

Proposed evolution of the organization of goods and services procurement for Arkema France

Arkema France today presented to the Central Works Council a project for the future organization of its goods and services procurement, aimed at centralizing within the Lyon region all purchasing functions for its various industrial sites.

The purchasing of goods and services for Arkema France is currently the responsibility of the purchasing department of individual industrial sites, except for the Saint-Fons, Pierre-Bénite and Balan facilities whose teams have been pooled within a Rhône procurement center set up in January 2007. The experience of this structure has served to draw up the new organization.

This proposed evolution is intended to improve the performance of the organization by pooling competences, harmonizing procedures, and boosting the professionalism of the teams concerned. In particular it aims to optimize relations with suppliers and take full advantage of the volume effect. This new organization will result in annual savings of €35 M in the purchasing of goods and services in France, which will be gradually achieved over the next three years.

The roll-out of the new organization would take place gradually between April 2009 and November 2010.

This project would entail the loss of 41 positions across the various Arkema France facilities, and the creation of 24 positions in the Lyon region.

Arkema is committed to taking every possible step to find solutions for everyone concerned, in particular through internal or external redeployment and the negotiation of early retirement packages.

A global chemical company and France's leading chemicals producer, Arkema consists of three strategically related businesses: Vinyl Products, Industrial Chemicals, and Performance Products. Arkema reports sales of 5.7 billion euros. Arkema has 15,200 employees in over 40 countries and six research centers located in France, the United States and Japan. With internationally recognized brands, Arkema holds leadership positions in its principal markets.

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