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COVER STORY

High demand for products bolsters surfactant suppliers



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Surfactants are vital ingredients in home care, personal & beauty care products. Their surface active properties help remove dust, oils, proteins and several undesirables form the substrates they act on.

ResearchAndMarkets put the global surfactant market at nearly \$40 billion last year and predicts sales will climb 4.5% a year to top \$52 billion by 2025. Gains are expected to come from urbanization in Asia-Pacific as well as growing demand for surfactants in home care, personal care and agrochemical applications economy.

Household and personal care marketers and their supply partners in the early days of coronavirus did face supply chain challenges, but soaring demand for household cleaners and disinfectants, as well as personal cleansers and shampoos, provided a lift for many surfactant suppliers in the second quarter. And while retail and restaurant closures put a dent in sales to industrial and institutional for the first half of the year; long term, a renewed interest in cleanliness should be a boon for I&I sales.

In this issue of C3 magazine we provide an interesting insight into this scenario of HPC segment through an article by Tom Branna, Editorial Director, Happi.com on the topic, "High demand for products bolsters surfactant suppliers." The article provides the views of global care chemical manufacturers like BASF Care Chemicals, Acme Hardesty, Evonik and others on how they have faced the challenges posed by the Covid Pandemic and have kept their focus on ensuring safety and on responding to changing customer needs.

Also featured in this issue is an interesting article from HUL on how the company is reimagining the future of the cleaning chemicals. With an investment of €1 billion over the next ten years, HUL will be replacing ingredients derived from fossil fuels in its cleaning and laundry product formulations with ingredients from renewable or recycled sources by 2030.

The Covid Pandemic has resulted into a hustle among the producers to make products such as masks, sanitizers, wet wipes and others that address the Covid-19 pandemic. In this scenario it's as important that producers address quality and clarity. The labels that users rely on can confuse, or even mislead. Consequences of mis-labeled products may also render them mis-used. Just as many users do not understand the differences between KN95 and N95 masks, which filter at different levels, the difference between cleansing and sanitizing wipes is also important. The issue also discusses this important topic through an article bySusan Stansbury, industry consultant on "Product labels take on added importance in COVID-19 era."

Besides the above the issue covers regular features on Global News Roundup, Indian News, Updates on regulations, sustainability, packaging and Patents. We hope you find the issue an interesting reading. Do provide us with your feedback and suggestions.

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COVER STORY

High demand for products bolsters surfactant suppliers

Tom Branna, Editorial Director, Happi.com

The best of times AND the worst of times? Household and personal care marketers and their supply partners can't be blamed for some Dickensian verse these days; yes, the early days of coronavirus created supply chain challenges, but soaring demand for household cleaners and disinfectants, as well as personal cleansers and shampoos, provided a lift for many surfactant suppliers in the second quarter. And while retail and restaurant closures put a dent in sales to industrial and institutional for the first half of the year; long term, a renewed interest in cleanliness should be a boon for I&I sales.

ResearchAndMarkets put the global surfactant market at nearly \$40 billion last year and predicts sales will climb 4.5% a year to top \$52 billion by 2025. Gains will come from urbanization in Asia-Pacific as well as growing demand for surfactants in home care, personal care and agrochemical applications. Of course, the rosy outlook doesn't take into account the impact that the pandemic had—and will have—on the global economy. The second quarter was the worst on record for the US, the UK and many other nations. As we went to press, analysts warned that the recovery was beginning to falter and with winter on the way in the northern hemisphere, health officials are bracing for a spike in COVID-19 cases. No wonder then that suppliers see positive and negative results from coronavirus.

According to the BASF Care Chemical team in North America, the impact of COVID-19 on the personal care industry is nuanced. "As a leading supplier of plant-derived APG surfactants, low-dioxane SLES, and coconut-based betaines, our demand has been healthy as consumers are buying more hand soap and stocking up on basics like body wash and shampoo," explained the BASF Care Chemicals team in North America. "On the home care side, surfactants for HC I&I segments are mostly for cleaning and disinfecting, and their sales are being fueled by the growth in categories like hard surface cleaners, liquid laundry detergents and manual dish detergents."

Lucky is how executives at Acme-Hardesty describe business continuity during the pandemic, as the company is a major supplier of glycerin and fatty acids in the US market. Glycerin is a key component in many hand sanitizers and the use of fatty acids is important in the realm of soap and cleansing products.

"We did experience some supply chain constraints, but we stayed on top of shipping issues, worked closely with suppliers, and ensured that all our customers were kept in supply of the materials they required," recalled Caren Dres-Hajeski, business unit director, personal care. "It took a team of people and a supply allocation committee, but we made it through and are committed to keep continuity as best we can."

Stepan's global surfactant business had a good first half of 2020, with 10% volume growth over the prior year due to the strong demand for household and institutional cleaning and disinfection products as a result of COVID-19.

Executives at Coast Southwest told Happi that their company plays a critical role in the supply chain for essential infrastructure serving manufacturers of soap, cleaning compounds, hand sanitizer and personal hygiene products. Customers count on Coast Southwest to provide high-quality ingredients and on-time deliveries, especially in exceptional times like these. With deep resources and the long-term relationships with suppliers, the company has been able to anticipate and satisfy its customers' needs—even as those needs evolve.

In the first months of the pandemic that was hand sanitizer, but now the focus is expanding to hand soap. Coast Southwest has the components to formulate a wide range of hand soaps, and offers a range of surfactant blends from its Prop-65 sulfate-free blend to more traditional ingredients which offer ease of formulation.

With increased handwashing and hand sanitizer use, consumers are stripping skin of the natural lipid barrier. Coast Southwest offers antiaging ingredients, including a line of olive-based emollients and Ecocert emulsifiers, that chemists can use to formulate rich moisturizers to combat the drying effects, said the firm.

Additionally, the interest and demand for at-home beauty treatments is going up as consumers are not going to spas and aestheticians as much, and with the uptick in online beauty sales. Coast Southwest said its anti-aging team offers a wealth of experience in creating for those types of solutions as well. Adapting to Customers' Needs

BASF has been able globally to maintain production from practically all assets and has supported many customers' urgent requests reliably, it said. As such, BASF customers have not experienced surfactant supply disruptions due to COVID-19.

Through this pandemic, Evonik's focus has remained on ensuring safety and on responding to changing customer needs.

"Supply security is one of the facets which most customers expect from Evonik, and therefore we are very conscious of working with customers to ensure that we understand how their needs may be changing in order to adjust our own supply picture," explained Arnoldo Fonesca, Evonik.

All Vantage sites worldwide are operating and shipping, without any interruption related to the coronavirus in manufacturing or supply chain at this stage, according to Sebastien Massard, global marketing manager, Vantage Personal Care.

"We have taken preemptive measures to ensure continuity of supply, such as storing extra stock of raw materials, as well as ensuring multiple sources of supply for materials we deem critical," he explained.

"We continue to request and receive daily updates from our suppliers and logistics partners. We conduct a comprehensive review of our supply chain and review our staffing requirements for all functions and sites to ensure products can be made and shipped according to schedule."

Furthermore, Vantage established daily sales and operations meetings to make sure any emerging issue in production or the supply chain can be handled immediately and communicated to customers.

"Vantage remains focused on the health and safety of its employees. Actions taken to date have included restricting international and local travel, suspending tradeshows and large gatherings, implementing work-from-home policies for non-essential employees, increased sanitation services at all Vantage facilities, site visitor screening policies, among other actions," Massard explained. "Vantage has trained all employees on proactive steps to protect themselves from contagious illness, which include best practice guidance from the health agencies."

David Shannon, senior vice president, Croda Inc, agreed that safety has been a focus.

"Our priorities during this time have been to protect the health and safety of employees and balance stakeholder needs fairly, with an exceptional response of commitment from our employees to maintaining business continuity and serving our customers," he explained.

By completing a review of its supply chains and monitoring the situation as it developed, Croda put contingency plans in place should they be needed. In addition, to help small and independent businesses, Croda extended payment terms.

"We have also made £200,000 available to support those in need closest to our largest manufacturing sites globally," Shannon added.

Innospec Performance Chemical has fared well throughout the pandemic. Early in Q2, the company met with some raw material disruptions that made it challenging for its operations teams to meet ongoing customer demand, but the company quickly worked through those issues and maintained a steady supply of products to its global customer base.

"We promptly implemented social distancing, use of face masks, and enhanced cleaning protocols to ensure the safety of all of our staff so that we did not lose any production capabilities," added December Pee, senior marketing specialist.

Locus Performance Ingredients launched on July 21, 2020 amid the pandemic. Company executives note that it has had an impact on laboratory uptime to a modest degree, as Locus adheres to rigorous cleaning and laboratory management practices, but there's been no dislocations in our supply chain from vendors.

"We're currently in discussions with a number of major CPG companies on Locus PI's first product launch—the Ferma S line of sophorolipids for personal care," said CEO Tim Staub.

"Because our technology is extremely low CAPEX and our discovery time is short, we're able to stay financially stable and move rapidly forward with new developments even in these unprecedented situations," he told Happi.

What's Selling?

According to Fonesca, the categories that are flourishing for Evonik generally fall into one of two buckets: those that are deemed essential under the current environment, and those that the current circumstances have prompted consumers and customers to value more greatly.

Within the first group are, unsurprisingly, chemistries supportive of hygiene and sanitation, including Evonik's surfactants portfolio for household, industrial, and institutional cleaning and inert ingredients for disinfection. While some of these groups suffered temporarily during the shutdown, the heightened cleaning standards, particularly in the industrial and institutional segments, gave business a boost.

"Although much focus has been placed on disinfection, we are seeing a growing awareness, prompted by the CDC guidance, related to the importance of thorough pre-cleaning process," said Fonesca. "The idea is that for disinfection to be most effective, it is required to remove dirt and excess soils prior to the disinfection process."

Like other surfactant suppliers, BASF executives noted increased demand for hand sanitizers and cleaning wipes and their associated ingredients. Ingredients for hand wash and hand sanitizers for personal care, and automated dishwashing and disinfecting wipes/cleaners for home care have a positive momentum, as well.

Locus Performance Ingredients evaluated a multitude of CPG markets and placed a specific focus on areas with the largest opportunity—starting with personal care. Company executives note that, despite the pandemic, there's still growing regulatory restrictions and consumer demand driving the need for more sustainable ingredients with better performance. Last month, Locus launched the Ferma S line of pure sophorolipids for personal care applications.

The Ferma line offers GMO-free, bio-based, readily biodegradable, non-toxic and non-irritating ingredients with multifunctional benefits in skin care, hair care, body wash and a myriad other personal care applications. Ferma formulations are non-ethoxylated, and 100% free of 1,4-dioxane and palm oil. According to Locus, they can be customized to solve a multitude of personal care industry pain points with no ingredient disclosure issues in New York, California (no Prop 65), or any of the other 12 states with pending ingredient disclosure legislation.

Massard of Vantage noted that, not surprisingly, many ingredients related to hand sanitizing and overall skin health have been doing extremely well.

"Demand for jojoba oil for instance has been very strong. Many formulators have recognized the benefits of this DW Jojoba Oil in hand and face cleansers where in-vivo studies have shown that it can contributes to restoring skin hydration," he explained.

Humectants used in hand sanitizers and soaps, such as glycereth-26 (Liponic EG-1), have been doing extremely well as they can easily and cost-effectively improve the overall sensorial experience for consumers in such formulations, said Massard. Another strong trend relates to product differentiation. With so many suppliers turning to manufacturing hand sanitizers and hand soaps, there has been a growing need for product differentiation.

"Vantage has been working with many customers on visual differentiation using our Lipobead range of colored encapsulants," said Massard. "The colorful capsules are very popular to help make formulations stand out from more basic products."

On the surfactant front, sulfate-free and solid formulations are becoming increasingly popular.

"During our weekly webcasts, we have presented our customers several concepts based on our Metaupon taurate surfactants range in order for them to meet their customers' expectations with these trends," he added.

Innospec's products are commonly used in rinse-off applications such as shampoo and body wash products—categories that have been pandemic-resistant. Furthermore, there's been a significant increase in demand for its ultra-mild surfactants for hand wash products especially from customers selling products through big box and grocery stores. Similarly, there's been gains among customers with a strong online presence or direct to consumer business model. In contrast, there was a drop off in demand from customers and products used mainly in products sold through beauty salons or specialty retail stores.

"Our home care business has been extremely busy, as the demand for hard surface cleaning has increased due to the pandemic," explained Pee. "Demand for amine oxides and benzalkonium chloride have been particularly strong; in fact, many of our plants are operating at or near capacity."

Like other surfactant suppliers, Shannon reported an increase in demand for ingredients used in cleansers and moisturizers in Croda's personal care business, prompted by consumers washing their hands more often, as well as an increase in demand for ingredients for household cleaning products.

"With our broad range of ingredients and flexible manufacturing, we were able to quickly and easily pivot to supplying increased demand for these ingredients," he said. "We will continue to work with our customers to understand their supply needs and respond accordingly."

