

PRESS RELEASE

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WACKER Expands US-based Research and Development Capacities for Silicones

Munich / Adrian, October 6, 2016 – WACKER, the Munich based chemical company, is expanding its research and development facilities for silicones by establishing a new R&D center located in Ann Arbor, MI, USA. The facility is dedicated to support WACKER's overall business and product development in the North, Central and South America regions. In a first phase, the Group is investing a single digit million US-dollar figure mainly for equipment and installation of the labs. The facility will officially open in the first half of 2017.

Based at Michigan Innovation Headquarters, a co-work campus facility in Ann Arbor, the center consists of several labs for R&D and analytics. Projects WACKER intends to pursue right from the start include health and medical care applications, solutions for coatings and paints, silicone-based softeners, and personal care products. The labs will be operated by Wacker Chemical Corporation (WCC), WACKER's Adrian, MI, based subsidiary for North, Central and South America, and staffed with highly specialized experts in the field of silicone and polymer chemistry.

“Our facility is among several high-tech development operations in a 90,000 square foot co-work campus,” said David Wilhoit, WCC President and CEO. “This scientific co-work community is ideal for WACKER, and for very good reason: It puts us in the midst of a

business incubator atmosphere where ideas can be developed and brought quickly to market.”

Main considerations for selecting the Ann Arbor location were based upon the availability of highly skilled talent pools, close proximity to respected area universities and to WACKER’s production site in Adrian. “With Ann Arbor considered a technology hub, it complements the company’s business model to be close to its customers and close to regional market trends,” Wilhoit pointed out.

According to Robert Gnann, head of the Group’s silicone division WACKER SILICONES, the research and development center continues WACKER’s expansion of its global R&D footprint. “We already have R&D operations in Germany and in Asia. Our R&D center in Ann Arbor, combined with our Adrian site, furthers the strategic regionalization of WACKER’s global network of research and development”, Gnann explained. “Our aim is to offer long-term technical assistance for customers and support WACKER’s future business growth. By enhancing research efforts in the field of silicone technology, our emphasis will be on developing new and advanced applications in growth markets such as health, medical and personal care, electronics, life sciences and coatings.”

About WACKER

WACKER (www.wacker.com) is a globally active chemical group headquartered in Munich, Germany. With a wide range of state-of-the-art specialty products, WACKER is a leader in numerous fields and industries. Its products are required in countless high-growth end-user sectors, such as photovoltaics, electronics, pharmaceuticals

and household/personal-care products. In 2015, the Group generated sales of some €5.3 billion with a staff of 17,000 employees. Founded in 1914, WACKER operates 25 production sites, supplying over 3,200 products to more than 3,500 customers worldwide. The Group maintains subsidiaries and sales offices in 31 countries across Europe, the Americas and Asia – including a strong foothold in China.

Wacker Chemical Corporation (WCC) is WACKER's US-based chemical operation. Headquartered in Adrian, Michigan, WCC operates eight facilities throughout the United States and sites located in Mexico and Colombia. The 240-acre Adrian site has been manufacturing elastomers, silicone fluids and silicone emulsions since 1964 and is the main U.S. hub for the WACKER SILICONES business division. Adrian is also home to WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS for accessing North American markets. As a central production, sales, and technical center, Adrian offers comprehensive services and develops tailored solutions and product applications for its customers. The site runs a staff of around 550 people.

About WACKER SILICONES

WACKER SILICONES is one of the largest silicone manufacturers worldwide with over 3,000 highly specialized and innovative products. The division's portfolio ranges from silicone fluids, emulsions, resins, elastomers and sealants to silanes, silane-terminated polymers and pyrogenic silica. These stand out due to their significant value-adding potential – enhancing both the benefits and performance of customers' end products. WACKER SILICONES' products find application in such sectors as automotive engineering, construction,

chemicals, personal care and cosmetics, medical technology, energy, electronics and paper and textiles.



WACKER's US subsidiary Wacker Chemical Corporation runs a technical center as part of its offices and manufacturing facility at its headquarters located in Adrian, Michigan. Now, the company decided to expand its research capacities by establishing additional R&D labs in Ann Arbor, MI. (Photo: WACKER)



At its headquarters in Adrian, Michigan, WACKER's US subsidiary Wacker Chemical Corporation runs a technical center for silicones and food ingredient solutions. In order to develop advanced applications in growth markets such as health and medical care, electronics, life sciences and coatings, WACKER will open additional R&D labs in Ann Arbor, MI, next year. (Photo: WACKER)

Note:

These photos are available for download at:
<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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The company in brief:

WACKER is a globally active chemical company with some 17,000 employees and annual sales of around €5.30 billion (2015). WACKER has a global network of 25 production sites, 22 technical competence centers and 50 sales offices.

WACKER SILICONES

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

WACKER POLYMERS

Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions, solid resins and solutions

WACKER BIOSOLUTIONS

Biotech products such as cyclodextrins, cysteine and biologics, as well as fine chemicals and PVAc solid resins

WACKER POLYSILICON

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries

Siltronic

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor components