

## Press Release

### ALTANA Group Significantly Expands Presence in China

- **ACTEGA opens new research facility for coatings and sealants in Foshan**
- **ELANTAS increases capacity of world's largest production plant for wire enamels in Tongling**
- **BYK plans new plant for chemical additives in Shanghai**

**Wesel / Shanghai, April 29, 2014** – ALTANA, the specialty chemicals group based in Wesel, Germany, is significantly expanding its presence in China. In April, the ACTEGA division opened a new laboratory building for coatings and sealants at its production site in Foshan. ELANTAS commissioned a new plant for wire enamels in Tongling. And BYK signed a contract for the purchase of a site for developing and manufacturing chemical additives in Shanghai. With these projects, the ALTANA Group is investing a total of over €30 million in the further growth of its China business.

"With our investment initiative, we're aiming to increase our presence in Asia further with emphasis on China and take advantage of the enormous market potential here," declared Dr. Matthias L. Wolfgruber, CEO of ALTANA AG. "Consequently, the ability to act rapidly, efficiently and in concert with local managers and employees in these markets is critical for our success." In 2013, ALTANA achieved its highest growth rate in this region in China. The Asian region as a whole grew by seven percent, driven primarily by the increased demand from China. Currently, ALTANA operates eight subsidiaries, five production facilities and ten laboratories in the country. With 450 employees here, the company generated sales of around €290 million, or 16 percent of its entire global business in 2013.

#### **Demonstrating competence in the packaging industry**

With the new research facility at its existing production site in Foshan, Guangdong Province, the ACTEGA division is aiming to deliver even more intensive customer service and cut response times for inquiries relating to technical applications. "We want to demonstrate our competence in the packaging industry even more definitively in the growing Chinese market," declared Dr. Roland Peter, President of ACTEGA Coatings & Sealants, at the opening. "To do so, we speak our customers' language and are now offering local, rapid development service."

#### **Meeting the strong demand for wire enamels**

At the Tongling site in Anhui Province, already the world's largest production facility for wire enamels, the ELANTAS division is expanding capacity by a further 40 percent, to over 60,000 tons per year. "The new plant in China is an optimum fit for ELANTAS's global strategy, and, along with the founding of a further ELANTAS subsidiary in Malaysia, a decisive step toward meeting the needs of our customers in the Asian region," explained Dr. Guido Forstbach, President of ELANTAS Elec-

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trical Insulation. "It also backstops the sister plants in Europe, North America and India."

### **Chemical additives: concentrated competence in a central location**

With the signing of a contract to purchase a property of approx. 30,000 square meters in Shanghai, BYK is seeking to bundle its competencies in China. In addition to a large production plant, the Fenxiang Shanghai Chemical Industry Park will also be the home of the new BYK China headquarters with administration, a warehouse for raw materials and finished goods and a laboratory complex. "With this integral concept, we're not only bundling our competence at the new Shanghai site, but we're also moving right to where our customers are and benefiting from the proximity to our suppliers and the ideal, attractive infrastructure," stated Dr. Christoph Schluenken, President of BYK Additives & Instruments. "But this region is also known for good schools and universities, which will help us in finding highly qualified employees." The opening is planned for 2016. BYK started its own manufacturing operations in China very early on in order to meet customer needs locally. The division also operates multiple laboratory facilities, e. g. in Tongling, Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.



A work of art to mark the opening of the new ELANTAS plant in Tongling: ALTANA CEO Dr. Matthias L. Wolfgruber (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and ELANTAS Division President Dr. Guido Forstbach (right) present a painting to ELANTAS Tongling Managing Director Ye Lixin (left) and Liu Linbao, President ELANTAS Greater China (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)

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#### About ALTANA:

ALTANA develops and produces high-quality, innovative products in the specialty chemicals business. The ALTANA Group, with headquarters in Wesel/Germany, is a genuine "global player" with about 85% of its sales generated by international activities. The ALTANA Group has four divisions: **BYK** Additives & Instruments, **ECKART** Effect Pigments, **ELANTAS** Electrical Insulation, and **ACTEGA** Coatings & Sealants. All of these divisions occupy a leading position in their target markets with respect to quality, product solution expertise, innovation and service.

ALTANA offers innovative, environmentally compatible solutions with the matching specialty products for coating manufacturers, paint and plastics processors, the printing and cosmetic industries, and the electrical and electronics industry. The product range includes additives, special coatings and adhesives, effect pigments, sealants and compounds, impregnating resins and varnishes, and testing and measuring instruments. At present, the ALTANA Group has 46 production facilities and more than 50 service and research laboratories worldwide. Throughout the Group more than 5,700 people work to ensure the success of ALTANA worldwide. In 2013, ALTANA achieved sales of about 1.8 billion Euros. Its impressive earning power and high growth rate make ALTANA one of the most successful and innovative chemical groups worldwide.

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