Increased personal wash and disinfectant protocols stemming from the fight against COVID-19 have boosted demand for Stepan's anionics and amphoterics going into hand soaps and hard surface cleaners, as well as biocidal quaternaries that are used in sanitizers and disinfectants, said Scott Behrens, VP/GM-global surfactants, Stepan. As of July 2020, Stepan offers 24 US EPA-registered end-use formulations that meet the criteria for applications against emerging viral pathogens, and therefore may be considered for use as hard surface disinfectants against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes the disease COVID-19. Along with a dedicated biocide team, Stepan has a comprehensive portfolio of over 80 US EPA-approved, end-use formulations that sanitize and disinfect in a wide variety of applications.

Emily Kalal, Rita Corp., noted that traditional, in-person sales calls are currently non-existent and there's no sign that will change in the near future.

"Keeping in touch with our customers is still a high priority and so we are finding our way in this new environment to try and maintain personal contact when it can no longer be in person," said Kalal.

"Technology helps in this regard, with the use of Zoom or Microsoft Teams. However, good old-fashioned picking up the phone, we have found, also goes a long way. A lot of people may be feeling isolated now, and for good reason, so keeping in touch is a very important aspect of not only our businesses but frankly our health and safety."

Massard agreed that the pandemic has taken a toll on mobility, but it doesn't mean less contact with customers.

"In order to support our partners, Vantage has dedicated more resources on virtual events and meetings. If anything, we almost feel we spend more time with our customers than before," he insisted.

Vantage has organized almost weekly webcasts globally to support formulators with COVID-19 updates and new inspirations aimed at helping them address the changing habits of consumers during the pandemic, and beyond it.

"To some extent, the pandemic actually seems to have accelerated some of the changes we had already started to see earlier," Massard told Happi. "In order to accompany our customers in their transition to cleaner beauty solutions, or vegan formulations, Vantage has issued new guides and literature that will help formulators better navigate the extensive portfolio of ingredients already available to them."

In place of in-person technical training, Innospec has held numerous webinars for customers addressing the current trends in new product formulating.

Topics have included 1,4 dioxane, formulating new textures, formulating mild hand wash products and formulating salt-free products.

According to Pee, internal communications has increased and is driving new product development faster than in the past.

As a startup, Locus Performance Ingredients is in the fundraising and customer growth phase—both of which are based on building strong relationships, explained Staub. The restrictions in face-to-face meetings and opportunities to see facilities in person makes that challenging, and creates the need for strong virtual/digital assets.

"We will have to rely heavily on videoconferencing, webinars, a highly active social media and online presence and an expedited sampling process, and implement elements such as a Live Chatweb feature for technical and sales questions and an investment in robust application laboratory support," he said. "It will also put focus on onboarding team members that already have trust-based relationships with key investors and companies, since these are difficult to build with the current global travel limitations. The digital B2B space is also rapidly growing which creates an excellent opportunity to partner with leading players in that space to help expand our reach to personal care formulators."

Croda, too, is finding new ways to connect with customers digitally, for even greater customer intimacy. On September 9 and 10, Croda will host its first digital sustainability conference bringing industry leaders, technical experts and sustainability pioneers to present and discuss how to create a positive impact on the world.

For their part, BASF executives say they've been expediting the push for consumer and business digitalization tools. BASF is adapting to the new reality with more video calls, more digital and on-demand content, and new ways to showcase its ingredients and formulations.

"Our goal is to continue to make our customers' brands as successful as possible with safe, reliable products delivered on time, and with performance data to back consumer-relevant claims," they explained.

According to Fonesca, both Evonik and its customers are adapting to what is increasingly looking like a more dynamic and safer model for doing business.

"Surely, in-person customer interactions like conferences and face-to-face meetings will eventually resume, but these will be complemented by acceptability in the use of new digital interaction platforms," he explained.

Evonik has been investigating digitalization of our business practices for some time, and the pandemic has accelerated these activities to enable our team to have more video meetings with customers, hold and participate in webinars, and keep the communication with customers ongoing.

At the beginning of this year Evonik Cleaning Solutions launched a customer digital platform called intoCleaning (intocleaning evonik.com), which groups together the company's cleaning solution resources like videos, documentation, sample requests and concepts all in one place. According to Fonesca, the tool has been very helpful to formulators seeking cleaning-related chemical options in the current environment as well as marketing insights that we provide.

"We are now seeing increased traffic on our website and we are excited to see much more digitalized tools to come to enhance customer relationship," he said

Acme-Hardesty executives predict that virtual meetings, webinars, the art of virtual selling, an increase in marketing activities and technologies that support all of these efforts will stay for the long term.

"While I do not believe that travel will disappear forever, I do certainly believe that we will end up moving forward with a hybrid model of virtual and inperson interactions," said Dres-Hajeski.

According to Anne Gariepy, global marketing communications director at Stepan, with the limited ability to engage in person, there is the need for increased digital marketing and the use of on-line tools, such as enhanced video capabilities and online forums to ensure an easy way for customers to stay abreast of new technologies, news and engage with Stepan. To deliver fast and convenient technical support, Stepan enabled chat on their new website and have set-up virtual collaboration laboratories around the globe. Stepan scientists can collaborate in real time with customers as if they were working in the lab alongside them—offering formulation development support and demonstrations.

With more companies expanding their reach into cleaning products, both personal care and household, there is increased interest in Coast Southwest's preformulated blends, particularly ones with a natural story and with specialty preservative packages that are free from isothiazolinones and formaldehyde. Using these blends which have optimized ratios of surfactants, makes for quick development of new cleansing products, allowing our customers to get to the retail shelf faster, according to the company.

What's New?

In March, Stepan acquired Logos Technologies LLC's NatSurFact business, a rhamnolipid-based line of biosurfactants derived from renewable sources. Stepan's rhamnolipid biosurfactants provide an important new technology across the markets we serve as customers' sustainability expectations continue to increase. "We want to make sure that for the markets we have ambitions to supply and grow into, we're mindful of the requirements of not only our customers but also the end consumers," said Stepan's Chief Technology and Sustainability Officer Jason Keiper. "Stepan is actively developing high-performing, advantageous products as a key pillar of our sustainability commitments."

More recently, in July, Stepan Company entered into an agreement with Clariant (Mexico) S.A. de C.V. to acquire Clariant's anionic surfactant business and associated sulfation equipment located in Santa Clara, Mexico. The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2020.

"The purchase of Clariant's surfacant business in Mexico will enhance our ability to support our customers' growth in the Mexican consumer and functional markets for surfactants," said F. Quinn Stepan, Jr., Stepan's chairman, president and chief executive officer.

As brand-new company, everything at Locus Performance Ingredients was created within the past 12 months—a new team, new product line, new facilities, new offices, new lab and new technology.

"Our goal is to help improve the surfactant business by providing customized, green biosurfactant ingredients that address the top formulation challenges in the personal care space," explained Staub.

Massard pointed out that the Metaupon range of taurate surfactants offered by Vantage is an ideal solution for brands looking at sulfate-free formulations. Vantage has added new technical and marketing positions in the US and Germany to help with growth in this area.

"Our adaptive innovation applies creative problem solving and rapid execution to help our customers bring their sulfate-free products to market, fast," he explained. "By actively investing in technical resources and talent, we are committed to supporting our clients with our global reach and local touch."

Shannon acknowledged that it is hard to predict the future and what the next normal will look like, but added that Croda's current strategy of focusing on sustainability and digital engagement will continue to be at the forefront.

"With our focus on sustainability, we have stated our ambition is to be the most sustainable supplier of innovative ingredients, creating, making and delivering solutions to tackle some of the biggest challenges the world faces," he explained. "By 2030, we will be Climate, Land and People Positive. COVID-19 may be the challenge of 2020 but creating a sustainable future remains our long-term challenge. We will continue this by expanding our sustainable product offer, such as our 100% bio-based, 100% renewable ECO range of surfactants, and investing in digital capabilities for greater ingredient transparency."

At the same time, Croda continues to increase manufacturing for its 100% bio-based, 100% renewable ECO range at its Atlas Point Delaware facility with more than 50 products in the portfolio.

Over the past two years BASF expanded production capacity for alkyl polyglucosides at sites in Jinshan, China and Cincinnati, OH. Furthermore, there's ongoing expansion for nonionic surfactants in Verbund site in Antwerp, Belgium. In addition, BASF made upgrades to its surfactant assets in North America to produce the Flex range of low 1,4-dioxane products.

As previously announced, Evonik is taking steps to build a world-scale plant to supply biosurfactants to customers, and is continuing along this path to create innovative, profitable and sustainable solutions for customers, said Fonesca.

Acme-Hardesty has made sizeable investment and refocused its efforts as a team to tackle growing need of cleansing products as a result of ongoing pandemic, according to Rishabh Shah, director of technical services. "Our partnership with key principals has enabled us to provide and meet customer demands regarding traditional as well as new innovative surfactant chassis. We offer full bottled up formulation solutions containing solid to liquid surfactants to cater to broader formulation applications and customer needs."

Coast Southwest is investing significantly in its surfactants business, which it describes as the cornerstone of its ingredient portfolio. Jarrod Kaltenbach recently joined the company as VP-surfactants, and this quarter, Coast Southwest broke ground on a 105,000-square-foot facility in Arlington, TX that advances our distribution, blending, and manufacturing capability.

New products, new capacities, new investments—it just proves that even with all the market uncertainty, demand for surfactants will continue.

Source: Happi.com September 3, 2020

GLOBAL NEWS

P&G's new dryer sheets aim to solve pet hair problem

Procter & Gamble is now marketing. Bounce Pet Hair and Lint Guard dryer sheets that it claims will help keep dog and cat fur from clinging to clothing. Apparently, shedding is a problem that keeps some people from adopting pets. The brand says the new fur-fighting sheets have "3X more hair and lint fighting ingredients than the leading dryer sheet" — which, as an asterisk on the press release points out, is the regular Bounce sheet.

Bounce is teaming with North Shore Animal League America, the nation's largest no-kill rescue and adoption agency based in Port Washington, NY, to help the adoption cause during Adopt A Shelter Dog Month.

"When it comes to pets and clothes, shedding is one of the biggest challenges for pet owners," said Shivani Kanneganti, North America fabric care senior brand director, explaining that the new dryer sheets may lessen objection in some homes.

Pet adoptions are reportedly at an all-time high as more Americans spend more time at home because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Throughout October, Bounce Pet is sponsoring adoptions at participating North Shore Animal League America shelter partners nationwide. The brand will pay up to \$25,000 in adoption fees, part of its, "Bounce Home with Your Adopted Pet" program. Up to 500 approved adopters will receive \$50 off their adoption fee as well as samples of Bounce Pet Hair and Lint Guard.

As the coronavirus crisis deepened, getting a dog became as hard as it is to now buy a bicycle in some parts of the country. The Washington Post last month compared the current pet adoption frenzy to the "Cabbage Patch Kids craze of 1985" and The "Tickle Me Elmo mania of 1996."

According to a 2012 survey of people who have never had a dog, 30% said both "cleaning" and "lifestyle" were their top objections. And shedding shows up on a lot of informal lists of reasons that dogs aren't a total blast.

So there are a number of supplements on the market that claim they can at least minimize shedding with products that promote a healthy dog or cat coat. Still, pets are supposed to shed.

Source: https://www.mediapost.com September 28, 2020

Reckitt Benckiser links up with Google Cloud to drive customer engagement

British consumer goods giant Reckitt Benckiser (RB) has joined forces with Google Cloud in a bid to increase customer engagement across its brands, which include Dettol, Nurofen, Lysol, Finish, Durex, and Calgon, to name a few.

As part of RB's multi-year digital transformation, Google Cloud will unify the company's data to enable the building of capabilities around customer identification, journeys, and behaviours. The partnership is also aimed at enabling RB to manage data and analytics, measurement and attribution, and automated martech activation across all of its channels.

"In our journey to create a cleaner, healthier world, this close collaboration with Google Cloud is a very important milestone for our brands. Only by utilising data will we be able to better serve consumers and shoppers and create meaningful experiences for them," said Fabrice Beaulieu, EVP Group Marketing Excellence & EVP Category Development Organisation Hygiene at RB.

Once the pair have worked together to digitise RB's data in Google Cloud, RB will use Google's machine learning capabilities, as well as its own machine learning models, to help it to evaluate ROI and better plan its future campaigns. RB is currently testing use cases in the UK, US, Brazil, and India.

"We hear every day that data is the new fuel for enabling business growth. However, in today's digital world, where billions of data points are created every second, finding the right solution for your business can be more complex than anticipated," said Saqib Mehmood, SVP Digital Transformation & CIO Hygiene at RB.

Source: https://mobilemarketingmagazine.com/ September 29, 2020

BASF regains lead in ICIS Top 100 Chemical Companies ranking

The ICIS Top 100 has provided a fascinating snapshot of the global chemical industry for many years,

The latest edition, charts financial performance in 2019 (or a company's latest financial year).

