

PRESS RELEASE

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KOLB receives Responsible Care Award 2010

Energy extraction from heat earns KOLB innovation award

From now on the chemical company, KOLB Nederland based in Klundert, the Netherlands, will be using considerably less natural gas for warming up raw materials. Instead of gas, the company reuses heat extracted from its brand new reactor unit. The energy savings are already very promising. Today, the company received the 'Responsible Care Award' from the Netherlands Chemical Industry Association (VNCI) for this technological innovation. The annual VNCI award is presented to chemical companies that have an outstanding performance or innovation in the area of safety, health, the environment and sustainability to their credit. The independent jury consists of representatives from the government, environmental movement and chemical companies.

As a result of this innovation, the heat released from a reactor unit is being recovered and reused for the first time. Since the introduction of the 'recovery system' in 2009, KOLB Nederland has saved more than 6,700 GJ of energy. The company expects to double this saving in 2010.

KOLB Nederland first conducted extensive research into the possibilities for heat recovery. Using existing technologies – including thermal buffering in continuous processes - the company successfully developed a completely new application. As one of the smaller companies, KOLB Nederland opted to take a progressive approach, said the jury. The project has a substantially wide technological scope and shows great promise for delivering energy savings. The jury's report further states that the system can also be efficiently applied within other companies. According to the jury, this makes KOLB Nederland a leader in this area and serves as an example of sustainable innovation for other companies to follow.

Honourable mention

The jury also gave an honourable mention to AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals and Teijin Aramid.

AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals developed a 'green alternative' for the anti-caking agents used in industry and de-icing salt. The current standard consists of iron cyanide and prevents coagulation or caking when storing salt. AkzoNobel developed a biodegradable alternative that is completely cyanide-free and breaks down completely into the natural environment. The new product is called 'Iron mesotartrate', which also improves the safety and energy consumption in the electrolysis process. The jury considers the redevelopment of the anti-caking agent a striking example of systematic sustainability. For its 'safety campaign' on the shop floor, the jury considers Teijin Aramid worthy of an honourable mention. In a corporate film, six employees examine the various production areas on each others' shop floor. The screening of the film and dialogue on safety takes place in a series of short meetings for all employees. The fact that this campaign encourages daily discussion on safety on the shop floor is extremely inspiring according to the jury. The jury also considers it a breakthrough that employees visit each others' shop floor in the film.

Responsible Care

The Responsible Care programme is a worldwide initiative from the chemical industry. The initiative is geared towards the continuous improvement of companies' performances in the area of safety, health, the environment and sustainability.

With the Responsible Care Award, the VNCI aspires to widen the scope of Responsible Care awareness. Since 1999, the industry association has been presenting the award for the most leading and inspirational contribution.

The objective of the VNCI is to provide optimal conditions for the operation and growth of the chemical sector in the Netherlands and to promote the quality of the sector. The chemical sector has a trade surplus of € 38 billion and accounts for approximately 7% of the employment, 19% of the production, 19% of the export, 19% of the investments and 24% of the research and development expenditure within Dutch industry.

Note for the editorial staff, not for publication:

For further information about the Responsible Care Award or the VNCI, please contact Ingeborg van Honschooten, acting Head of Communications, VNCI, tel. +31 (0)6 273387019.

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