry is a particular challenge in all locations. A bad image is not favourable to a positive economic development. New investments are more difficult to complete in a hostile environment and there is the danger of shortage of qualified workforce.

Therefore, the chemical enterprises and initiatives see a task to improve the image of the chemical location in communicating the advantages of the existing production and to ensuring environmental protection via responsible care. Both initiatives AIQPA and CeChemNet have experiences in this area. Saxony-Anhalt has due to the long tradition an advantage and a higher acceptance in the local population. Asturias still needs progress in this topic.

The relation between small and medium sized enterprises and big companies is a particular characteristic of the chemical industry in Saxony-Anhalt and Asturias. Often a major international company is based in the region (such as Dow Chemical in Saxony-Anhalt or Dupont in Asturias) with a strong impact on the local enterprises. The SMEs ensure the regional background as supply and demand factor. They often create most of the new employment. Spin offs bring an additional contribution to a positive economic development. Nevertheless, SMEs face some special problems such as little innovation capacity, lack on research competencies etc. Therefore, the cooperation between big and small enterprises is crucial for the establishment of sustainable growth and employment in the region. Saxony-Anhalt is following a project directly focused on the SME in the chemical industry together with Limburg (NL) and North East of England (GB). Results of this project could also be interesting for Asturias in order to draw conclusions for own activities.

In general the discussion has shown the variety of interesting topics for cooperation. AIQPA has proposed to invite experts from the particular working groups to events in the regions in order to learn from each other. Furthermore new funds have to be identified to finance a future cooperation and to deepen the exchange of experience.



Group picture of delegation from AIQPA and representatives from CeChemNet during expert meeting on the 11th of April in Bitterfeld

IMPRESSUM



Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Beratung und Dienstleistung mbH

Büro Halle

Postanschrift

isw GmbH
Büro Halle
PSF 110 522
06019 Halle

Hausanschrift

isw GmbH
Hoher Weg 3
06120 Halle

Tel.: (0345) 29 98 270
Fax: (0345) 29 9827 11
E-mail: info@isw-gmbh.de
Internet: www.isw-gmbh.de

Büro Magdeburg

Postanschrift

isw GmbH
Büro Magdeburg
City Carré
Kantstraße 4
39104 Magdeburg

Hausanschrift

isw GmbH
Kantstraße 4
39104 Magdeburg

Tel.: (0391) 40 02 828
Fax: (0391) 40 02 830
E-mail:
info@isw-gmbh.de

Geschäftsführer

Hans-Joachim Kunze



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