Interestingly, it shows many companies were already under pressure before the pandemic as weaker global growth met the cyclical, supplydriven slowdown in petrochemicals.

Top 100 sales in 2019 were just over \$1,000bn, or a quarter of 2019 global chemical sales for the year, as per 2019 global shipments, according the American Chemistry Council (ACC).

The Top 100 companies now are those producing sales of a little over \$1bn.

Over the years, the ICIS (and, formerly, Chemical Insight) analysis has tracked the changing face of the industry, shifting ownership, and sector trends.

The 2020 edition shows how sales and profits dropped for some players largely focused on upstream bulk petrochemicals and chemicals.

More focused, often specialised, firms were able to deliver, on the face of it, a more robust full year performance.

HARDER RECOVERY

Performance in 2019 underscores what is needed now to drive a strong recovery for the sector as large parts of the industry's customer base is only now recovering from a coronavirus-driven crash.

The level of economic activity needed to drive stronger chemicals demand growth does, as yet, simply not exist apart from, perhaps, in certain pockets.

A recent analysis by the ACC of the performance of 28 specialty chemicals subsectors in the US, for instance, shows how this part of the industry is recovering overall from the April 2020 low point.

It also shows how some important, end-use markets/industries for chemicals are still depressed, however.

The most broadly-based chemicals company, Germany's BASF, regained first position in the Top 100 based on its 2019 sales of \$67bn.

The breadth of the product base meant that the decline in sales for the year was held at 1.5%. The chemicals businesses of Sinopec, with sales of \$63bn, is more commodity and petrochemicals oriented; against the backdrop of China's slowdown, sales were 7% lower than in 2019.

Sales fell for the 10 largest chemical companies last year and weaker upstream margins particularly led to a sharp decrease in operating profit – of 25% and more for this group of companies.

SPECIALTY CHEMICALS REMAIN KEY

The data show that specialisation was key to financial performance in 2019, hence the stronger performance of companies like Merck KGaA, Sherwin Williams, Lonza, and IFF.

The tougher operating environment for all companies meant that sales of the Top 100 were down 5% in 2019. For 34, the fall in sales was greater than 10%

In the face of the downturn – and in 2020 the unprecedented pressure from the pandemic – companies have sought to strengthen balance sheets, borrow at low interest where possible, cut costs, and drive cash flow, again, where possible.

Capital spending was rising last year, at 9% across the board, with some companies continuing to invest heavily in new plant and equipment.

Research and development (R&D) spending by the Top 100 was 2% higher in 2019 but there were steep cuts in R&D spending at some, largely US-headquartered chemical companies.

This could be, perhaps, indicative of the nervousness of management in the face of the ongoing slowdown.

Source: PRNewswire Sept. 7, 2020

Unilever puts UK R&D site up for sale

Unilever has listed a section of one of its oldest UK sites for sale, according to a report published by North West Place.

The 50-year-old, Port Sunlight R&D facility is being marketed by UK real estate agent Cushman & Wakefield with offers to be submitted on or before October 24.

The portion up for sales spans a large R&D building, adjacent facilities, car park and vacant plot for potential development.

A spokesperson for Unilever told North West Place, "Earlier this year, we shared details of a planned investment in one of our existing buildings on our Port Sunlight Research & Development Site, with the intention to also vacate buildings and sell part of the site adjacent to Quarry Road East and part of St Andrew's Road. We can confirm that this land is now being advertised for sale.

"Going forward, our employees in R&D will be accommodated in the modern, leading-edge facilities we've recently invested in, including our Advanced Manufacturing Center and what will be our new, upgraded laboratory and workspace in Port Sunlight, and the world-class Materials Innovation Factory at the University of Liverpool."

Source: Globalcosmticnews.com September 21, 2020

L'Oréal and Kering are amongst the five founding sponsors of the new Hi! Paris research centre

L'Oréal and Kering are amongst the five founding sponsors of the new Hi! Paris research centre, according to WWD.com.

The research centre has been supported by the Haute École de Commerce Paris and the Institut Polytechnique de Paris and focuses on artificial intelligence and data.

L'Oréal and Kering join other corporate sponsors consultant firm Capgemini, oil major Total, and electric supply company Rexel, with the centre labelling itself as the first interdisciplinary and cross-institutional center in Europe, bringing together education, research and innovation. The site will recruit 30 professors and 150 doctorate students.

L'Oréal CEO Jean-Paul Agon explained the importance of AI and data for the beauty industry, hailing it the 'next big revolution' following the digital boom that began in 2010.

He said, "So it is super important to prepare employees, train young people, and be able to bring about this revolution in our company and all companies."

Likewise, it is hoped the institution will marry up to the success in U.S. and Asia, with French leaders voicing frustration that the country is falling behind.

Eric Labaye, President of Institut Polytechnique de Paris and president of École Polytechnique, said, "It's to solve problems...the uniqueness of our center is to bring these skills together to provide solutions to some of the biggest issues.

Peter Todd, Dean of HEC Par, continued, "We need the MIT of France, here you take a world-class engineering institute, you take a world-class business school, you bring them together and you create a kind of magic, you create new ways of thinking about these kinds of problems.

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 18, 2020)

The Hut Group raises \$2.4 bn a London initial public offering (IPO)

The Hut Group has raised \$2.4 billion in a London initial public offering (IPO), a move which sent the company shares soaring up to 32 percent.

Looking to capitalize on the current boom in online sales, THG's sale is the biggest float on the London Stock Exchange since June 2017, according to Bloomberg.

Shares opened at 20 percent, with Mclean's investment firm participating and receiving 5 percent of its initial order due to high demand.

THG sold £920 million, while existing holders divested £961 million – moves which have made CEO Matthew Moulding a billionaire. Moulding will retain a 25.1 percent stake in the company and has a special share that allows him to veto any hostile takeover bid within the next three years.

THG operates websites such as myprotein.com and coggles.com, and makes much of its profit by licensing its technology. The company has partnerships with the likes of Walgreens, P&G and Johnson & Johnson.

As the interest in digital skyrockets due to 'stay-at-home' mandates amidst COVID-19 lockdowns, the interest in tech companies has surged. Phil Drury, Head of banking, capital markets and advisory for Europe, the Middle East and Africa at Citigroup, stated that there was very high interest from technology investors globally during the IPO.

Likewise, the success of the IPO is thought to inspire bigger listings in the UK going forward, with Drury continuing, "We will see a wave of growth-oriented IPOs in technology and health care over the next two to four quarters. It has accelerated investor interest in both sectors, including alternative ways to access, such as SPACs."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 18, 2020)

Clarins opens its first overseas laboratory in Shanghai

Clarins has opened up its first overseas laboratory, with the new centre based in Shanghai.

The 500 square metre lab will conduct vitro experiments, sensory analysis and clinical tests, with researchers able to screen the active ingredients in the products, invite Chinese consumers in for sensory evaluations and verify product efficacy.

Helping the group better understand the skin concerns of Asian women, as well as develop new products for the Asian market, Clarins will also get better acquainted with the country's advances in science and technology, humanities and biology.

Clarins is also hoping to draw on ancient Chinese medicine for NPD.

The first laboratory to be built outside Paris, China is said to be Clarins' biggest market. The new research capabilities will offer the company the ability to better understand regional preferences.

Discussing the success of the region for the company, Zhong Xiaoming, Executive Vice President of Clarins Greater China, said, "The consumption rebound in China since COVID-19 outbreak beat our expectations. Our market performance in China has fully recovered, and we've achieved accelerated growth in some regions."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 18, 2020)

L Brands enters into a joint venture (JV) with British retailer Next

L Brands has entered into a joint venture (JV) with British retailer Next, who will acquire a 51 percent majority stake in Victoria's Secrets UK and Ireland, which is currently in administration.

The joint venture will operate all Victoria's Secret stores in the U.K. and Ireland, subject to agreeing to terms with landlords, with L Brands retaining the remaining 49 percent.

As per the agreement, the Victoria's Secrets UK online business, currently operated by the U.S. arm of the brand, will be folded into the JV in Spring 2021.

Martin Waters, CEO of L Brands International, said, "We are pleased to take this next step in our profit improvement plan for Victoria's Secret. Next's capabilities and experience in the U.K. market are substantial, and our partnership will provide meaningful growth opportunities for the business."

Meanwhile, Rob Harding, Administrator at Deloitte, highlighted the positive solution for company employees. He said, "This is an ideal way to secure the future of more than 500 employees in the U.K. We are grateful to the creditors for working with us to deliver a solution that enables this business to survive and prosper."

Victoria Secret's has been beleaguered for some time, with the new venture hoped to save it from ultimate demise in the UK through Next's strong presence in the country's retail market.

Lord Simon Wolfson, Chief Executive of Next PLC, said, "Next is very pleased at the prospect of working in partnership to expand the Victoria's Secret brand in the U.K. and Ireland both in stores and online."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 17, 2020)

Beiersdorf strengthenes its existing engagement in K-beauty skin care and tech start-up Lycl

Beiersdorf has strengthened its existing engagement in K-beauty skin care and tech start-up Lycl. The German manufacturer of Nivea has participated in a US\$5 million Series B funding round.

Beiersdorf first invested in Lycl last December following the start-up's participation in its accelerator program, NX Nivea. South Korea's Lotte was named as a co-investor.

"We are happy to continue supporting Lycl on its rapid growth path," said Ascan Voswinckel, Head of Oscar&Paul Beiersdorf Venture Capital.

"This decision is in line with our overall strategy of building long-term partnerships to drive innovation in the skin care industry."

"We are thankful for the contribution as well as the valuable collaboration from an early stage onwards with NX," added Jeon Jihoon, founder and CEO of Lycl. "This follow-on investment shows the continuing commitment of Beiersdorf and the company's confidence in our plan for success on a larger scale, especially beyond Korea."

The investment demonstrates Beiersdorf's commitment to the Lycl digital business model, its growth plan and the joint value of the collaboration, the Nivea owner said in a statement, and is in line with its venture capital arm, Oscar&Paul's wider strategy to support potential industry disruptors.

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 16, 2020)

Garnier to plant 400,000 trees to help reach net zero emissions

L'Oréal's Garnier brand has teamed up with carbon balancing app Almond on a reforestation project which aims to plant some 400,000 trees by the end of October as part of the brand's ambition to achieve net zero emissions, according to a report published by Business Green.

The Buy One Plant One initiative will see the brand plant a tree for every product purchased in Asda stores. The Walmart-owned UK supermarket will advertise the campaign in store via POS displays.

Almond and Garnier have produced a five-step strategy to enable the brand to become more 'climate positive', which includes recycled and recyclable packaging, the use of renewable energy, eco-designed formulas and action against plastic pollution.

Almond Chief Executive Oliver Bolton told Business Green, "We are extremely pleased to announce our partnership with Garner, supporting it in achieving a company-wide sustainable goal. The beauty industry only continues to grow and consideration for the impact of this has been and continues to be recognised."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 15, 2020)

Fung Group-owned Meiyume unveiles a new sustainable packaging solution

Fung Group-owned Meiyume has unveiled a new sustainable packaging solution that it claims will 'revolutionize the beauty packaging market'. The Molded Pulp Range is made from 100 percent recyclable materials and is plastic free.

The eco-designed material is crafted from plant fibers that are entirely bio-based and can be molded into versatile shapes and sizes, including an eyeshadow palette.

Meiyume's sustainability mission spans sourcing to product design and the consumer experience and is aimed at driving the circular economy as well as giving its customers a better avenue to connect with the values of their end customers. Gerard Raymond, Meiyume President explains, "By exploring new materials and production processes like we did with the molded pulp range, we are able to develop mono-material products which are easier for consumers to recycle, but do not compromise on aesthetics."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 15, 2020)

Henkel to invest US\$23 mn to expand hand soap and sanitizer production

Henkel has announced that it is investing US\$23 million in its North American manufacturing facilities in order to provide new equipment and make improvements to support additional production of Dial liquid hand soap and hand sanitizers.

The new lines will contribute around 45 to 55 percent of total production at the Geneva facility and lead to the creation of some 180 new jobs at the plant in Geneva.

Some aspects of the new technology will be installed in October and operational in November, 2020 and the rest will be up and running by June 2021.

With the pandemic showing no sign of being over anytime soon, demand for hand soap and sanitizer remains strong.

"We are thrilled to announce a supply expansion of essential products in North America," said Doug Parkinson, Vice President of Operations at Henkel's Geneva facility. "It's not only a win-win for our business, it will support our local job and economic growth. Investing in Dial will provide consumers and businesses with much needed home and personal hygiene products."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 15, 2020)

L'Oréal-owned Maybelline New York launches the UK's biggest make-up recycling scheme

L'Oréal-owned Maybelline New York has launched what is said to be the UK's biggest make-up recycling scheme, in collaboration with Terra-Cycle.

Consumers can now take any make-up item to 1000 Tesco, Superdrug, Boots and Sainsbury's stores and deposit their empties in specialist instore recycle bins.

A press release stated, "According to research carried out by Maybelline into the recycling habits of makeup wearers 45% of makeup wearers admit they had no idea it was possible to recycle makeup, whilst 42% admit they wouldn't know where to start.

