

Avantium locates demonstration plant for third technology program Mekong in Delfzijl

AMSTERDAM, 26 March 2019, 06:00pm CET – Avantium has decided to locate the new demonstration plant for its Mekong technology in Chemie Park Delfzijl, the Netherlands. The construction of the demonstration plant - with a capacity of around 10 tons of plant-based monoethylene glycol (MEG) - is on track, with the opening scheduled for the second half of 2019. This is an important step in commercializing the production of plant-based MEG, a fossil-free raw material for products such as plastic materials and textiles.

Avantium develops novel Renewable Chemistries technologies that use renewable carbon sources instead of fossil resources. One such technology is Mekong, which delivers an environmentally sustainable plant-based alternative for MEG, producing it in a single-step process from industrial sugars. Today, more than 99% of MEG is produced from fossil-based raw materials, with a market value of about \$25 billion. The Mekong technology aims to produce plant-based MEG that is chemically identical to fossil-based MEG and competitive in terms of cost and quality.

The construction of the Mekong demonstration plant is part of Avantium's strategy to invest in developing and scaling up breakthrough Renewable Chemistries technologies. A key factor behind the decision to build the Mekong plant in Delfzijl is a €2 million grant from the European Regional Development Fund, facilitated by Partnership Northern Netherlands (Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland). This grant aims to accelerate innovation in the quest for a low-carbon economy.

Tom van Aken, Chief Executive Officer of Avantium, said: "I am thrilled at the technological progress of our Mekong technology. Our plant-based MEG has the potential to transform everyday packaging materials and commonly used textiles from fossil-based to plant-based products. Chemie Park Delfzijl is an excellent location for the ongoing development of our Mekong technology. The region is exceptional in supporting sustainable technologies and has the highly skilled and committed workforce so crucial to commercializing our Mekong technology."

Zanna McFerson, Managing Director Renewable Chemistries at Avantium, said: "Avantium is progressing well in developing partnership opportunities throughout the Mekong value chain in order to bring the technology to full-scale global commercialization. We are engaged with key partners on the technical validation of our Mekong technology and, in parallel, we are making significant progress in our commercialization efforts. We have collaborations with potential license partners around the world who wish to enter a significant growth market with a sustainable plant-based option."

The Mekong demonstration plant will be located near Avantium's Dawn Technology™ pilot biorefinery, which produces glucose and lignin from non-food biomass. Patrick Brouns, regional minister of the province of Groningen, is pleased that Avantium once again selected Chemie Park Delfzijl for the new plant. Brouns said: "Avantium brings innovation and renewable chemistry to the region, supporting highly skilled jobs. As formulated in our Chemport Europe ambition, we aim to develop Chemie Park Delfzijl into one of the most sustainable chemical clusters in Europe by 2030."

About Avantium

Avantium is a leading technology development company and a forerunner in renewable chemistry. We develop technologies that enable production of sustainable products from plant-based raw materials. We work in partnership with like-minded companies around the globe to create revolutionary renewable chemistry solutions from invention to commercial scale. We also help clients in catalytic research by providing proprietary systems and services to improve their products and processes.

Avantium has three technologies now at or beyond pilot phase. The YXY plant-to-plastics technology of the Synvina business unit is the most advanced, with an extensive patent portfolio. YXY - which catalytically converts plant-based sugar (fructose) into a wide range of plant-based chemicals and plastics, such as polyethylene furanoate (PEF) - has witnessed significant progress over the previous two years. Avantium is currently updating its commercialization strategy for YXY. Avantium's Dawn Technology™ - converting non-food plant-based feedstock into industrial sugars and lignin - and Mekong entered the pilot plant stage in 2018, with commercialization activity already underway with partners.

Avantium's shares are listed on Euronext Amsterdam and Euronext Brussels (symbol: AVTX). Its offices and headquarters are in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

About Chemie Park Delfzijl and Chemport Europe

Chemie Park Delfzijl is a highly integrated, dynamic and sustainable chain of companies that purchase and process each other's high-quality products and services. Thanks to these strong mutual customer-supplier relationships, the wide availability of natural raw materials and the good logistical connections, Chemie Park Delfzijl has become an advanced chain of national importance.

In Chemport Europe, agricultural and chemical businesses, knowledge institutions, and regional and national governments work closely together to capitalize on opportunities that are created by market demand for sustainable products and processes.

For more information:

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The province of Groningen supports Avantium in progressing the Mekong technology



From left to right:

Henk Emmens (SNN), Patrick Brouns (regional minister of the province of Groningen), Tom van Aken (CEO Avantium), Cas König (Groningen Seaports), Johan Visser (Nouryon)

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