

ADI's news on global chemical industry including key projects, deals, and policies



FEATURED INSIGHT

IMO paves way for ammonia-fueled ships

The IMO's new safety guidelines for the storage, handling, and onboard operations of ammonia-fueled ships represent a significant step toward making ammonia a viable marine fuel by reducing risks and supporting adoption. [Read more >>](#)

INDUSTRIAL

R&D faces rising pressure in industrial sectors

Industrial R&D is increasingly tied to business performance, as capital discipline, shareholder expectations, and rapid technology shifts drive pressure to deliver near-term results while enabling long-term transformation. [Learn more >>](#)

Plant announcements

- **Sika AG** announced investments in seven new production plants globally as part of its 2026 growth strategy. The projects include new mortar and admixture facilities in New Jersey and Florida in the U.S., in addition to facilities in Belgium, Colombia, Argentina, Bangladesh, and Tanzania. The expansion aims to strengthen Sika's localized manufacturing network in key construction markets while supporting growing demand for specialty construction chemicals.
- **CrudeChem Technology**, a subsidiary of **Fineotex Chemical**, announced a major expansion of its specialty chemical fluid additives manufacturing facility in Texas, adding ~68,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) of production capacity. The expansion increases the plant's total capacity to ~159,000 tpa and is intended to support growing domestic and international demand from the oilfield and energy sectors.

💡 Specialty chemical producers are expanding manufacturing capacity to meet growing demand while improving supply chain efficiency and resilience.

RECENT ADI PROJECTS

- Evaluated catalyst trade-offs and recycling uncertainty for capacity investment for a **global chemical company**.
- Assessed carbon paper GDL demand in PEM electrolyzers for a **PE-backed materials manufacturer**.
- Identified niche opportunities to refine R&D and regional strategy for a **European polyolefins player**.
- Delivered market intelligence on catalyst innovation and licensing for a **specialty chemicals firm**.

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Mergers and acquisitions

- **Romgaz**, Romania's largest natural gas producer, completed the acquisition of Romanian fertilizer producer, **Azomureș**, for ~€69 million (\$80 million). The transaction is intended to restart and maintain operations at Romania's largest fertilizer complex, which has a production capacity of 1.8 million tpa. However, due to domestic natural gas supply constraints, fertilizer production is not expected to resume before the second quarter of 2027.

💡 The acquisition allows Romgaz to secure captive demand for its natural gas while strengthening domestic industrial and agricultural supply chains.

- **Ascent Industries** completed the acquisition of substantially all assets of **Midwest Graphic Sales and Sigma Coatings**, specialty chemical formulators serving packaging applications across the food, pharmaceutical, and personal care sectors. The acquisition expands Ascent's formulation capabilities in the [coating, adhesives, sealants, and elastomers \(CASE\) sector](#).

💡 Specialty chemical producers continue to drive consolidation in the CASE sector to expand capabilities and portfolios targeting resilient, high-margin end markets.

- **AGROFERT** entered an agreement to acquire a 50% stake in **OCI Nitrogen** from **OCI N.V.** for €55 million (\$64 million). The transaction grants AGROFERT operational control of the Geleen, Netherlands facility, a major producer of ammonia and nitrogen fertilizers, and is expected to close in the second half of 2027. The agreement also includes put and call options for the remaining 50% stake, exercisable by either party beginning two years after the transaction closes.

💡 This transaction allows AGROFERT to expand its agricultural presence in Western Europe and secure a major hub for nitrogen and ammonia production.

- **The European Commission** approved **Carlyle's** acquisition of a 60% stake in **BASF's** coatings business for ~\$8.9 billion, giving Carlyle control of one of the industry's leading coatings platforms. However, the approval is conditional on Carlyle's prior divestment of **Nouryon's** global polysulfides business to preserve competition and safeguard supply chains in the aerospace sealants market.

💡 Private equity continues to pursue resilient, value-added chemical assets with strong cash generation and market positions.

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Plant closures

- **Celanese** announced the closure of its nylon 6,6 polymerization unit in Sakra, Singapore, alongside the optimization of its North American nylon 6,6 polymer assets as part of a broader restructuring initiative expected to deliver ~\$30 million in annualized savings. The move reflects continued margin pressure and global overcapacity across the nylon value chain, with Celanese consolidating production into more cost-advantaged regional assets while maintaining its specialty compounding capabilities.
- **BASF** announced the closure of its expandable polystyrene (EPS) production assets at the Ulsan Plastics site in South Korea, with operations scheduled to cease in mid-June 2026. The decision follows a strategic review of BASF's global styrenics portfolio, as the company shifts production from non-integrated assets in Asia to more competitive, backward-integrated Verbund sites.