"Meanwhile, 24% are confused about how to dispose of them properly, resulting in leaving old or out of date products in their makeup bag or drawer, despite the fact that 83% of makeup wearers would describe themselves as sustainably-minded or environmentally-aware."

TerraCycle will collect the deposited make-up before cleaning the products and recycling them.

Vismay Sharma, Country Managing Director of L'Oréal UK & Ireland, said, "Make-up wearers have told us they want to recycle their finished products but they didn't know if make-up recycling was even possible. We're now making it very easy with the launch of Maybelline makeup recycling stations, found in over 1000 convenient locations across the country and accepting any makeup brand."

With the beauty industry being one of the worst offenders of single use plastic waste, the new scheme is a pioneering step to building a circular economy.

Sharma said, "Make-up wearers have told us they want to recycle their finished products but they didn't know if make-up recycling was even possible. We're now making it very easy with the launch of Maybelline makeup recycling stations, found in over 1000 convenient locations across the country and accepting any makeup brand."

(Source: Global Cosmetic News September 11, 2020)

CIR Panel Releases Latest Findings

At the 155th meeting of the Cosmetic Ingredient Review Expert Panel, held online September 14-15, final safety assessments and other news were unveiled.

The next Expert Panel meeting is slated for December 7-8, 2020 online.

Here are the results from the September 2020 session:

Final Safety Assessments

- · Caprylhydroxamic Acid 1 ingredient Safe
- · Adenosine 5 ingredients Safe
- · Methylisothiazolinone 1 ingredient Safe with qualifications
- · Ascorbyl Glucoside 2 ingredients Safe
- Scutellaria baicalensis 4 ingredients Split conclusion (safe; insufficient for various endpoints)

Tentative Safety Assessments

- Acetyl Hexapeptide-8 Amide 1 ingredient Safe
- Benzophenones 11 ingredients Safe
- Coconut 10 ingredients Split conclusion (safe; insufficient for various endpoints)
- · Polysilicone-11 1 ingredient Safe

Insufficient Data Announcements

- Saccharide Humectants 7 ingredients
- Levulinic Acid 2 ingredients
- · Ubiquinone 4 ingredients
- · Amino Acid Diacetates 2 ingredients
- · Silicates 24 ingredients
- Diacetone Alcohol 1 ingredient
- · Red Algae 60 ingredients

(Source: Happi.com September 18, 2020)

Stepan Expands in Latin America; buys surfactant business from Clariant

Stepan Company has closed on an agreement with Clariant (Mexico) S.A. de C.V. to acquire Clariant's anionic surfactant business and associated sulfation equipment located in Santa Clara, Mexico. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed.

"This acquisition supports Stepan's growth strategy in Latin America and enhances our ability to support our customers' growth in the Mexican consumer and functional markets for surfactants," said F. Quinn Stepan Jr., chairman, president and chief executive officer of Stepan. "We look forward to transitioning customers' supply to Stepan's Ecatepec and Matamoros Mexico facilities over the coming months."

Headquartered in Northfield, Illinois, Stepan utilizes a network of modern production facilities located in North and South America, Europe and Asia.

(Source: Happi.com September 18, 2020)

Dettol donates 40,000 products to support HSE in the fight against COVID-19

In its Sept. 17 Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Daily Roundup, the US FDA said it continues to find hand sanitizer products that are labeled as containing ethanol (also known as ethyl alcohol) but have tested positive for methanol or 1-propanol contamination. Methanol and 1-propanol are not acceptable ingredients for hand sanitizer products and can be life-threatening when ingested.

The FDA said it also continues to find hand sanitizers that are subpotent, meaning the product contains less than the required amount of ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol or benzalkonium chloride.

(Source: Happi.com September 18, 2020)

Praan Naturals adds Tomato Seed CO2 Total Extract to its range of natural ingredients

Praan Naturals has introduced Tomato Seed CO2 Total Extract (Solanum lycopersicum (tomato) seed extract) to its range of more than 500 certified organic and conventional natural ingredients for personal care product development.

"Our premium quality Tomato Seed CO2 Total Extract is similar in texture and consistency to that of expeller pressed Tomato Seed Oil and can be used within similar applications," said Anáil Mitra, chief executive officer of Praan Naturals. "However, the CO2 supercritical extraction process exposes the extract to far less heat during production, giving this oil a longer shelf life. Our CO2 Extracted Tomato Seed Oil is also higher in Vitamin E, Lycopene and Essential Fatty Acids than an expeller pressed oil."

Tomato Seed CO2 Total Extract is obtained by pressurized supercritical fluid extraction using carbon dioxide as the solvent. This method effectively extracts all the beneficial lipophilic constituents present in the tomato seeds. Once the extraction process is complete, the CO2 dissipates back into a gaseous state, and the extract then undergoes molecular distillation to remove unwanted components. The CO2 supercritical extraction process exposes the extract to far less heat during production than even a cold pressed oil, leading to a reduced risk of oxidation and a much more prolonged and stable shelf.

With its impressive composition of lycopene, essential fatty acids and Vitamin E, Praan Naturals Tomato Seed CO2 Total Extract is a nourishing, moisturizing extract. Suitable for all skin types, it is especially well suited for inclusion in formulations intended to soothe, protect and support delicate or aging skin. Tomato Seed CO2 Total Extract absorbs rapidly, leaving the skin looking and feeling more youthful and hydrated.

(Source: Happi.com September 17, 2020)

Ecos Debuts Fruit & Veggie Wash

Ecos, pioneer in plant-powered, sustainable cleaning products, has formulated an all-natural Organic Fruit & Veggie Wash.

The wash is designed to carefully and safely soak all produce to remove unwanted dirt, wax, and other debris, removing contaminants that water alone can't get rid of. USDA Organic certified, this wash is made from only four unique and all-natural ingredients including organic white vinegar and soap nuts from Brazil to provide maximum, good-for-you cleaning power.

(Source: Happi.com September 17, 2020)

INDIAN NEWS

e'clat makes mark in skin care with users leading marketing campaigns

Atifa Akbar, a home-maker and mother of two kids from Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, had recently been worried with a host of skin issues. Concerned with the facial skin issues, Atifa reached out to her cosmetologist to get the remedies. She had firstly tried home-remedies, but there were no immediate benefits.

With worries mounting, Atifa's cosmetologist prescribed use of "e'clat Superior Facial Serum". Launched for the first time in India, e'clat has been steadfastly working on innovation in designing and formulation of skin-care products. Its primary focus has been using best ingredients and combining them in a way to help their products target specific skin concerns for customers.

Within weeks of using the serum, Atifa pleasantly noted her skin getting better and better. With regular application of the serum, she found that her skin was more hydrated, growing plump and youthful. With improvements in the skin texture, she sensed confidence coming back, and she took to social media to share her experiences of using the "e'clat Superior Facial Serum".

With a large number of people facing skin issues, Atifa began getting audiences on social media, as her videos hit more views. Atifa's personal experience and the first hand use of the serum in a way helped "e'clat" become a popular brand among the Indian skin-care enthusiasts. She even started a cosmetic line of her own.

With confidence regained, Atifa by dint of her dedication and hard-work was able to dream for a better life and her family, and set out to make it a reality. She now runs her business successfully with a sense of empowerment and self-assurance gained from "e'clat".

Incidentally, the advent of social media has made customers aware of brands and multiple options available in the online space. With numerous brands and products available across various platforms, customers are in a constant dilemma in making the right choice from a big pool of options. To help them make informed decisions in choosing the right products, customers themselves are sharing their reviews of products, ranging from cosmetics to gadgets, on the online platforms. Referred to as an influencer culture, this trend has made it easier for customers to get their queries and doubts addressed from persons who have already used the products. With customers gaining more brand awareness even while competition in the market gets more stiff, it has become imperative for brands to be careful of products and their claims while launching them in the market. Indeed, from the constitution of the product to packaging, each step has become crucial for careful planning.

In fact, skin-care is seen as an area neglected in daily lives of the people. With pollution levels rising in cities, skin care is all the more important, remarks the experts. Customers, naturally, are always on the lookout for products that could address their skin concerns, besides saving their precious time and money by avoiding buying too many unnecessary products. With consumers becoming conscious over time, brands are now under pressure to deliver high quality products and focus more on developing targeted solutions to address skin issues.

Source: Company Press Release

HUL's Boost expands its footprint in India

Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), announced the expansion of Boost, one of India's leading nourishing beverage in chocolate flavour, into the Western, Northern and Eastern regions of the country. An iconic brand, Boost is widely enjoyed by kids given its 'Great Taste' of chocolate, benefit of 3X stamina and energy – by the virtue of a formulation consisting of 17 essential nutrients, and legacy of association with leading Indian sports personalities.

Stemming from the success of the nourishing beverage in the South over decades, the market expansion reaffirms and further supports the brand's purpose of unleashing the winner in kids across India. The brand narrative, 'Play A Bigger Game, which goes beyond the motivation to tackle everyday challenges and aims to enable kids to take on the bigger and tougher opponents in the real world, will drive the geographic growth story.

Krishnan Sundaram, Vice President, Integration and Business Head -? HUL said, "Boost has a long-standing legacy in the southern market, and we are excited to be taking this journey forward across all regions of the Indian households. There is a tremendous market opportunity in the milk-rich regions for Boost to establish and eventually lead the category. We are looking forward to embarking on a successful journey for Boost pan India."

As a part of the comprehensive communication outreach, the much-loved TVC with Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli preparing a young kid to #PlayABiggerGame in his own unique style will be on air across regional and national media in Hindi and Marathi. The brand will also continue to convey its purpose of unleashing the winner in kids, through its platform, Boostcamp.com, a website democratizing cricket learning, where aspiring kids can learn skill on various aspects of the game directly from the champions.

Source: Company Press Release September 14, 2020

HUL and UNDP successfully implement a plastic waste management model

In response to the urgent need for plastic waste management, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) positively impacted more than 33,000 households across three wards of Mumbai – K-East (Andheri East), H-West (Bandra West) and R-North (Dahisar) – through a plastic waste material-recovery model. The project will be scaled to include more households in the coming years.

The technology-powered model will enhance segregation, collection, and recycling of all kinds of plastic waste along the value chain, creating resource efficiency and supporting a circular economy. This has been done with the support of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and Consumer Citizen groups such as the Swachh Parle Abhiyan who played an important role in driving awareness around collection and segregation of plastic waste at source.

The programme has helped collect and segregate dry waste with nearly 2500 tonnes of plastic waste being collected so far. Over 500 Safai Sathis (waste collectors) have been on-boarded as part of this initiative.

To demonstrate the success of the model, HUL hosted a virtual roundtable on driving end-to-end plastic waste management in Mumbai, in partnership with UNDP and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). The roundtable showcased HUL-UNDP's partnership to establish the model where, along with collection and recovery of dry waste, there was a focus on driving behaviour change to promote waste segregation at source.

Through this project, HUL and UNDP are also ensuring the wellbeing and financial inclusion of Safai Sathis. The project is aligned with the Government of India's Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission, Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, and Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018.

HUL Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Sanjiv Mehta said, "Our vision is one where key stakeholders work together to ensure that plastic stays in the economy and out of the environment. As a responsible company, we are committed to playing our part. The HUL-UNDP-MCGM end-to-end plastic waste management pilot is a right step towards keeping plastic waste out of the environment, and a similar model can be widely rolled out across the country."

Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Chairman, Mr Sudhir Shrivastava, in his special address at the event said, "To effectively address the world's plastic waste problems, there needs to be a constancy of purpose and effort. We also need structures that bring key stakeholders together, and this is where the role played by HUL and UNDP comes to the fore. We would like to acknowledge HUL and UNDP for their collaboration in managing this issue through the circular recovery and management model they have created. Today, we see a streamlined system and therefore, more productive and positive use of plastic waste through the model's implementation. This model also highlights and empowers the Safai Sathis who form the backbone of our waste management efforts."

The participants were also taken through a virtual tour of the first-of-its-kind material recovery facility called Swachhta Kendra, set up at Andheri East in Mumbai, in partnership with MCGM and UNDP, showcasing the end-to-end process followed at the centre for effective dry waste management. The project is being implemented in three wards in Mumbai – K-East (Andheri East), H-West (Bandra West) and R-North (Dahisar).

The other speakers present on the occasion were Mr Prabhjot Sodhi, Head, Circular Economy, UNDP, Mr Pankaj Gonge, Assistant Engineer, K-East Ward, MCGM, Mr. Satish Kolvankar, Swach Parle Abhiyaan, and implementing partners from Aasra and RaddiConnect.

As a responsible corporate, HUL has taken ambitious targets to manage plastic waste effectively. Globally, Unilever has committed that by 2025:

- The company will halve the amount of virgin plastic used in its packaging and an absolute reduction of more than 100,000 tonnes in plastic use
- · Help collect and process more plastic packaging than they sell
- Ensure that 100% of their plastic packaging is designed to be fully reusable, recyclable or compostable
- · Increase the use of post-consumer recycled plastic material in packaging to at least 25%
- HUL has made good progress in line with the commitments it has set out for itself. Since 2018, in India, HUL has disposed of more
 than one lakh tonnes of post-consumer use plastic waste in an environment-friendly way. This was done with the help of collection
 and disposal partners in nearly 100 towns across India.

