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Proposed future of the Lacq - Mourenx industrial site

The management of the Arkema Lacq - Mourenx facility has today presented to the Works Council a project for the site's future designed to restore its competitiveness by optimizing its operation and investing into the development of its growth activities.

With two first-class industrial facilities in Beaumont - Houston, United States (Texas) and Lacq - Mourenx, France, Arkema is the world leader in hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) derivatives.

The proposed plan to adapt the Lacq - Mourenx site, where financial results are giving cause for concern, aims to restore its competitiveness in order to safeguard its long-term future. The plan entails three key points:

- the rationalization of the site by redefining its various functions, and the streamlining of its procedures, which includes in particular the optimization of the supply chain with the transfer from the headquarters to the site of some of the dedicated personnel,
- the development of products with a strong growth potential, in particular dimethyl disulfide (DMDS) that would benefit from targeted investments aimed at increasing production capacity in order to supply the refining and petrochemicals world markets,
- the support of the site's employees with the launch of specific skill enhancement initiatives.

The project would result in the loss of 48 jobs. Internal and external redeployment solutions are already being envisaged for the majority of those affected by job losses. Arkema will take all necessary steps to promote the mobility of all concerned.

A world-class chemical concern, Arkema combines three strategically related, integrated businesses: Vinyl Products, Industrial Chemicals and Performance Products. With operations in more than 40 countries and 18,400 employees, the company reported revenue of €5.7 billion in 2005. Leveraging six research centers in France, the United States and Japan and internationally recognized brands, Arkema holds leadership positions in each of its principal markets.

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