💡 Persistent margin pressure and overcapacity driven by rapid Chinese capacity additions continue to push chemical producers to rationalize manufacturing footprints and consolidating production into more integrate, cost-competitive assets.

- **Syensqo** announced that it is evaluating the potential sale of its Performance & Care division, which primarily serves the coatings, personal care, and mining industries. The review aligns with the company's strategy to prioritize specialty chemicals and advanced materials serving higher-growth end markets. Any potential transaction is expected to include the division's manufacturing assets, including its Moerdijk, Netherlands plant.

💡 Specialty chemical producers continue to streamline portfolios by divesting non-core businesses and reallocating capital toward higher-growth, higher-margin advanced materials and specialty chemicals.

WHAT'S NEW IN ADI PLUS

- ADI's ongoing coverage of the implications of the [Iran conflict across oil & gas, LNG, refined products, and chemicals](#)
- ADI's databases on [U.S. refineries](#), [global LNG capacity](#), [U.S. data center projects](#), and [global blue ammonia projects database](#)
- ADI's outlooks on [diesel demand](#), [LNG export terminals](#), and [global HVO/RD capacity](#)

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Technology development

- **BASF** launched Oppanol® N PLUS, a high-performance polyisobutene (PIB) binder designed for next-generation electric vehicle (EV) and solid-state batteries (SSBs). The material can be used in cathodes, anodes, and electrolytes, offering high elasticity and extensibility to absorb mechanical stress during charge-discharge cycles, improving battery life, process reliability, and overall cell performance.

💡 Chemical companies are accelerating the development of advanced battery materials for next-generation EV technologies, with innovation increasingly focused on improving battery durability, performance, and manufacturability.

- **Dow** introduced several advanced thermal management solutions at COMPUTEX 2026 to address the growing cooling requirements of AI computing and data centers. Notable innovations include DOWSIL™ TC-3120 Thermal Gel, a high-efficiency heat transfer material designed for dense electronics and optical transceiver modules, and DOWSIL™ ICL-1100 Fluid for single-phase immersion cooling systems in high-power AI servers.

💡 The rapid growth of AI infrastructure is driving demand for advanced thermal management chemicals in high-performance electronics and data center cooling applications.

Regulatory and macro updates

- **China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)** and other ministries issued the "Guidelines for the Calculation and Verification of Non-Fossil Energy Electricity Consumption (Trial)," imposing strict carbon accounting standards on energy-intensive industries, including chemicals and polymers. The guidelines establish a unified framework for measuring and reporting renewable and non-fossil electricity consumption, helping Chinese exporters demonstrate lower carbon footprints under international carbon pricing mechanisms such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM).

💡 Stricter carbon accounting requirements are likely to push chemical producers to adopt renewable power and improve emissions transparency in compliance with EU's CBAM.

- **The International Maritime Organization (IMO)** approved new safety guidelines for ammonia-fueled ships, establishing the first global framework governing the use of ammonia as a marine fuel. The guidelines cover vessel design, fuel storage, bunkering operations, crew training, and emergency response procedures, addressing a key regulatory barrier to the development and deployment of ammonia-powered vessels.

💡 The IMO's new safety guidelines reduce regulatory uncertainty around ammonia-fueled shipping, supporting future demand growth for low-carbon ammonia as a marine fuel.

ADI FORUM

ADI Forum insights



[Key applications in specialty chemicals >>](#)

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[Chemicals keynote with Bob Maughon >>](#)

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Fuel for thought

On LinkedIn, we explored critical themes shaping the chemical industry including [chemical prices at five-year lows amid prolonged downturn](#), [CBAM is driving EU-bound producers to decarbonize](#), and [OPEC quotas sideline 25%+ of UAE oil capacity](#).

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ABOUT ADI

ADI Analytics is a Houston-based consulting firm specializing in **oil & gas, energy, and chemicals**. Since **2009**, we've delivered over **1,000 bespoke engagements** for more than **450 clients**, including operators, investors, and start-ups.

With the acquisition of Chemical Market Resources (CMR), **ADI's chemicals practice** is now backed by a rich, 30-year legacy. Our deep expertise in commodity and specialty chemicals, petrochemicals, polymers, plastics, and engineered materials has shaped our rich experience in serving clients through **600+ projects** and a library of **55+ industry-leading multi-client studies**.

We also offer **ADI Plus**, our proprietary research and data portal, and host the **ADI Forum**, an executive conference featuring thought leadership in chemicals and materials, alongside oil & gas and energy.

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