HUL is also a founding partner of the India 2022 coalition catalysed by Xynteo to support the implementation of the Clean India mission. The work on waste management under the 'Waste to Value impact track' led by HUL, is focused on testing and scaling sustainable models of circularity for plastic waste – from increasing awareness to improving segregation at source and establishing robust collection infrastructure at the local level.

Source: Company Press Release September 9, 2020

Galaxy Surfactants Ltd Rated Gold for Corporate Social Responsibility for the year 2020 by EcoVadis

EcoVadis the world's most trusted sustainability ratings, awarded Galaxy Surfactants Limited, one of Indias leading companies in the world of surfactants and specialty care products with a Gold medal for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the year 2020. Galaxy Surfactants Ltd is in the top 5% companies which has been assessed by EcoVadis for various sustainability ratings and corporate social responsibility practices followed by corporates.

This is the second consecutive award from EcoVadis, awarded to Galaxy Surfactants Ltd for following global standards in corporate social responsibility.

EcoVadis is the global business sustainability ratings organization, who assesses companies' performance annually on international sustainability standards covering four key areas: environment, labor and human rights, ethics, and sustainable procurement.

"Sustainability forms our Core. A journey which began in 2010-11, shall complete a decade in 2020-21. A decade marked by remarkable work done in the areas of Responsible Care, establishing ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) units across all our sites and pioneering Innovation that is sustainable, green and incorporates our patented green technology for manufacturing – all in all a sustainable and environmentally conscious proposition", said Mr U. Shekhar, Managing Director, Galaxy Surfactants Limited.

Mr. U Shekhar further added, "We believe that our goals reflect our determination towards a more sustainable future. We focus extensively towards the areas of climate change: energy, greenhouse gases, renewable energy, tree plantation; water; packaging waste and life cycle assessment."

Mr. U Shekhar further added, "We believe that our goals reflect our determination towards a more sustainable future. We focus extensively towards the areas of climate change: energy, greenhouse gases, renewable energy, tree plantation; water, packaging waste and life cycle assessment."

Early this year, Galaxy's Taloja Plant was rated by GreenCo in accordance to its Green company rating system, Best Process Innovation Award for the year 2018 by Independent Community Intelligence Services (ICIS), ISDC Conference Iconic Company Award for FY18, Indian Chemical Council's Responsible Care Logo certification for the year 2017-20 are some of the major awards received by Galaxy Surfactants in the last few years, thus showcasing global standards in their operations, business sustainability and core value like Character, Competence, Competitiveness and Comfort.

Source: Company Press Release

BoroPlus ropes in Juhi Chawla For its Hygiene Range

BoroPlus ropes in Juhi Chawla For its Hygiene Range ~ BoroPlus Hygiene Range to hit the retail with its Handwash after Hand Sanitizer and Toilet Soaps ~ Kolkata, September 11, 2020 :

BoroPlus, India's trusted and No.1 antiseptic brand, from the house of Indian FMCG major Emami Ltd, takes on board Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla for its newly launched Hygiene Range, to spread wider awareness among consumers about the necessity of maintaining personal hygiene especially amidst the present global health crisis of COVID 19.

After a successful entry into the hygiene space with the launch of BoroPlus Hand Sanitizer in April this year, BoroPlus Hygiene Range followed it up by adding Toilet Soap Bars (BoroPlus Antiseptic + Moisturizing Soap) in June. The range is now set to hit the retail market with Hand Washes (BoroPlus Antiseptic + Moisturizing Handwash).

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Priti A. Sureka, Director, Emami Limited said, "BoroPlus is a brand which is trusted by millions of people, all over India. Its antiseptic cream is a staple across households for all age groups, to heal, protect and moisturize the skin. The foray into personal hygiene, keeping in mind the antiseptic and moisturising equities of BoroPlus, was part of our innovation plan on the brand. However, with the world facing the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen several consumer behavioural changes with respect to personal hygiene, which have become a new way of life.

Keeping this in mind, we have endeavoured to bring forward our launches in the hygiene segment. We started with hand sanitizer, then moved on to expand to the category of toilet soaps, and now hand wash. BoroPlus Hygiene Range is all set to offer the consumers a complete range of personal hygiene to fight the attack of COVID 19 virus.

For our hygiene range, we are happy to associate with the celebrity presence of Juhi Chawla who enjoys an all-pervasive acceptance all over India across age, gender and geographies. Her warm, charming and friendly personality makes her someone who is relatable to everyone. A successful actor, a mother and a business woman, Juhi resonates with the brand persona of BoroPlus which is multifaceted and speaks of trust, purity, responsibility and authenticity."

"With the world facing the COVID-19 pandemic, people have become generally very conscious of health and hygiene. This heightened sense of hygiene has become an integral part of our new normal way of life and this consciousness is here to stay with us for long. People are in want of hygiene products that will not only protect them and their family from germs but also care for the health of their skin. BoroPlus Antiseptic + Moisturising range of soaps, sanitizers and hand washes bring in the perfect solution to not only keep the skin germ-free but also moisturise it with the goodness of their natural ingredients. I feel very happy and responsible to be associated with the hygiene range of BoroPlus – a brand that I trust," said Juhi Chawla, the brand ambassador of BoroPlus Hygiene Range. A TVC directed by noted ad filmmaker Narayan Shi featuring Juhi will be on air across channels and platforms mid-September onward.

Shot under stringent health hygiene protocols, keeping everyone safe was the highest priority on the set. The brand commercial narrates the story of every other family today whose hygiene habits have undergone significant change with the onset of COVID 19 pandemic. Washing and sanitizing hands every now and then, taking baths more often are some of our common habits today. The film shows people following a robot to portray these habits turning into frequent actions almost to the extent of being mechanical. This heavy usage of cleaning elements leads to dryness of the skin due to loss of moisture. With the natural goodness of Neem, Tulsi, Aloe and Honey, the BoroPlus Hygiene Range thus comes to fight 99.99% germs and viruses while keeping skin soft, moisturized and healthy simultaneously.

Recommended by Doctors, the BoroPlus Hygiene Range products are enriched with natural antiseptic herbs and clinically tested to kill 99.99% of germs and viruses. They are free from harmful chemicals like parabens and silicones, making the products safe for the entire family and suitable for frequent everyday use. BoroPlus Antiseptic + Moisturizing Soap Bars and Hand Washes are available in two variants – one with Neem, Tulsi & Aloe Vera and the other with Neem, Eucalyptus & Honey. BoroPlus Advanced Anti-Germ Hand Sanitizer is also enriched with herbs – Neem and Tulsi in an alcohol base of 70%.

BoroPlus Hygiene Range will be available across Pharmacy and General Retail stores, Modern Trade outlets and E-Commerce platforms.

Source: Company Press Release September 11, 2020

Indian economy can touch USD 10 trillion in next 15 yrs: HUL CMD Sanjiv Mehta

India has the potential to achieve a high GDP growth rate of around 10 per cent and be a USD 10 trillion economy in the next 12 to 15 years, HUL CMD Sanjiv Mehta said on Monday.

Terming the present situation as a "massive opportunity for the country", Mehta said impetus should be given on digitising sectors like manufacturing, agriculture and pharma.

"In the last three decades, we have achieved about 6 to 6.5 per cent on an average GDP growth rate and if we have to create a 10 million jobs every year, then we have to cross this chasm between 6 and 6.5 per cent and 8 to 10 per cent. the potential of the country is there and that would, forget USD 5 trillion, in the next 12 to 15 years we could be on the cusp of becoming a USD 10 trillion economy," Mehta said while addressing a virtual event organised by the All India Management Association (AIMA).

To achieve this, the country must "dream big, think big and act big", he added.

Speaking on 'renewing the economy', Mehta said the country has to reach a virtuous cycle of growth.

"We have to reach a stage, where we get into a virtuous cycle of growth, where investments happen or really it starts with demand. The demand goes up, investment happens, livelihoods get created and then the virtuous cycle starts moving. So, we have to get to that stage," he emphasised.

Talking about the COVID-19 situation in the country, he said a USD 3 trillion economy is like an Airbus A380 aircraft and it must not be allowed to go into a free fall.

On economic recovery, Mehta said the key issue is determining the appropriate level of interest rate to spur growth.

"Now we have come to a very critical juncture, where the question is how much the interest rate should be brought down to give impetus to the economy.

"Second is how aggressive the government should be with the fiscal deficit. There would be a glide path to bring it down in the future in a very disciplined, open and transparent manner so that it gives confidence to both the investors as well as rating agencies," he said.

Some industries, which are big employers, have been seriously impacted by the pandemic and the question is how to bail them out, Mehta said.

He further said the country has a fantastic opportunity to invest in health infrastructure.

"If you look at beds per thousand, we are anywhere one-fifth or sixth of the more developed nations... Pharma industry is about USD 41 billion and we have around 3 per cent of the global pharma industry. This is a great opportunity to start looking to solve this problem," he said.

The second thrust should be on agriculture, as 60 per cent of the population lives in rural India and 50 per cent of people are employed in the farm sector, he said.

"I am pleased with the government with the steps which they have taken to reform some of the archaic laws which existed into the country. They are absolutely in the right direction. That is the kind of focus we need to bring here," he added.

He also suggested digitising the entire economy and making data a national asset.

"We have to bring down the cost of capital also by 330 to 400 bps at least. We have to bring down the cost of logistics and make land available," he added.

Talking about the FMCG segment, Mehta said the severity of the lockdown which was faced by urban India did not percolate down to the rural areas.

The harvest has been good this year and the government has also increased allocation to the rural employment guarantee scheme, besides taking steps like distributing foodgrains and direct transfer of money to the needy, he said.

'It has definitely given a boost to rural consumption. Before COVID happened, the rural consumption had slowed down. The rural per capita consumption of FMCG is less than half of the national average. So the runway to grow in rural India is massive and if things are good, then the rural growth rate is anywhere between 1.5X to 1.7X over the urban growth rate.

'It is very visible now that the rural growth rates are higher. The issue for us is the urban growth rate," he added.

Source: ETRetail.com September 22, 2020

Personal care brand mCaffeine raises Rs 42 crore in third round of funding

Pep Technologies, that owns digital-first personal care brand mCaffeine, has raised Rs 42 crore in a Series B funding round from a consortium of investors led by Amicus Capital along with RPSG Ventures and existing investors, Telama Investments as it plans to widen online and offline distribution and expand research and product development to penetrate the market. The four-year old startup last raised funds in June 2019, when it received \$2 million in a Series A round of funding from a group of investors led by RPSG Ventures.

Tarun Sharma, cofounder, mCaffeine said, "We will utilise the funds in scaling up our R&D capabilities and invest in expanding our distribution across digital channels, brand building and organisational scale up. We have plans to launch 15-20 products in the next one year."

Currently, mCaffeine has 20 skin and hair care products in its portfolio that it sells across 18000 pin codes.

Sharma said that this round of funding will help the brand increase its annual turnover from Rs 100 crore to Rs 500 crore in the next three years, adding that the company has surpassed its pre-pandemic revenue run rate.

"We are impressed with mCaffeine's research-led product development and engagement with consumers across social media. The company has also demonstrated healthy unit economics while delivering high revenue growth," said Sunil Theckath Vasudevan, cofounder, Amicus Capital.

Majority of the financing in this round has come from Amicus Capital and RPSG Ventures.

Abhishek Goenka, head, RPSG Ventures, said, "mCaffeine has built differentiation around caffeine-based personal care products which is demonstrated in their growth profile and capital efficiency."

The company counts Apurv Salarpuria, executive director of Salarpuria Group, KRS Jamwal, Tata Industries executive director, Harminder Sahni, founder of Wazir Advisors and Kaushal Aggarwal, chief executive of Avendus Finance among its investors.

Founded by Tarun Sharma and Vikas Lachhwani in 2016, mCaffeine retails products across three categories - face care, hair care and body care on online marketplaces Amazon, Flipkart and Nykaa. It is a direct-to-consumer brand targeted at millennials.

The personal care market in India is set to touch \$20 billion by 2035 driven by the rise in disposable income and growing aspirations of people to look good, according to ASSOCHAM. India is a booming industry for this sector that houses leading brands such as Dabur and Godrej to start ups including Mamaearth and Wow Skin Science.

Source: ETRetail.com September 21, 2020



REGULATIONS

California Approves Toxic-Free Chemicals Act

It's official—California Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, Assembly Bill 2762, into law. This is the nation's first state-level ban of 24 ingredients, including mercury and formaldehyde, from the beauty and personal care products Californians use every day.

According to the Environmental Working Group, who shared the news with Happi, these ingredients are already prohibited from cosmetics and other personal care products sold in the European Union and some other countries, but are still used in personal care products sold throughout the U.S.

The Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act was introduced by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), Bill Quirk (D-Hayward) and Buffy Wicks (D-Oakland).

"California is the first in the nation to ban 24 ingredients from the personal care products people use every day," said Susan Little, EWG's senior advocate for California government affairs. "The Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act gives consumers the healthier products they are demanding and deserve."

Source: happi.com September 30,2020

FDA Flags Sunscreen Manufacturing Firm

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has sent a warning letter to Dr. Vishnu Potini, president, HNC Products Inc, following an inspection of its manufacturing facility in Clinton, IL, from March 10 to 17, 2020. The warning letter summarizes significant violations of current good manufacturing practice (CGMP) regulations for finished pharmaceuticals, according to the agency.

FDA also said the inspection also revealed that your firm failed to fulfill its registration and listing obligations under section 510 of the FD&C Act, which is prohibited under section 301(p), 21 U.S.C. 360 and 331(p). As a result, your drugs are misbranded under section 502(o) of the FD&C Act, 21 U.S.C. 352(o).

During the inspection, investigators observed specific violations including, but not limited to, failure to thoroughly investigate any unexplained discrepancy or failure of a batch or any of its components to meet any of its specifications, whether or not the batch has already been distributed (21 CFR 211.192).

According to FDA, the firm failed to thoroughly investigate an out-of-specification (OOS) assay test result, a critical product attribute, for one of your sunscreen drug products. FDA, in its letter stated: "Specifically, your investigation into the OOS result for (b)(4) batch (b)(4) lacked critical information in sufficient detail, such as sample and standard preparation, root cause analysis, conclusion of investigation, and corrective action and preventive action (CAPA)."

In addition, FDA said original data associated with the OOS result was overwritten and unavailable for review. FDA noted that the only information available in your investigation was that (b)(4) results were high and OOS. Your rationale for invalidating the test failure lacked a substantive scientific evaluation and did not follow your procedure for investigating OOS results.

Your response acknowledged that you did not have a formalized written review and investigation into the OOS result, and that your procedure lacked a requirement for root cause analysis and CAPA determination. You stated that you updated the (b)(4) method on the software to prevent deleting or overwriting results, although the quality control (QC) manager still retains the ability to do so.

Your response is inadequate because your revised procedure for OOS investigation provided in response to this violation continued to lack sufficient details on how your firm will meaningfully investigate OOS occurrences. We also note that your laboratory manager still retains the ability to delete and overwrite results, which is unacceptable. It is your fundamental GMP responsibility to ensure that laboratory records include complete data derived from all tests necessary to assure compliance with established specifications and standards.

The lack of control over the integrity of your data raises questions about the authenticity and reliability of your analytical data and the quality of your drug products, said FDA.

FDA also said the firm failed to establish adequate written procedures for production and process control designed to assure that the drug products you manufacture have the identity, strength, quality, and purity they purport or are represented to possess, and your firm's quality control unit did not review and approve those procedures, including any changes (21 CFR 211.100(a)).

FDA said the firm did not perform process validation studies for its sunscreen products. During the inspection, FDA said the firm was not able to provide documentation that process performance qualification (PPQ) studies had been conducted to establish that your processes are capable of consistently delivering quality product. Furthermore, FDA said the firm did not have an ongoing program for monitoring process control to ensure stable manufacturing operations and consistent drug quality.

The firm had sent a response that provided new procedure for its process validation, however FDA said the response is inadequate because it failed to include a detailed process performance protocol and actions to identify all sources of variability. Additionally, your response did not provide a timeline for completion of PPQ studies for each of your drug products.

FDA also said the firm failed to establish an adequate quality control unit with the responsibility and authority to approve or reject all components, drug product containers, closures, in-process materials, packaging materials, labeling, and drug products (21 CFR 211.22(a)).

Source: happi.com September 23,2020

Clean and Health New York(CHNY) publishes report on how product cleaning manufacturers are conforming to California's law for ingredient disclosures

Clean and Healthy New York (CHNY) recently published a report that evaluates how cleaning product manufacturers conform to SB258, California's law for ingredient disclosure, and New York's Best Management Practices (BMP).

In response, Steve Caldeira, President & CEO, said: HCPA member companies pride themselves on creating products that contribute to public health and meet the rigorous safety standards required by the government... HCPA was the lead industry supporter of California's Cleaning Product Right to Know Act, and member companies invested significant resources into meeting the ingredient disclosure requirements at the time of the law... However, unlike SB258, New York's BMP is not yet law. It's inappropriate and unfair to grade a company on requirements that don't even exist. Read HCPA's full statement.

Additionally, Chemical Watch included a comment from Dr. Steve Bennett, Senior Vice President, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, in a recent article about the upcoming Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) rulemaking process to manage identified chemical risks, US EPA seeks public engagement, input on TSCA risk management options.

New York 1,4-Dioxane September Meeting

On September 9, HCPA, the American Cleaning Institute (ACI), Consumer Brands Association (CBA), Personal Care Products Council (PCPC), and the American Chemistry Council (ACC) met virtually with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to discuss the implementation of New York's 1,4-dioxane restrictions.

During the meeting, trade association staff asked NYSDEC to address the requests that were previously made in writing, including clarity on the waiver process, scope of products covered by the law, sell-through and manufacturing dates, and treatment of concentrated products.

The discussion was very productive, and NYSDEC indicated that there will likely be additional conversations with industry as they work through implementation.

For more information, please contact J.D. Darr, Director, State Government Relations & Public Policy, at jdarr@thehcpa.org.

State Pesticide Legislative and Regulatory Update

Summer is winding down with a noticeable increase in state legislative and regulatory activity related to pesticide products.

In New York, NYSDEC will hold stakeholder webinars for input on potential changes to certain pesticide regulations, including pesticide applicator certification and training, business registrations and commercial permits, pesticide use, aquatic pesticides, and registration of minimum risk pesticide products. These webinars will also include information on a proposed rule to limit the sale, use, and possession of pesticide products that contain Chlorpyrifos.

The California legislature recently passed AB1788, which bans the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides until the Department of Pesticide Regulation completes its re-evaluation of these products. HCPA, in collaboration with allied trade associations, has asked the Governor to veto this measure due to the potential public health risks of banning these products.

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture proposed amendments to address changes to the federal certified applicator regulation to be consistent with the Pesticide Act, which was amended in 2019.

On July 28, Oregon's Department of Agriculture filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to amend the definition of a restricted-use pesticide (RUP). In August, HCPA participated in hearings related to the proposed rule and will also provide written comments, which will focus on ensuring that industry stakeholders are included in discussions related to RUP decisions.

For more information, please contact Dr. Steve Bennett at sbennett@thehcpa.org.

EPA Announces Opportunities for Public Engagement and Outreach on Risk Management Under TSCA

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced a broad public engagement and outreach effort to discuss how the Agency will approach the rulemaking process to address unreasonable risks found in the final TSCA chemical risk evaluations.

The EPA is moving into the risk management phase for methylene chloride and 1-bromopropane, and is hosting a robust process to gain important feedback from stakeholders on the options for managing those risks.

For more information or to participate in the feedback process, visit website: https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/risk-management-existing-chemicals-under-tsca

New Study: Enhancing the U.S. Chemical Economy Through Investments in Fundamental Research of the Chemical Sciences

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology (BCST) recently announced the launch of a new consensus study. Enhancing the U.S. Chemical Economy Through Investments in Fundamental Research of the Chemical Sciences. This study will examine the role that fundamental chemical research can play in sustaining and growing the chemical economy.

BCST is calling for nominees to serve on the committee that will guide this study over the next two and half years. Committee members will provide their insights on the future of the chemical economy, including important research investments, potential disruptors, and the role of environmental sustainability and a diverse workforce.

SUSTAINABILITY

Seventh Generation urges climate votes for teens

Set to air immediately following the first presidential debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden is Seventh Generation's 30-second spot, focused on the climate crisis. The ad turns to young people to encourage Americans to vote not just for themselves, but for those not yet old enough to go to the polls.

Created by ad agency Opinionated and directed by acclaimed documentary film director Errol Morris, it features kids imploring older generations to cast a vote for them—that is, a solution to the climate crisis.

Like Seventh Generation's previous ad that aired immediately following Trump's State of the Union speech in February, this one employs a similar media tactic tied to an important political moment. The ad will be airing on ABC, CBS, NBC and digital TV.

The campaign includes additional spots focused on individual kids featured in the main ad.

Seventh Generation also sent an open letter to the debate committee asking that climate change be included in debate topics, says Chief Marketing Officer Hanneke Willenborg. While climate is not among the six topics on the agenda, Willenborg said the brand will keep pushing the issue and might continue advertising around other debates. Seventh Generation saw significant lifts in unaided brand awareness and purchase intent from the ad it ran on networks immediately after the State of the Union address in February, and the new ads further that effort.

"At this point in time, the biggest threat not just to the next seven generations but to the next generation is the climate crisis," Willenborg says.
"We're still considering what to say for the next two debates."

Source: https://adage.com Septemer 29, 2020

HUL's Boost expands its footprint in India

China is planning to construct 1,600 coal plants in over 60 countries. These coal projects will be built by Chinese firms and are planned for populations much larger than their respective current populations, creating a long-term dependence on Chinese coal supplies around the world. This is both a political and environmental threat, especially as China is expected by 2030 to cause over 30 percent of global emission.

To combat this, the U.S. needs to lead the charge in exporting clean energy technology and natural resources around the world. We have already used these two tools to reduce emissions domestically. In fact, from 2005 to 2017 America cut emissions by more than the next dozen reducing countries combined. Congress needs to support private sector leadership to reduce emissions, which is why I have introduced two common-sense bills to speed up the process of exporting U.S. technology.

The Exporting Clean Energy Act would utilize the Export-Import Bank as a tool to directly combat China and Russia's energy exports. First, it would ensure the Export-Import Bank's Board of Directors could approve loans to U.S. energy projects when the U.S. is able to provide a cleaner alternative. Due to Senate gridlock, the Export-Import Bank went without a quorum, and as a result could not issue some strategically important loans, from 2015-2019. During this time, the U.S. was benched on the sidelines while China built coal plants across the developing world. Had my bill been law, the U.S. could have competed to provide cleaner energy while generating more American jobs. Second, my bill would set aside a portion of money to be used to finance energy projects when a U.S. firm is able to provide a cleaner alternative.

Clean energy and maintaining successful business endeavors need not be mutually exclusive — commonsense legislation such as these bills will help the environment and help the global economy. Hook forward to working on these, and other efforts, where the private sector and government can work together to combat climate change, create jobs, and forge a cleaner energy future.

Source: https://thehill.com/blogs/ September 29, 2020

Scientists create 'super enzyme' that eats plastic bottles six times faster

Scientists have created a new "super enzyme" that can break down plastic up to six times faster than their previous enzyme.

A team of researchers that previously re-engineered a plastic-eating enzyme named PETase have now combined it with a second enzyme to speed up the process, according to a press release from the University of Portsmouth.

The super enzyme could have major implications for recycling polyethylene terephthalate (PET), which is the most common thermoplastic used in single-use drinks bottles, carpets, and clothing.

PET takes hundreds of years to degrade in the environment. PETase can break it down into its building blocks in a few days.

John McGeehan, lead co-author and director of the Centre for Enzyme Innovation at the University of Portsmouth, told CNN that this latest development represents a huge stop towards using enzymes to recycle plastic and reduce plastic pollution.

"We were actually quite surprised it worked so well," said McGeehan, although he underlined that the process is "still way too slow" to be commercially viable.

He told CNN that researchers have received funding to carry out further experiments, and successful developments could mean existing PET could be recycled instead of using fossil fuels to create new plastic.

"We're looking at huge energy savings," said McGeehan.

How does it work?

The super enzyme combines PETase and MHETase. A mixture of the two breaks down PET twice as fast as PETase on its own, while connecting the two enzymes increased the speed by a further three times.

McGeehan used the Diamond Light Source, a device that uses X-rays 10 billion times brighter than the Sun to be able to see individual atoms, to map the molecular structure of MHETase.

Researchers were then able to engineer the new super enzyme by connecting MHETase and PETase, effectively stitching the enzymes DNA together to create one long chain, McGeehan told CNN.

The technique is commonly used in the biofuels industry, which uses enzymes to break down cellulases, but McGeehan said this is the first he is aware of enzymes being combined to break down plastic.

The full study was published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

How else can plastic be broken down?

Plastic pollution is one of the most pressing environmental issues. A recent report from The Pew Charitable Trusts projected the volume of plastic entering the ocean could nearly triple to 29 million metric tons per year by 2040 – the equivalent of 50 kilograms for every meter of the planet's coastline.

It also said there was "no single solution," but that "an ambitious recycling strategy" could slash 31-45% of plastic pollution.

In April, French firm Carbios announced the publication of a study into its own PET-eating enzyme, which will be tested at a demonstration plant near the city of Lyon in 2021, according to a press release from the company.

Other possible solutions include the tiny waxworm, which can chomp through plastic, even polyethylene, a common and non-biodegradable plastic currently clogging up landfills and seas, thanks to its gut bacteria.

