



Atul Ltd

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Advance Copy

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AkzoNobel and Atul to start MCA production in India in 2019

AkzoNobel and chemicals manufacturing company Atul have formally agreed the joint venture partnership announced last year for the production of monochloroacetic acid (MCA) in India.

The companies will establish a new plant at Atul's facility in Gujarat by first quarter 2019, with each partner holding a 50% stake in the joint venture, to be registered as "ANAVEN".

As well as building on AkzoNobel's leading position in the MCA market – with plants in the Netherlands, China, Japan and the US – the partnership will also enhance Atul's status as a key global supplier of the herbicide 2,4-D, which uses MCA as a key raw material.

"The ANAVEN partnership will contribute to our vision of driving profitable growth for AkzoNobel Specialty Chemicals in India, which is an important growth market," said Knut Schwalenberg, Managing Director of AkzoNobel's Industrial Chemicals business. "Our partnership with Atul is part of a lean asset strategy to expand our leading position in MCA through shared incremental investments."

Sunil Lalbhai, Chairman and Managing Director of Atul, added: "We are delighted to partner with AkzoNobel to bring state-of-the-art technology for MCA to India from a world class company and develop a long-lasting relationship with AkzoNobel to create value for all the Stakeholders. The ANAVEN project will be in sync with the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India."

The partnership will use chlorine and hydrogen manufactured by Atul to produce MCA, taking advantage of both Atul's existing infrastructure and the leading eco-friendly hydrogenation technology of AkzoNobel. From an initial annual capacity of 32,000 tons per year at start-up, the plant has been designed for future expansion to 60,000 tons per year. The facility will produce enough MCA to meet Atul's growing demand for MCA and supply the expanding Indian market.

MCA is an essential building block in the chemical industry and is used in a wide variety of chemicals. For example, AkzoNobel customers use MCA to produce thickening agents for the food, oil, mining, personal care and detergent industries. It is also used in agrochemicals, adhesives, pharmaceuticals, thermo-stabilizers, surfactants and cosmetics.

AkzoNobel creates everyday essentials to make people's lives more liveable and inspiring. As a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals, we supply essential ingredients, essential protection and essential color to industries and consumers worldwide. Backed by a pioneering heritage, our innovative products and sustainable technologies are designed to meet the growing demands of our fast-changing planet, while making life easier. Headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, we have approximately 46,000 people in around 80 countries, while our portfolio includes well-known brands such as Dulux, Sikkens, International, Interpon and Eka. Consistently ranked as a leader in sustainability, we are dedicated to energizing cities and communities while creating a protected, colorful world where life is improved by what we do.

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About Atul

Established in 1947 by a legendary Indian, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Atul is the first private sector company of independent India to be inaugurated by its first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It is a diversified and an integrated company, meeting needs of about 30 varied industries across the world through its organisations in India and subsidiary companies in the USA, the UK, the UAE, Germany, China and Brazil. It is a part of Lalbhai Group, one of the oldest business houses of India with a rich legacy of conducting business with a larger purpose. It is serving the society in the areas of conservation, education, empowerment, health, infrastructure and relief since its inception.

Not for publication – for more information

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