

Solvay extends China research center to drive innovation and growth

Shanghai, November 20, 2019 --- Solvay announces the extension of its Research and Innovation (R&I) Center in Shanghai, China, to further expand its international research hub to drive future innovation and growth.

Held at the Solvay Shanghai Technology Park, the ground breaking ceremony of the R&I center's extension is witnessed by a Belgium economic delegation led by Her Royal Highness Princess Astrid of Belgium, Representative of His Majesty the King, in addition to Vice Mayor of Shanghai XU Kunlin, Solvay CEO Ilham KADRI and other guests.

Since the establishment of the Solvay China R&I Center in 1997, it has emerged as the third largest R&I center in Solvay. This extension will add more than 4,000 m² of space to the existing premises, which will include a pilot hall for advanced materials applications and new laboratories dedicated mainly to industrial applications and consumer goods. Research capabilities of the center will also get a boost from enhanced research resources, with 50 new full-time research talents to join the team.

“Through the extension of infrastructure and upgrading of facilities at our R&I Center here in Shanghai, we hope to build upon this excellent international research platform to further engage the local research talents, such that we may continue to develop our capabilities to support our customers locally, in particular for applications development,” said Gary ZHAO, Solvay China R&I Director.

In addition to unveiling the extension of the China R&I Center, Solvay today also welcomes the new partnership forged with the East China University of Science & Technology (ECUST) -- a university highly recognized in the field of chemistry in China, especially in organic chemistry, material science, and engineering & technology. Under the newly established collaboration, both parties will leverage Solvay's leading open innovation platform -- Eco-Efficient Products and Processes Lab (E2P2L), to unleash complementary competencies in developing sustainable solutions based on green chemistry.

Launched in 2011, the E2P2L has successfully formed alliances with over 30 leading Chinese universities and international research institutions to draw a strong focus on eco-efficient products and processes.

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Solvay is an advanced materials and specialty chemicals company, committed to developing chemistry that addresses key societal challenges. Solvay innovates and partners with customers worldwide in many diverse end markets. Its products are used in planes, cars, batteries, smart and medical devices, as well as in mineral and oil and gas extraction, enhancing efficiency and sustainability. Its lightweighting materials promote cleaner mobility, its formulations optimize the use of resources and its performance chemicals improve air and water quality. Solvay is headquartered in Brussels with around 24,500 employees in 61 countries. Net sales were €10.3 billion in 2018, with 90% from activities where Solvay ranks among the world's top 3 leaders, resulting in an EBITDA margin of 22%. Solvay SA (**SOLB.BE**) is listed on Euronext Brussels and Paris Bloomberg: **SOLB.BB** - Reuters: **SOLB.BR**), and in the United States its shares (**SOLVY**) are traded through a level-1 ADR program. Financial figures take into account the planned divestment of Polyamides.

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