Mealworms, the larval stage of the mealworm beetle, could also contribute. Around 3,000-4,000 mealworms can break down one Styrofoam coffee cup in about a week thanks to the bacteria living in their gut.

Source: https://edition.cnn.com/2020/09/

SC Johnson, Plastic Bank Focus on Collection, Fighting Poverty

In June 2020, SC Johnson rolled out a 100% recycled ocean-bound plastic trigger bottle for its Mr Muscle Platinum Window & Glass Cleaner in the U.K. and Ireland. The package joins another ocean plastic bottle from the company: the Windex trigger bottle for its Original, Vinegar, and Ammonia Free formulas.

The new product offerings are part of the company's global partnership with social enterprise Plastic Bank, forged the previous fall, to reduce the amount of waste entering the ocean, while also helping alleviate poverty in developing countries. The partnership is also a major part of its plan to triple the amount of PCR plastic content in its packaging by 2025. Under the partnership's three-year agreement, the goal is to collect 30,000 metric tons of ocean-bound plastic, the equivalent of stopping approximately 1.5 billion plastic bottles from entering the ocean—a target that an SC Johnson spokesperson says they are on track to meet.

"Under the new three-year agreement, we will reach a total of more than 500 collection centers and points across several countries, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam—four of the five countries that contribute the most to ocean plastic—as well as Brazil," the spokesperson shares.

An interesting twist to the initiative is Plastic Bank's use of Blockchain technology to help plastic waste collectors earn a stable income. The Social Plastic ecosystem invites residents in the world's poorest regions to collect and exchange plastic for digital tokens. Through blockchain, they can use the tokens in exchange for access to necessities, healthcare coverage, school tuition, local currency, and more, reducing the risk of loss or theft.

Source: https://www.packworld.com/ September 29, 2020

Unilever and Google partner in finding sustainable sources

Unilever has teamed up with Google Cloud in a programme that combines cloud computing with satellite imagery and AI to improve its product sourcing strategy.

Together, the companies will first focus on the commercial application of Google Cloud and Google Earth Engine in an effort to achieve sustainable commodity sourcing.

Unilever intends to use the technology platform to obtain insights into any impact its sourcing has on the environment and local communities. The owner of Hellmann's and Lipton tea says the initiative will first focus on sustainable palm oil, but will be extended to other commodities in the future.

By working with a wide range of technology partners, the companies will build a centralised command centre which Unilever claims will provide a more complete picture of the ecosystems connected to its supply chain. As a result, Unilever says it will be better equipped to detect deforestation, in addition to prioritising critical areas of forest and habitats that need protecting.

The latest announcement joins many other partnerships that Unilever has formed under a similar framework. Most recently, the company announced that it was piloting new geolocation technology in partnership with Orbital Insight to monitor its palm oil supply chain more accurately.

Google Cloud's planetary-scale geo-spatial platform combines accurate satellite imagery, with the ability to store and make sense of large amounts of complex data. Unilever claims that simplifying complex datasets is critical to increasing transparency within supply chains and enabling collaboration across public and private partners.

Dave Ingram, Unilever's chief procurement officer, said: "This collaboration with Google Cloud will take us to the next level in sustainable sourcing. We will now be able to process and combine complex sets of data like never before.

"The combination of these sustainability insights with our commercial sourcing information is a significant step-change in transparency, which is crucial to better protect and regenerate nature."

Rob Enslin, president of Google Cloud, added: "Together, we're demonstrating how technology can be a powerful tool in aiding businesses who strive to protect the Earth's resources. It will require collective action to drive meaningful change, and we are committed to doing our part."

Source: https://www.foodbev.com/news/ September 24, 2020

Albertsons Improves Seafood Traceability

Albertsons Cos. has teamed with FishWise to honor National Seafood Month in October by shining a spotlight on a collaborative project focused on improving seafood traceability.

According to Albertsons, "traceability is key as we strive to adapt and rebuild global seafood supply chains that have been forever changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing transparency enables risks to be identified, and helps companies support practices that improve both environmental and social responsibility."

Every year, as part of their Responsible Seafood Program, Albertsons works with Santa Cruz, California FishWise to review the best practices of a number of vendor partners to strengthen traceability and decrease environmental impacts. This year, Albertsons focused on a domestic waterfront Bistro wild-caught shrimp product from Paul Piazza and Son Inc., a family-owned and -run business based in New Orleans.

The teams conducted a comprehensive review of all available supply-chain documentation (digital and otherwise) to fully trace this wild-caught shrimp from the ocean floor to a local Albertsons banner store. This assessment verifies claims that this product is sourced from a high-performing fishery improvement project, is legally harvested, and undergoes robust traceability and data collection practices.

Shrimp has been America's most consumed seafood for years, but some imported shrimp has raised concerns due to its potential impacts on

Shrimp has been America's most consumed seafood for years, but some imported shrimp has raised concerns due to its potential impacts on the environment as well as on social welfare.

To better understand their practices, Albertsons Director of Seafood Anthony Snow spent a day shrimp fishing with Paul Piazza and Son and visited the company's processing facility.

These projects have an Advanced Progress rating and are making improvements on the water with robust fisheries-observer coverage and efforts to reduce bycatch — the unintended catch of other species such as sea turtles.

Source: https://progressivegrocer.com/ September 30, 2020

Truterra's tools help farmers grow more sustainably

For many farmers, changing methods is difficult. But for Jed Fleske, of Fleske Farms in Larned, innovation is key to growth.

Fleske grows corn, mile and soy beans on his family farm. Last year, he became part of a test pilet program. As soon as he heard about an innovative crop research initiative his co-op was involved with, he signed on the dotted line.

Two years ago, Great Bend Cooperative partnered with Truterra, the sustainability solutions business of Land O'Lakes, to provide customers with access to agricultural technology and services. These services are available free-of-charge. Essentially, this initiative provides the farmer, with the help of their co-op's agronomist, a detailed blueprint of what practices work or do not work on their land.

"I wanted a way to measure and see how we were doing and how we were progressing," Fleske said. "I wanted to have something beyond soil types."

Truterra helps farmers in 19 states navigate profitability, conservation and ability. Three cooperatives in Kansas participate in the Truterra program. Along with Great Bend Cooperative, farmers can be a part of the initiative at Alliance Ag & Grain or Ottawa Cooperative.

"Truterra allows a producer to apply the proper amount of nutrients down to the zone," said Cammie Vaupel, conservation agronomy specialist for Great Bend Co-op. "It helps them see it from a new angle."

For Land O'Lakes, sustainable agriculture means a farm is always improving its stewardship. By having a plan for the future, a farmer makes decisions that keep their operation viable.

Truterra allows producers to create and maintain a database and keep detailed records of each plot of land for future management. By using variable rate application equipment, the producer can vary their fertilizer applications through zone management. They also can estimate the potential rate of return by following this program's recommendations.

Gary Van Horn, of Van Horn Land & Cattle in Ottawa, understands his soil's health is important to his crop's survival. He is grateful to obtain customized recommendations for every acre.

"There's multiple ways to achieve what you're trying to achieve," Van Horn said. "Being able to visualize and see what your fields' potential can be in their insights engine is pretty neat."

Like Fleske, Van Horn started using Truterra a year ago. Because of their foresight and desire to improve, both farmers signed on immediately. Each of the three co-ops only accepted a few farmers for the first class. But now, with one year under their belt, the three co-ops are hoping to increase the amount of farmers who want to be a part of this special, free project.

"This year, we've really expanded," said Lindsey Sylvester from the Ottawa Cooperative Association. "We're reaching out to more growers."

Sylvester said this program helps farmers both increase yield and reduce weed pressure.

"We're very excited," Sylvester said. "It's definitely a win-win situation."

Because consumers are wanting to know where their food comes from and how it is grown, having records like these will help many producers in the long run.

"Customers are demanding more sustainably-sourced products in the future," Vaupel said.

These co-ops created agronomist positions to work with Truterra and to help bridge the gap between producers and the local NRCS. Many of their clients are thinking of going either minimal-till or no-till, but are not quite ready. Vaupel said they can start the program from any level. The important principle is to learn and grow.

"If a person was using minimal-till and they went to no-till, they could see how much their score would increase," Vaupel said.

Van Horn grows corn, soy, wheat and barley. He said this program changed his thought process and gave him a lot of new ideas.

Fleske believes if you take care of the land, it will take care of you. He wants his land to be healthy, retain moisture and maintain soil health. He said, with this program, there is always an agronomist to answer questions.

"You're not shooting in the dark," Fleske said. "You save money at the end of the day."

Source: https://www.hutchnews.com/news/ September 29, 2020

Sederma makes progress on corporate social responsibility

Sederma has taken a new step in its CSR approach with its ongoing membership in the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT). After two days of audit, Sederma has successfully passed the first phase in becoming a member of this organization which promotes "the respectful supply" of natural ingredients.

"This approach echoes Croda's sustainable commitment to be Climate, Land and People Positive by 2030 (www.croda.com/sustainability) and reinforces our ambition to be an essential supplier of responsible cosmetic solutions and ingredients" said Arnaud Fournial, Sederma Managing Director. Developing sourcing with local partners in the plant collection areas, respecting traditional know-how, improving the living conditions of local populations, mastering the traceability of raw materials of natural origin for more transparency and ethics are at the heart of Sederma development strategy for sustainable business and to meet the requirements of customers and consumers.

Source: happi.com September 8, 2020

Unilever: Evonik biotech critical for sustainability goals

The "Clean Future" Initiative from Unilever is a plan to create, manufacture and produce more earth conscious cleaning and laundry products.

Evonik's biotechnology is a key factor in creating sustainable products for Unilever. Evonik brings its green biosurfa¬ctants which are produced through a naturally occurring fermentation process and can create products that work hard to clean plus they remain biodegra¬dable. This biosurfactant will contribute to Unilever's household cleaning products.

"Evonik shares the ambition of Unilever to leverage advanced biomaterials and manufacturing processes such as fermentation to help realize the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals," said Yann d'Herve, head of the care solutions business line at Evonik. "We are proud to be investing and collaborating long term with partners such as Unilever who share similar sustaina-bility goals."

Source: https://www.cosmeticsandtoiletries.com/ September 8, 2020

PATENTS

Amorepacific Patents Hair Loss Composition

US Patent No. 10,765,623 B2 (Sung Tae Kim, Yonghee Lee, Seung Hyun Shin, Hyun Gee Lee, Eun-Gyung Cho, Tae Ryong Lee); Amorepacific Corp. Seoul, patented a method for promoting hair growth that entails administering an effective amount of extracellular vesicles isolated from lactic acid bacteria. The lactic acid bacterium comprises a bacterium in the genus Lactobacillus and wherein the extracellular vesicles are administered at a concentration of 0.1-100 µg/mL.

Source: Happi.com September 24, 2020

Deo with Sweat-Activated Technology

US Patent No. 10,758,476 B1 (Allison R. Moss, Christopher R. Stahl); Type A Brands, LLC, Santa Monica, CA, has patented a glycerin-in-oil deodorant composition that is comprised of a continuous phase comprising one or more oils (comprising triethyl citrate), silicones, esters and/or waxes; a discontinuous phase comprising glycerin and water; an antimicrobial agent (zinc citrate); a moisture-absorption agent (arrowroot powder); an odor neutralizing agent (sodium bicarbonate); and an emulsifier (sorbitan oleate).

Source: Happi.com September 24, 2020

Sun Block Patented by California Woman

US Patent No. 10,758,475 B2; Majda Ficko, East St. Paul, CA has patented a sunblock formula that contains 20-80% safflower oil, grape seed oil, poppy-seed oil, sunflower oil, hemp oil, corn oil or a mixture thereof; 5-25% zinc oxide, titanium dioxide or mixture thereof; 0.5-15.0% candelilla wax; beeswax; polyglyceryl-3 beeswax; or a mixture thereof; and 0.5-15.0% rice bran wax. The product has a creamy texture and is stable without ingredient separation, and is also soft so that it can be squeezed out of a tube compared to a sunblock product without the rice bran wax.

Source: Happi.com September 24, 2020

Sensitive Skin Compositions Patented by Mary Kay

US Patent No. 10,736,837 B2 (David Gan, Tiffany Carle, Michelle Hines, Milagros Sanchez, Patricia Jacoby, Linda Hart); Mary Kay, Addison, TX, has patented a method of treating dry or flaky skin or a combination of dry and flaky skin. It entails applying to the skin a therapeutically effective amount of hydrolyzed algin; escin; Ruscus aculeatus root extract; ammonium glycyrrhizate; Centella asiatica extract; hydrolyzed yeast protein; and Calendula officinalis flower extract. The topical application of the composition to the skin reduces dryness of the skin, or reduces flakiness of the skin, or reduces a combination of dryness and flakiness of the skin.

