

Media Release

Vienna/Schwechat, Austria | April 7, 2014

Borealis: "Our aim is to not lose a single pellet"

EUR 4 million invested in state-of-the-art equipment

"Our aim is to not lose a single plastic pellet," states Alfred Stern, Borealis Executive Vice President Polyolefins and member of the Borealis Executive Board, at a press conference called on Monday to respond to recent media coverage. Explaining the company's Zero Pellet Loss objective, Stern continues, "Environmental protection is not only a commitment but an ongoing process of optimisation." For Borealis, the current legal framework constitutes only the minimum standards to be applied. Borealis is a leading provider of plastics solutions and the pellets produced at its facilities in Schwechat are high-grade products that are food-safe and harmless. Pellets are processed for use in drinking water pipes and medical products, among other things.

In recent years, Borealis has invested EUR 4 million in state-of-the-art separation equipment. Because there were no standard solutions available at the time, Borealis worked closely with the Graz University of Technology in 2010 to develop an own separator system. In order to test the functionality and reliability of the newly-installed system, the University of Vienna was commissioned to carry out measurements directly at the channel outflow point. Survey results confirmed the effectiveness of the equipment but pointed to further need for optimisation in the instance of extremely heavy rainfall. "According to the measurements made, a loss of around 200 g of plastics per day was projected, whereby measurements were also taken on 6 July, 2010. This was an exceptional day due to the extreme amounts of precipitation within a very short time span which subsequently led to flooding in the Schwechat area," Alfred Stern continues. "On this day, a projected 50 to 200 kg of plastics were discharged via our channel into the Schwechat River. Even though this was a one-off event, and despite the fact that we remained at all times far below the legal limits, we wanted to further optimise our system in order to be better prepared for catastrophic weather conditions."

Following a thorough investigation, inspection by specialists, and monitoring of the entire channel and separation system area on the Borealis grounds using a special robot outfitted with a camera dolly, the emergency overflows – which had been equipped in accordance with Austrian Standards (ÖNORM) – were entirely closed. A dedicated employee was assigned to monitor, clean and maintain the channel system twice daily. An additional filter at the end of the channel and another external barrier including a 30-cm apron were also installed. "The ongoing implementation of these additional safety measures has brought us closer to our goal of Zero Pellets Loss," Alfred Stern explains. "In 2014, our records show that up until now, only very few pellets have been found at the collection apron on the channel."

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Borealis is a leading provider of innovative solutions in the fields of polyolefins, base chemicals and fertilizers. This year, Borealis already celebrates its 20th anniversary. With headquarters in Vienna, Austria, Borealis currently employs around 6,400 and operates in over 120 countries. It generated EUR 8.1 billion in sales revenue in 2013. The International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) of Abu Dhabi owns 64% of the company, with the remaining 36% owned by OMV, the leading energy group in the European growth belt. Borealis provides services and products to customers around the world in collaboration with Borouge, a joint venture with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

Building on its proprietary Borstar® and Borlink™ technologies and 50 years of experience in polyolefins, Borealis and Borouge support key industries including infrastructure, automotive and advanced packaging.

The Borouge 3 plant expansion in Abu Dhabi will be fully operational in 2014. Borouge 3 will deliver an additional 2.5 million tonnes of capacity when fully ramped up, bringing the total Borouge capacity to 4.5 million tonnes. Borealis and Borouge will then have approximately 8 million tonnes of polyolefin capacity.

Borealis offers a wide range of base chemicals, including melamine, phenol, acetone, ethylene, propylene, butadiene and pygas, servicing a wide range of industries. Together with Borouge the two companies will produce approximately 6 million tonnes of Base Chemicals in 2014.

Borealis also creates real value for the agricultural industry with a large portfolio of fertilizers. The company distributes approximately 2.1 million tonnes per year. This volume will increase to more than 5 million tonnes by the end of 2014.

Borealis and Borouge aim to proactively benefit society by taking on real societal challenges and offering real solutions. Both companies are committed to the principles of Responsible Care®, an initiative to improve safety performance within the chemical industry, and contribute to solve the world's water and sanitation challenges through product innovation and their Water for the World™ programme.

For more information visit:

www.borealisgroup.com
www.borouge.com
www.waterfortheworld.net

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