

## Bühnen's adhesive systems restructured

In July, Heinz Bühnen GmbH & Co. KG, Vienna, transferred the entire marketing of its adhesive systems in Austria, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Hungary to its former parent company Bühnen, Bremen.

The Austrian company Heinz Bühnen has been active for many years in the field of stapling and nailing technology and would like to focus on this area in the future.

Hot-melt adhesives and their application systems are the core competence of the German company Bühnen in Bremen.

"Taking over the sale of adhesive systems in these countries is a consistent step to get closer to our customers, also in this region, and underlines the



significance of our leading position as a full-service provider of adhesive systems throughout Europe," said Hanno Pünjer, Managing Partner of Bühnen in Bremen.

Business in Austria and Slovenia is served by a separate team, while that in Hungary is served by a dealer. Customers in the Czech Republic and Slovakia are supported by the Polish subsidiary Buehnen Polska Sp. z o.o., based in Wrocław.

"Our move underlines the significance of our leading position as full-service provider of adhesive systems throughout Europe," said Hanno Pünjer, Managing Partner of Bühnen, Bremen.

## Is chemical production growing faster than global GDP?

BASF expects chemical production to continue to grow well above global GDP until 2020. However, the business environment has changed.

"Major markets did not grow as fast as anticipated. The oil price has been unpredictable and has decreased substantially. Geopolitics have contributed to higher volatility," said Dr. Kurt Bock, Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE, at the BASF Investor Day 2015 in Ludwigshafen. As a result, BASF has slightly adjusted its

expectations for the global economic environment from 2015 to 2020 (compound annual growth rates; assumptions from 2011 in parentheses):

- Growth of gross domestic product: 3.0% (3.2%)
- Growth in industrial production: 3.5% (3.7%)
- Growth in chemical production: 3.9% (4.0%)

The development varies by region. The emerging markets will remain the

global growth drivers; Asia Pacific is already the largest chemical market today. BASF projects that Western Europe will get back on the growth path, but on a low level. Competitive feedstock costs and an expanding economy will drive the growth of chemical production in North America. In the next years, BASF aims to grow sales slightly faster than global chemical production; the company wants to grow EBITDA well above global chemical production.

## New judgement on REACH chemicals regulation

In a current judgement, the Court of Justice of the European Union has established stricter regulations for the duty of notification of companies. The judgement refers to articles which include substances of very high concern (SVHCs) according to the European chemicals regulation, REACH. According to the REACH regulation, manufacturers and suppliers must inform commercial buyers and consumers if products contain a substance of very high concern in a concentration above 0.1 per cent of their mass. In the future, this will apply not only to whole articles such as computers, but also to their components, such as the housing or circuit board. The European

Court of Justice thus follows the "once an article, always an article" principle.

TÜV Süd assists companies with the implementation of the REACH regulation in compliance with the law, efficiently and cost-effectively. At present, based on their characteristics, 163 SVHCs are subject to the duty of notification according to Art. 33 of the REACH regulation. The new judgement was prompted by legal proceedings brought by several professional associations against the French Council of State.

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