

Evonik to build first plant in North America for ultra-pure colloidal silica

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- Plant expected to come onstream in 2024 in Weston, Michigan, USA
- Colloidal silica is an important material for the electronics and semiconductor industries
- Investment strengthens focus on specialty chemicals

Silanes press contact

Anabel Tennassie
Head of Market Communications
Silanes
Phone +49 6181 5912573
Anabel.tennassie@evonik.com

Regional press contact

Norbert Kuls
Communications Manager, North America
Phone +1 973 437-0542
norbert.kuls@evonik.com

Weston, Michigan, USA: Evonik, one of the world's leading specialty chemicals companies, is building a new plant to produce ultra-high purity colloidal silica at its site in Weston, Michigan, USA which is expected to generate a total capital spending of \$7.9 million in 2023 and 2024. The plant, which is expected to come onstream in 2024, will be the first of its kind in North America. Colloidal silica is an important raw material for the electronics and semiconductor industries, whose growth is driven by the global demand for microchips and digital products.

The new plant will make Evonik one of the only players in the market that can reliably produce the colloidal silica required for the chemical mechanical planarization (CMP), a process step in microchip production in the necessary quality and purity. Evonik's colloidal silica, which is marketed under the IDISIL® brand, is characterized by its ultra-high purity and particularly narrow particle size distribution.

"The new plant makes an important contribution to the strategic development of our portfolio," says Peter Friesenhahn, head of Evonik's Silanes business line. "We are strengthening our offering for attractive, technology-driven growth markets and positioning ourselves as an innovation partner for our customers."

Evonik is already a major supplier of ultra-pure tetrachlorosilane and other silanes for the semiconductor and electronics industry, and has a global network of production facilities and scientists in this field. "It will enable us to offer our customers additional supply options and even better security of supply in the future," says Christian Edlinger, head of the Americas region in the Silanes

Evonik Industries AG

Rellinghauser Straße 1-11
45128 Essen
Germany
Phone +49 201 177-01
www.evonik.com

Supervisory Board
Bernd Tönjes, Chairman
Executive Board
Christian Kullmann, Chairman
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Registered Office is Essen
Register Court Essen Local Court
Commercial Registry B 19474

business line. Until now, companies producing in the Americas have often had to rely on imports from Asia.

With the support of a \$900,000 Michigan Business Development Program performance-based grant, the expansion will not only strengthen Evonik's presence in Michigan, but also create new job opportunities in the region. "We're thrilled to celebrate this expansion by Evonik, helping to keep us at the forefront of the global semiconductor industry," said Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

"Team Michigan is proud to bring home this win and build on our leadership in the semiconductor supply chain," said Quentin L. Messer, Jr., CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. "We are grateful for Evonik's vote of confidence in our state."

The location of the new plant is no coincidence. The staff in Weston already has a great deal of experience in producing ultra-pure materials for the semiconductor industry. The new plant will be integrated into existing processes at the site.

Company information

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €18.5 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €2.49 billion in 2022. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable, and sustainable solutions for customers. About 34,000 employees work together for a common purpose: We want to improve life today and tomorrow.

About Smart Materials

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