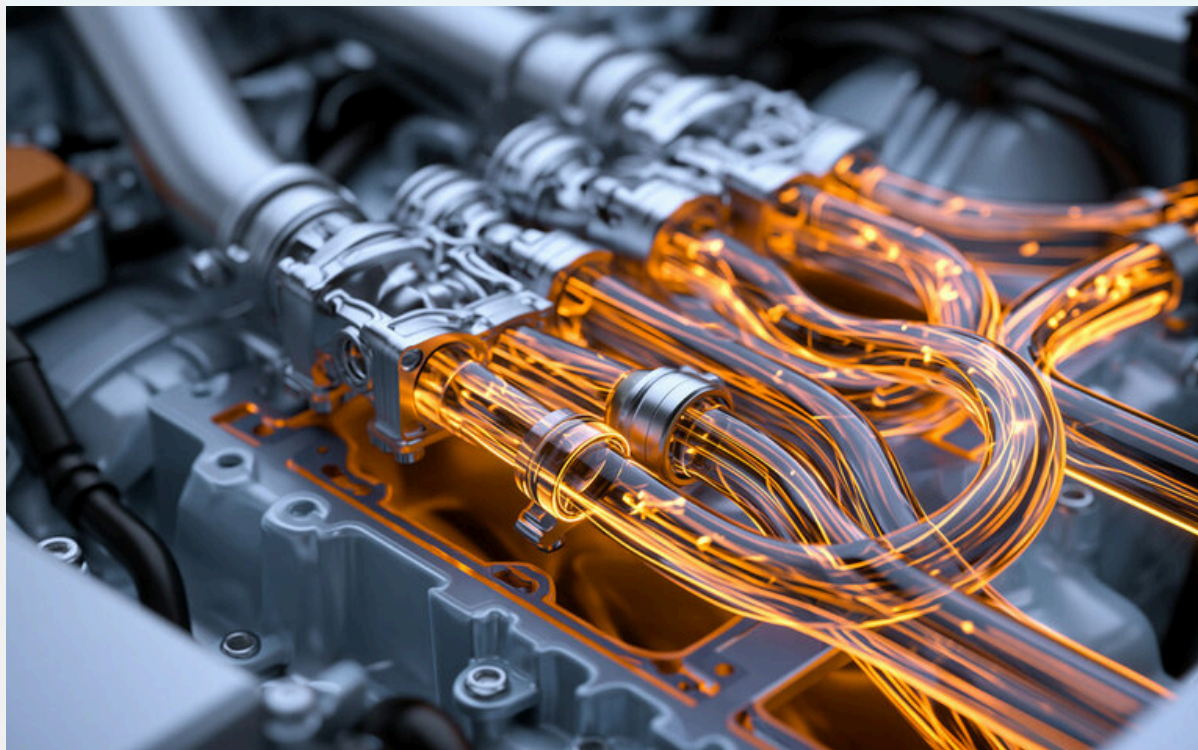


ADI's news on global chemical industry including key projects, deals, and policies



FEATURED INSIGHT

Lubricants are finding growth beyond automotive

Companies like HF Sinclair, BP, and Saudi Aramco are repositioning their portfolios toward industrial, thermal-management, and specialty-fluid applications as traditional engine-oil demand growth slows. [Read more >>](#)

ADI FORUM

Confirmed 2027 ADI Forum speakers

ADI's flagship 10th Forum returns to Houston on January 28, 2027, with executives from WTG Energy, Coastal Bend LNG, and Stabilis Solutions already confirmed.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS



January 28, 2027
Houston, TX
www.adi-forum.com



Charlie Beecherl
 CEO
 WTG Energy



Keith Shoemaker
 Chief Commercial Officer
 Coastal Bend LNG



Andy Puhala
 SVP and CFO
 Stabilis Solutions

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Mergers and acquisitions

- **Nippon Paint Holdings** agreed to acquire **AkzoNobel's** decorative paints business across seven markets in Southeast Asia and Oceania for \$1.35 billion, with the transaction expected to close by mid-2027. The divestment will help AkzoNobel streamline its portfolio ahead of its planned merger with Axalta, which is expected to close by the end of 2026. For **Nippon Paint**, the acquisition will strengthen its regional distribution networks, brand recognition, and supply systems, supporting further expansion across high-growth Southeast Asian decorative paint markets.
- **Heidelberg Materials** entered into an agreement to acquire **NCC AB's** aggregates and asphalt operations in Sweden and Norway for SEK 5.5 billion (~\$551 million). The acquisition includes 106 aggregates sites and 44 asphalt plants, strengthening Heidelberg Materials' regional footprint and complementing its existing cement, aggregates, and concrete operations. The transaction is pending regulatory approval.
- **CRH** agreed to acquire **NCC AB's** industry operations in Denmark and Finland for DKK 1.8 billion (~\$270 million). The acquisition includes asphalt plants, aggregates sites, quarries, and recycling operations, strengthening CRH's Nordic footprint and expanding its exposure to infrastructure and construction markets. The transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions, with completion expected in 2027.
- **Saint-Gobain** completed its acquisition of **Xypex**, a global leader in crystalline waterproofing admixtures and coatings. The acquisition is expected to strengthen Saint-Gobain's market position in infrastructure and specification-driven construction markets across North America, Asia Pacific, and Europe.

💡 ***The recent wave of construction materials M&A highlights global players' push to consolidate market share in Northern Europe and strengthen their portfolios to capture long-term infrastructure demand.***

RECENT ADI PROJECTS IN CHEMICALS

- Analyzed polyisobutylene markets for a **global petrochemical producer**.
- Forecasted global polypropylene market for an **integrated energy company**.
- Benchmarked carbon dioxide conversion pathways for a **global investment firm**.
- Benchmarked SCR catalyst technologies to inform a **market leader's investment strategy**.
- Identified olefin monetization pathways for a **biomass conversion technology developer**.

Explore ADI's [capabilities in chemicals >>](#)

Plant announcements

- **Air Products** entered into an agreement with PG Cold Energy 1 Sdn. Bhd. to develop an LNG-based air separation unit (ASU) at the Pengerang LNG regasification terminal in Johor, Malaysia. The ASU is expected to produce over 219,000 metric tonnes per annum (tpa) of liquid nitrogen, oxygen, and argon from early 2027 to serve industrial markets in southern and central Malaysia. The project marks Air Products' fifth LNG-based air separation unit in Asia, highlighting the growing adoption of LNG cold energy recovery to improve industrial gas production efficiency and reduce energy consumption.
- **Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals (GSFC)** announced plans to develop a 500,000 tpa green ammonia production facility at its Sikka site in Gujarat, India, and issued a public tender to select a strategic joint venture partner. The project will leverage existing port infrastructure, 30,000 metric tonnes of refrigerated ammonia storage, and access to renewable energy to serve domestic demand and export markets in Europe, Japan, and South Korea. GSFC is seeking a partner to provide investment, technology, project development expertise, and offtake access.

MARKET RESEARCH

Trusted studies on chemicals and plastics

- [Polypropylene](#)
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- [HDPE & MDPE](#)
- [Ethylene](#)
- [LDPE](#)
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- [Acid copolymers](#)
- [Vinyl acetate](#)
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Plant closures

- **Westlake Corporation** announced plans to permanently close its 165,000 tpa polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plant in Cologne, Germany, due to high energy costs, weak demand, and increasing competition from lower-cost Asian producers. Westlake Corporation will consolidate its European chlorovinyls production at more cost-competitive sites, including its facility in Wilhelmshaven, Germany.
- **Sumitomo Bakelite** announced plans to permanently close its Durez Corporation plant in Kenton, Ohio, with production scheduled to be phased out gradually starting in September 2027. The plant manufactures phenolic resins and other products, which will either be discontinued or transferred to lower-cost production sites as Sumitomo Bakelite consolidates its North American manufacturing footprint.
- **Lawter**, a subsidiary of Japan's **Harima Chemicals Group**, announced plans to phase out production at its manufacturing plant in Mount Maunganui, New Zealand, which produces terpene derivatives, tall oil fatty acids, and tall oil rosin. The closure follows prolonged operating losses driven by intense price competition in Asian export markets, rising production costs, and unstable raw material procurement. Production is scheduled to cease on June 30, 2027, with the site temporarily repurposed as a logistics hub before permanent closure in May 2028.

