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Arkema announces a new increase in Kynar® fluoropolymer capacities at its Changshu site in China

Arkema will invest to further increase its fluoropolymer production capacities in Changshu by 35% in 2022. Simultaneously, we celebrate the first ten years of successful PVDF production at our Changshu site in China.

The increase in capacity is scheduled to come on stream before the end of 2022. This new investment is fueled by further strong demand in the lithium ion battery business as well as significant opportunities in the water filtration, construction coatings, and semiconductor industries.

Built in the context of the strong growth potential in Asia, and particularly in China, for the established coatings market and the rapidly emerging lithium ion battery and water-filtration markets, the Changshu plant was the Group's third global integrated PVDF production plant with the first batch of Kynar® PVDF produced on February 17, 2011. This plant, known as Arkema's "Tiger Plant", as it was constructed in 2010, the year of the Tiger, represented a major strategic step for Arkema in its commitment to supply global customers from each region. Arkema's well-established Changshu platform was already an epicenter of fluorine chemistry and the location also placed its activities at the heart of its customer base.

The plant was expanded several times over the decade and most recently in December 2020. Throughout its evolution, the plant has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to employee safety and product quality. It is a versatile state-of-the-art facility capable of producing almost every grade in the fluoropolymers expansive portfolio.

"Building and starting this plant in 2011 was a significant milestone for Arkema and continuing to grow this plant regularly is a source of great pride for the teams," said Erwoan Pezron, Senior Vice President, High Performance Polymers. "We could not have taken such a step without the encouragement and support of our customers in the region. It is the same customer support that we count on for each successive investment including this latest step forward. We grow together. The first ten years has given us strong confidence in the future of this great facility and now we continue to invest in its exciting future".

Building on its unique set of expertise in materials science, Arkema offers a portfolio of first-class technologies to address ever-growing demand for new and sustainable materials. With the ambition to become in 2024 a pure player in Specialty Materials, the Group is structured into 3 complementary, resilient and highly innovative segments dedicated to Specialty Materials -Adhesive solutions, Advanced Materials, and Coating Solutions- accounting for some 80% of Group sales, and a well-positioned and competitive Intermediates segment. Arkema offers cutting-edge technological solutions to meet the challenges of, among other things, new energies, access to water, recycling, urbanization and mobility, and fosters a permanent dialogue with all its stakeholders. The Group reported sales of €8.7 billion in 2019, and operates in some 55 countries with 20,500 employees worldwide. www.arkema.com

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