

# PRESS RELEASE

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## WACKER Expands Its Technical Center in Brazil

**Munich/São Paulo, April 11, 2013 -** Wacker Chemie AG is strengthening its presence in South America, and today inaugurates its expanded technical center, including training center, near São Paulo, Brazil. The new regional competence center for South America combines research and development, applications technology, and a basic- and advanced-training facility for silicone and polymer applications under one roof. The expansion focuses on the labs for polymer binders which are primarily used in construction chemical applications. The integrated WACKER ACADEMY training facility, which is also being expanded, is furnished with a new practice room and so offers an ideal platform for industry-specific networking among customers, distribution partners and WACKER specialists. With the expansion, the Brazil technical center is increasing its local expertise in applications technology, know-how transfer and service, and thereby serves the strongly growing markets for high-quality silicone and polymer products in South America.

The expansion was made necessary by the region's strong economic growth, particularly in the field of sophisticated construction, paint and coating applications. This measure will help WACKER enhance its position as the market and technology leader for high-quality chemical raw materials. Consequently, the Group is investing continuously in its Brazil technical center, augmenting and refining its R&D exper-

tise, as well as its local applications-engineering and customer services.

The technical center in Jandira has been supporting customers in the development of new products and applications since 2003, taking local raw materials and environmental conditions into consideration. The expansion focuses mainly on the labs for dispersible polymer powders, which are used in dry-mix mortars for concrete applications, tile adhesives and sealing slurries, for example. As part of the expansion, the testing area available for polymer binders will be increased by a factor of more than three. Moreover, the new labs are equipped with cutting-edge instrumentation meeting international standards.

WACKER's own education and training center, the WACKER ACADEMY, has also been expanded locally. Training participants now have access to a new larger training lab with state-of-the-art equipment, allowing them not only to learn the theory, but also to perform comprehensive practical exercises.

"In expanding our technical center in Brazil, WACKER is ideally prepared for growing local demand, especially for construction, paint and coating applications," said Danilo Timich, managing director of Wacker Quimica do Brasil, at the opening celebration. "By developing our local training expertise, we are also offering considerable added value to our customers and partners. With this facility, which is unique in the region, we can further improve our technology leadership in high-quality chemical products."

**WACKER in Middle and South America**

WACKER has been supplying the Americas with basic chemicals since as early as the mid-1960s. The company laid the foundation for its presence in Middle America with a separate sales office in Mexico in 1972. The local subsidiary Wacker Mexicana S.A. was founded in Mexico City in 1975. To meet the rising challenges to sales in South America, WACKER set up a wholly-owned subsidiary – Wacker Química do Brasil Ltda. – in Jandira, 35 km northwest of São Paulo, in 1977. Today, beside sales and marketing, the approx. 21,000-m<sup>2</sup> site houses its own production plant, which produces, for example, silicone fluids and emulsions, silicone-based antifoam agents, resins, rubber compounds and personal care products. In 2003, WACKER opened a technical center for silicone applications in Jandira, which was expanded in 2005 to include labs for dispersible polymer powders. In spring 2010, WACKER established a local branch of its international training centers, the WACKER ACADEMY, at the Jandira technical center.



Practical test at Wacker Química do Brasil's technical center: In the newly expanded lab for dispersible polymer powders, an employee is testing the tensile bond strength of tile adhesives, which is significantly increased by WACKER's dispersible powders. In close collaboration with customers and partners, the technical center is developing and testing new products and formulations for the South American market (photo: Wacker Chemie AG).



Practical training at the WACKER ACADEMY Brazil lab: The industrial-chemical expertise acquired at the training sessions can be seamlessly put into practice at the new application lab (photo: Wacker Chemie AG).

**Note:**

You can download these pictures at:

<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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**The company in brief:**

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 16,300 employees and annual sales of around €4.63 billion (2012). WACKER has a global network of 24 production sites, 22 technical competence centers and 53 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 used as binders for construction chemicals, paints and coatings, adhesives, plasters, textiles and nonwovens, as well as for polymeric materials based on renewable resources

**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 photovoltaic industries

**Siltronic**

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor components