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



FEATURED INSIGHT

Catching up to China on critical minerals

China controls critical minerals not through better deposits, but through one connected system spanning state-backed financing, opaque global pricing, and higher Western financing costs. ADI examines the five gaps the West has yet to close. Read more >>

MULTI CLIENT STUDY

Water limits reshape oil & gas and chemicals operations

Rising produced-water volumes, tightening disposal options, drought, and growing cooling-water demand are making water an increasingly important operating issue across upstream, refining, power, and chemicals. ADI's new study examines where water risks and opportunities are emerging and how companies can respond. Download prospectus >>

ADI FORUM

2027 ADI Forum early-bird pricing

The 10th ADI Forum takes place on January 28 in Houston. Register by December 31 to secure your spot.



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Mergers and acquisitions

- **Nippon Shokubai** acquired 100% of Kyoto-based specialty chemicals manufacturer **GOO Chemical** for ~$126.6 million. The acquisition adds GOO Chemical's expertise in high-performance electronic materials and photoresist-related products, expanding Nippon Shokubai's specialty chemicals portfolio and exposure to the growing semiconductor materials market.

- **Sumitomo Bakelite** completed the acquisition of **Kyocera Corporation**'s chemical business, establishing **Sumitomo Bakelite Chemical Solution Co., Ltd**. The acquired business specializes in epoxy resin molding compounds for semiconductor encapsulation, bonding pastes, and industrial resins. The acquisition expands Sumitomo Bakelite's product portfolio and technological capabilities in high-value ICT and semiconductor packaging applications.

- **INEOS Inovyn** completed the acquisition of the remaining 50% stake in **Runcorn MCP Limited**, securing full ownership of the UK's only ethylene dichloride (EDC) production asset located at Runcorn, England. The acquisition brings the site's chlor-alkali and EDC operations under INEOS Inovyn's full ownership, strengthening the continuity of UK chlorine and EDC supply. The site is particularly important to national infrastructure, supplying ~98% of the chlorine used in the UK's drinking water treatment.

- **Kukdo Chemical** agreed to acquire **LG Chem**'s bisphenol A (BPA) production and sales business at its Daesan plant in South Korea for ~$55 million. The acquisition covers 165,000 metric tons per annum (tpa) of production capacity and aims to secure a stable BPA supply, strengthen cost competitiveness, and support Kukdo's epoxy resin business. The transaction is expected to close in the first half of 2027, while LG Chem plans to streamline its commodity petrochemical portfolio and focus on higher-value-added products.

- **Sika** acquired **Duproof**, a Dubai-based manufacturer of bituminous waterproofing membranes, to strengthen its position in the UAE construction market and expand its locally manufactured product offering. The acquisition adds manufacturing capacity, established contractor and distributor networks, and complementary waterproofing solutions, creating opportunities for cross-selling and strengthening Sika's regional supply chain across the Middle East.

- **SCG Chemicals (SCGC)** and **PTT Global Chemical (GC)** announced plans to combine their olefins and polyolefins businesses in Thailand through a joint venture, with a combined olefins and polyolefins production capacity of ~7.1 million tpa. The partnership aims to improve feedstock flexibility, asset utilization, and cost competitiveness by integrating their manufacturing operations and infrastructure at Map Ta Phut, while strengthening Thailand's position as a regional petrochemical hub. The joint venture is expected to be established in the second half of 2027, subject to shareholder and regulatory approvals.

RECENT ADI PROJECTS IN CHEMICALS

- Assessed **portfolio strategy and materials-transition scenarios** for a **global chemicals producer**
- Evaluated **plastics recycling markets, policies, feedstocks, and technologies** for a **global chemicals major**
- Conducted **commercial due diligence on catalysts and process technologies** for a **private equity investor**
- Assessed **growth opportunities in renewable fuels, carbon capture, and advanced recycling catalysts** for a **global specialty chemicals company**
- Evaluated **new applications and investment opportunities in specialty polymers** for an **Asian chemicals producer**

Explore ADI's capabilities in chemicals >>

Plant announcements

- **Eastman**'s $375 million award from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to expand its domestic advanced recycling operations has been reinstated. The company's updated investment plan includes increasing capacity at its methanolysis facility in Kingsport, Tennessee, from 110,000 tpa to ~143,000 tpa through debottlenecking, restarting, and repurposing underutilized U.S. recycling assets, and evaluating the potential for a second methanolysis facility.

- **BASF** signed an investment agreement to establish a new electronic materials production facility in Nanjing, China, with start-up expected by the end of 2028. The investment will expand BASF's manufacturing capabilities for semiconductor materials including high-purity chemicals and gases, while strengthening supply chain resilience and enhancing technical support for its customers in China.

- **United Capital Fertilizer (UCF)** broke ground on a $1.6 billion Phase 2 expansion of its ammonia and urea plant at Wonderful Group Industrial Park in Chilanga, Zambia. The expansion will add 540,000 tpa of ammonia, 520,000 tpa of urea, 400,000 tpa of ammonium nitrate, and 50,000 tpa of food-grade carbon dioxide capacity.

  The project is expected to significantly increase Zambia's domestic fertilizer production, improve access to locally manufactured fertilizers, and strengthen the country's position as a regional manufacturing and export hub.

- **Thyssenkrupp nucera** commissioned a 220,000 tpa chlor-alkali plant for **Kutch Chemical Industries** in Padana, Gujarat, India. The facility is one of India's largest single-train chlor-alkali plants and features five electrolyzers equipped with Thyssenkrupp nucera's BM Generation 6+ technology. The new capacity will support Kutch Chemical's internal production needs and increase its supply of caustic soda and chlorine to the domestic market.

- **Devson Catalyst** announced plans to expand its catalyst manufacturing capacity in Gujarat, India, by 5,088 tpa. The company has paid an advance of ~$120,000 towards construction of the factory shed, with the new facility expected to become operational in early 2028. The expansion will strengthen its production capabilities for catalysts, adsorbents, and ceramic balls used in refining, petrochemical, chemical, and environmental applications.

MARKET RESEARCH

Trusted studies on chemicals and plastics

- Polypropylene
- Polyethylene
- Bio-based chemicals
- Short-chain LAOs
- Global LAOs
- TPOs & TPVs
- SBS & SEBS
- HDPE & MDPE
- Ethylene
- LDPE
- Polyacetals
- Tie layer resins
- MMA & PMMA
- ABS
- EPR & EPDM
- Acid copolymers
- Vinyl acetate
- POEs & POPs

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Plant closures

- **Indorama Ventures** announced plans to potentially shut down its 450,000 tpa ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol (EO/EG) plant in Clear Lake, Texas, due to persistent operating and reliability issues. The board is expected to make a final decision on the potential shutdown by the end of 2026.

Technology development

- **Zhejiang COMY Environmental Technology** launched a pilot project in Cangzhou, China, to convert mixed and contaminated waste plastics into virgin-equivalent propylene using its proprietary Plastic-to-Propylene (PTP) technology. The process requires minimal feedstock pre-treatment and produces high-purity recycled propylene alongside valuable chemical co-products, including aromatics and light hydrocarbons. With the pilot demonstrating the technology's ability to upgrade waste-derived oils into these products, **COMY** is now progressing toward commercial-scale deployment.

- **Mondi Group** incorporated at least 98% of **Braskem**'s I'm green™ bio-based polyethylene, derived from sugarcane, into its re/cycle StripPouch, a mono-material flexible packaging solution designed for liquid detergents and soaps. The collaboration demonstrates the potential to replace fossil-based plastics with renewable materials in flexible packaging while reducing carbon emissions and improving production efficiency.

WHAT'S NEW IN ADI PLUS

- Impact of U.S. 2026 midterm elections on energy policy
- Implications of the Iran conflict across oil & gas, LNG, refined products, and chemicals
- Databases on ammonia projects, U.S. refineries, global LNG capacity, and U.S. data center projects
- Outlooks on diesel demand, LNG export terminals, and global HVO/RD capacity

Explore ADI Plus >>

Regulatory and macro updates

- **India's Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** extended the implementation timelines for three Quality Control Orders (QCOs) covering specified high-density polyethylene (HDPE) and polypropylene (PP) woven sacks. The QCO for PP woven, laminated, block-bottom valve sacks used for cement packaging will take effect on November 6, 2026, while the two QCOs covering HDPE/PP woven sacks for cement and textile packaging, and laminated woven sacks for mail handling, will take effect on January

6, 2027. The orders require affected products to comply with relevant Indian Standards and obtain Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification.

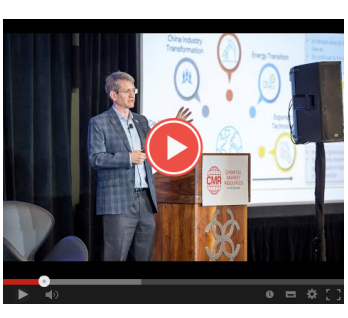
- **California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)** proposed listing perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA), perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA), and certain related salts under Proposition 65 as chemicals known to cause reproductive toxicity. The proposals are based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s toxicological reviews and remain subject to public consultation, with comments due by November 30, 2026. If adopted, the listings could expand Proposition 65 compliance requirements for manufacturers and suppliers handling these PFAS substances.

ADI FORUM

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**.

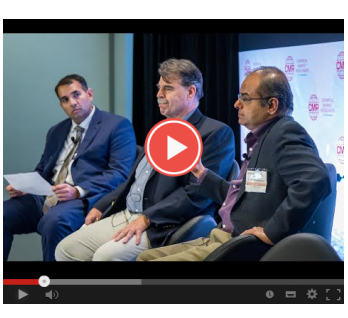
Navigating chemical landscape



Applications for specialty chemicals



Cost competitiveness of polymers



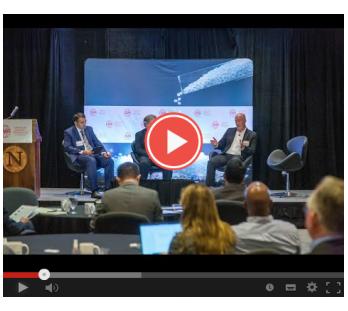
Emerging sustainable technologies



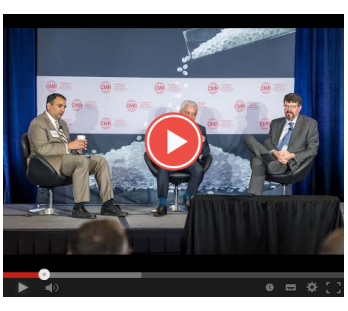
Methanol's growth, innovation, & demand



Feedstocks in PE and PE recycling



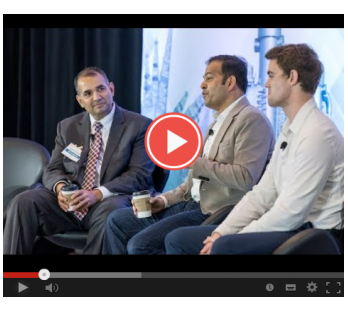
SMRs in cracker electrification



Commoditized polymer landscape



Engineered materials for mobility



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BEYOND THE INBOX

Fuel for thought

We discussed methane compliance, chemical prices, and carbon cost on LinkedIn.

Subscribe to ADI's LinkedIn newsletter >>

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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