WHAT'S NEW IN ADI PLUS

- [Implications of the Iran conflict across oil & gas, LNG, fuels, and chemicals](#)
- ADI's databases on [ammonia projects](#), [U.S. refineries](#), [global LNG capacity](#), and [U.S. data center projects](#)
- ADI's outlooks on [diesel demand](#), [gasoline demand](#), and [POE and POP demand](#)

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Technology development

- **LG Chem** and **Volkswagen Group** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore the joint development of next-generation plastics and composite materials for automotive interior and exterior applications, focusing on lightweighting, performance, sustainability, and cost efficiency. The collaboration will assess materials based on LG Chem's acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) and engineering plastics portfolio, while also exploring opportunities to increase the use of post-consumer recycled materials across Volkswagen's brands.
- **Carbios SA** demonstrated the industrial-scale production of high-quality recycled polyester T-shirts using its enzymatic biorecycling technology, in collaboration with the Fiber-to-Fiber Consortium comprising consumer brands such as **Patagonia**, **PUMA**, and **Salomon**. The T-shirts were manufactured using recycled polyester pellets or yarn derived from complex textile and plastic waste. The demonstration successfully validated the technology's ability to process complex waste streams and integrate with existing industrial equipment, supporting the textile industry's transition toward circularity.
- **BYK Additives** introduced two heat stabilizers, BYK-MAX HS 4316 and BYK-MAX HS 4317, designed to protect high-performance polyamides against thermo-oxidative degradation and maintain material properties under demanding thermal conditions. The additives target growing demand for heat-resistant materials in electromobility and electrical components, helping compounders meet stringent performance and reliability requirements.
- **Sumitomo Chemical** achieved production-scale manufacturing of bio-based liquid crystal polymer (LCP) using biomass-derived monomers, with initial testing confirming performance comparable to conventional fossil-based LCP in heat resistance, fluidity, and mechanical properties. The company plans to supply customers with samples as it prepares for mass production of its bio-based LCP for use in electronics, automotive components, and other applications.
- **The LEGO Group** commenced using e-methanol to manufacture more than 90 LEGO elements, including connectors, steering wheels, and Minifigure hands, through a partnership with **European Energy** and **Novo Nordisk**. The e-methanol is produced using renewable hydrogen and captured carbon from a biogas facility, offering an alternative feedstock for plastics production. The initiative supports LEGO's goal of increasing the use of recycled and renewable materials in its products by 2032.

Regulatory and macro updates

- India's **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)** initiated anti-dumping investigations into five products imported from China, including persulphates, clavulanic acid, caprolactam, counterbalance forklifts, and internally grooved copper tubes and pipes, following complaints from domestic manufacturers. Separately, the DGTR recommended extending anti-dumping duties on Chinese hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) blends for five years, with duties ranging from \$1,553 to \$2,251 per metric tonne. These measures highlight India's growing use of trade remedies to protect domestic manufacturers from low-priced Chinese imports and support local chemical industry competitiveness.

💡 ***Continued anti-dumping duties could protect domestic chemical and materials producers' margins, while also encouraging downstream users to source more locally and accelerating domestic supply chain integration.***

- The **U.S. Senate** recently introduced S. 5674, the Recycled Materials Attribution Act (RMAA), which aims to establish national standards for recycled-content marketing claims. The proposed legislation would recognize third-party certified mass-balance accounting and direct the **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** to update its Green Guides, providing greater clarity for manufacturers while encouraging investment in advanced recycling technologies and plastics circularity. The bill has also received support from both the **American Chemistry Council (ACC)** and the **Recycling Leadership Council**.

Deep dives across chemical and plastics

From specialty polymers and PE recycling to cracker electrification and market dynamics, the ADI Forum covers the full scope of the chemical value chain. Watch past session recordings below to see what to expect on **January 28, 2027**.

Navigating chemical landscape



Applications for specialty chemicals



Cost competitiveness of polymers



Emerging sustainable technologies



Methanol's growth, innovation, & demand



Feedstocks in PE and PE recycling



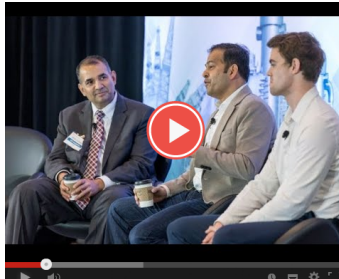
SMRs in cracker electrification



Commoditized polymer landscape



Engineered materials for mobility



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BEYOND THE INBOX

Fuel for thought

We discussed [drivers behind catalyst M&A](#), [chemical prices](#), [carbon cost](#), [CBAM impacts on chemicals](#), [blue ammonia capacity](#) on LinkedIn.

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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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