Source: Happi.com September 20, 2020

Carma Labs Patents Balm Treatment

US Patent No. 10,736,836 B2 (Keith Edgett, Louis DeFranco); Carma Laboratories, Inc., Franklin, WI, has patented a method of moisturizing, soothing or healing of external tissues comprising applying to a tissue an effective amount of a balm comprising a first low-melt wax; a second low-melt wax that is different from the first low-melt wax; a high-melt wax; one or more oil phases; and optionally a flavoring agent. The high melt wax has a melting temperature of greater than about 50°C and is present in an amount of about 18.6% to about 27.0% by weight. The ratio of the first and second low-melt waxes to the high-melt wax is about 1:1 to about 2:1

Source: Happi.com September 20, 2020

Alastin Patents Post-Procedure Bruise Serum

Physician-dispensed skin care company Alastin Skincare, Inc. has been awarded another patent. US Patent No. 10,688,147, which incorporates Alastin's platform TriHex Technology, entails a topical composition for alleviating bruising caused by a cosmetic procedure.

The composition is sold as INhance Post-Injection Serum with TriHex Technology. This is the company's fourth patent awarded by the USPTO.

"We are immensely proud of the scientific investment we have made in validating TriHex Technology performance in our product formulations which is confirmed by its numerous patents. INhance Post-Injection Serum combines the antiaging benefits of patented TriHex Technology and our new Chroma-FADE Technology to deliver state of the art post-procedure recovery and skin enhancing benefits," commented Dr Alan Widgerow, MBBCh (MD); MMed (MHS); FCS; FACS and chief medical officer at Alastin.

In June, a clinical study highlighting INhance Post-Injection Serum with TriHex Technology was published by the Journal of Drugs in Dermatology (JDD). In the multi-center, randomized, double-blind clinical study, two bruise models were studied and used to create similar bruises on the subjects' left and right arms. One arm was treated with INhance Post-Injection Serum, while the control arm was treated with a bland moisturizer comparator. The clinical study results demonstrated that participants on day 2 and 3 who used INhance Post-Injection Serum with TriHex Technology had 73% less bruise color intensity and significant improvement over the comparator. Overall, 81% of subjects applying the INhance topically had less bruising on day 2 and 3 than the comparator.

INhance was formulated for use on all areas of the face including the body of the lip, a popular area for injection and more prone to bruising, according to the company.

Source: Happi.com August 6, 2020



PACKAGING

Packaging & The Pandemic

Despite concerns about coronavirus, the majority of UK and German consumers surveyed in April 2020—57%—said they had significantly changed their lifestyles to benefit the environment, according to McKinsey. And more than 60% reported making it a point to recycle and seek out products with environmentally-friendly packaging.

While the survey was focused on fashion, the responses have implications for FMCG, too. Among surveyed consumers, 67% consider the use of sustainable materials to be an important purchasing factor, and 63% consider a brand's promotion of sustainability in the same way.

Additionally, surveyed consumers expect brands to take care of their employees, as well as workers in Asia, during the COVID-19 crisis. That highlights the need for brands to maintain ethical commitments, despite the crisis, according to McKinsey, which noted that it is imperative to build trust and transparency with consumers, as 70% are sticking with brands they know and trust during the crisis. Of surveyed consumers, 75% consider a trusted brand to be an important purchasing factor. However, younger consumers, particularly Gen Zers and Millennials, are more likely to experiment with smaller or lesser-known brands during the crisis.

Source: happi.com August 8, 2020

Plastic's Bad Wrap

The coronavirus pandemic's demand-shock, brick-and-mortar store closures and stay-at-home orders have upended retail sales. As total spending declines, online spending is projected to surge by 18% in 2020, reflecting the impact of new buyers joining the online retail space as a result of the pandemic. With ecommerce expected to reach 14.5% of total retail sales this year – both an all-time high and the biggest ever share increase in a single year* – the findings of Two Sides' recent U.S. Packaging Preferences Survey provide brand owners with valuable insights into consumers' current thinking on packaging materials, online shopping and related behavior.

- More than half of consumers (57%) prefer products ordered online to be delivered in paper/cardboard packaging, and two-thirds (66%) believe paper/cardboard packaging is better for the environment than other types of packaging.
- 70% of consumers prefer products ordered online to be delivered in appropriate fitting packaging, i.e., not too big for the size of the product inside.
- Consumers across the United States are willing to change their behavior to shop more sustainably. Nearly 4 in 10 (38%) are willing to spend more on a
 product if it is packaged using sustainable materials, and more than a third (36%) said they would consider avoiding a retailer who is not taking steps to
 reduce their use of non-recyclable packaging.
- When asked to rank their preferred packaging materials (paper and cardboard, glass, metal or plastic) based on 15 environmental, practical and visual/tactile attributes, paper and cardboard packaging ranked highest on 11 of 15 attributes, including being home compostable (69%) and easier to recycle (51%).
- Glass packaging ranked highest among consumers on three practical and tactile/visual attributes, including being reusable (36%), having a preferred look and feel (32%) and providing better protection (29%). Nearly half of respondents (47%) ranked metal packaging highest for being strong and robust. Plastic packaging was not ranked highest for any of the 15 attributes but was ranked second highest for seven attributes.
- The survey showed that paper/cardboard is correctly considered by consumers to be the most recycled packaging material, but only 24% think the U.S. recycling rate for paper/cardboard packaging exceeds 60%. In fact, 73% of all paper-based packaging in the United States is recycled, and 88% of cardboard is recycled, according to the most recent data available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Consumer attitudes toward plastic are clear, with 57% of survey respondents indicating they are actively taking steps to reduce their use of plastic packaging, 36% saying they would avoid retailers if they knew they were not actively trying to reduce their use of non-recyclable plastic packaging, and 44% saying the use of non-recyclable packaging should be discouraged through taxation.

"Only time will tell the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, but there's little doubt that it is already changing many aspects of modern life, including the way we shop for everything from groceries, beauty items and health-related products to electronics, sports equipment and pet supplies," says Two Sides Vice President of Operations Kathi Rowzie.

"Shopping online will become the new normal for many consumers as companies enhance their supply chains, get more efficient at packaging and order fulfillment, and speed up delivery. It's also clear that growing awareness of sustainable packaging choices is becoming a driving force in consumer purchasing decisions. As brand owners rethink their packaging strategies to align with current market realities and consumer preferences, paper-based packaging stands out as a natural choice."

Source: happi.com August 8, 2020

6th ISDC

6th International Convention on Soaps Detergents and Cosmetics

Changing Dynamics - Sustainable Growth and Business Challenges



7th - 8th June, 2021



Goa, venue to be annouced soon.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

ACI Pilots New Data for Cleaning Product Ingredient Safety Initiative

Environmental data on 200+ chemicals in the U.S. consumer cleaning product supply chain are now available, in pilot phase, through the American Cleaning Institute's Cleaning Product Ingredient Safety Initiative database.

"The environmental data available in ACI's Cleaning Product Ingredient Safety Initiative makes public screening level risk assessment summaries for both human health and environmental health, which can be used to meet regulatory requirements," said Kathleen Stanton, ACI Associate Vice President, Technical & International Affairs.

"The expansion represents a continued commitment to transparency for the cleaning product supply chain."

In addition to developing a quantitative estimate of environmental exposure, ACI published on its website a description of each ingredient, including:

- · the types of products in which it is used
- · the form of those products
- · the ingredient's function within each of those products
- the typical concentration range among the products
- the most relevant routes of exposure associated with the use of those products.

This database was designed to characterize ingredients that are contained in household cleaning products using a risk-based approach in an aquatic environment. The results can be used to determine if environmental risks are anticipated to be negligible or if additional data are required to make a more realistic assessment. It will be most useful to regulators, researchers, and cleaning product industry formulators and suppliers looking for detailed information on ingredients used in consumer cleaning products.

ACI's goal is to complete screening level environmental assessments for all ingredients in the database.

The environmental data is in addition to the comprehensive human health assessments already available on the ACI website (www.cleaninginstitute.org/CPISI) for 588 ingredients.

Source: https://www.cleaninginstitute.org/newsroom/releases September 29, 2020

PCPC Applauds CROWN Act

In a statement released today, the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC) said it applauds the US House of Representatives' passage of the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act. The CROWN Act seeks to prevent discrimination based on characteristics such as hair texture and cultural styles, particularly those common in the Black community. It specifically recognizes that Black individuals are disparately impacted and excluded from some workplaces based on hair discrimination. As such, the CROWN Act amends definitions of 'race' to include those traits historically associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles like 'braids, locks and twists,' noted PCPC.

"With a deep-rooted commitment to diversity, PCPC has long supported the CROWN Coalition's mission to advance anti-discrimination legislation across the United States and actively supported passage of similar legislation in seven states. While there has been progress made within industry, we know there is more work to do in addressing diversity," added PCPC. "Legislation such as the CROWN Act creates a clear link between natural hair and race, and broadens the scope of protections to prevent more subtle forms of bias that may be found in the workplace. Grooming and dress are an important part of society and should be fully embraced and respected."

Source: happi.com September 22, 2020

ACI Creates Cleaning Toolkit for Schools

As school systems across the country assess reopening plans, the American Cleaning Institute (ACI) unveiled a new toolkit of concise information on proper hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting protocols to help keep the school community healthy and safe.

The online materials are available through the Healthy Schools, Healthy People program, a collaboration of ACI and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), dedicated to supporting school systems nationwide with tools to help reinforce hand hygiene and cleaning practices in an effort to prevent the spread of infectious disease and reduce related absenteeism.

The toolkit is available at cleaninginstitute.org/SchoolHealth.

"For education to continue to thrive, everyone, including faculty, parents, and students need to feel supported and confident in the health and safety of their school community," said Melissa Hockstad, president & CEO of the American Cleaning Institute. "In particular, we want to assist school nurses in their daily efforts to share important information on hand hygiene, cleaning and disinfecting practices that are a critical part of ensuring health and safety."

The ACI toolkit includes resources such as a faculty classroom cleaning checklist; a school poster on proper handwashing habits; and a handout for parents/guardians for a safe after-school routine - all aimed to provide guidance on proper protocols in shared spaces and reinforcement of the school's dedication to cleanliness and health.

Source: happi.com September 22, 2020

SCC Elects 2021 Board of Directors

Liz Streland of Croda will assume the presidency of the Society of the Cosmetic Chemists on January 1. The Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SCC) announced the election results for the organization's 2021 executive officers and area directors. Together with the Board of Directors, they are the governing body focused on the mission, strategy and goals of the Society and are responsible for representing the interests of more than 6,000 individual cosmetics and personal care industry members globally.

Other executive officers include:

- · Vice President-Michelle Hines, PhD, Mary Kay, Inc.;
- · Vice President-Elect-Mark Chandler, ACT Solutions Corp.;
- · Secretary-Yulia Park, PhD, Amway; and
- · Treasurer-Karen Chun, Symrise.

"It is an honor to serve as SCC President in 2021," says Streland. "I am humbled by the opportunity and, along with my fellow Board members, will work todevelop the resources needed to advance our members' professional goals and the mission of our Society."

The other voting members of the Board of Directors are Senior Director Patricia Singh (Air Liquide) and newly-elected Director Marie Thadal (Coptis, Inc.) for Area I; Senior Director Christine Daraska (Croda, Inc.) and Director Kayla Ivey (Gojo Industries, Inc.) for Area II; Senior Director Angie Inouye (Charkit Chemical Corp.) and newly-elected Director Melissa Christenson (Bridge, Inc.) for Area III; and Senior Director Michelle Linscott (Xytrus, Inc.) and Director Angela Eppler (Pfizer Consumer Healthcare) for Area IV. They are joined by Immediate Past President Mindy Goldstein PhD (Mindy S. Goldstein, PhD Consulting) and Peter Tsolis (Estee Lauder), both of whom serve in an ex-officio capacity.

"I look forward to working with these passionate leaders in continuing to position SCC as the premier education, networking and scientific resource in the cosmetics and personal care industry," said Erica L. O'Grady, CAE, the SCC ED/CEO. "Their diverse industry expertise is representative of our membership and will positively impact the SCC member experience and the industry as a whole," she added.

Soure: happi.com September 14, 2020

ICMAD Is Now 'Independent Beauty Association'

Well-known organization Independent Cosmetic Manufacturers and Distributors (ICMAD) today has launched a renewed brand identity as IBA - Independent Beauty Association, confirming its strategy to represent the independent and entrepreneurial beauty industry.

IBA is a non-profit trade association with more than 700 member companies. It provides benefits and services that allow companies to elevate their brand to the next level, domestically and abroad. The organization has been advocating for entrepreneurial, independent beauty companies since 1974.

IBA's foundation is built on four pillars: education, member service, reasonable legislation, and networking. These pillars translate to IBA's member experience while also solidifying its place in the industry, said the organization.

Source: happi.com September 11, 2020

ARTICLE

HUL is reimagining the future of cleaning

With an investment of €1 billion over the next ten years, we're replacing ingredients derived from fossil fuels in our cleaning and laundry product formulations with ingredients from renewable or recycled sources by 2030.

Most cleaning products on the market today are made using chemicals derived from fossil fuels. It's been that way for decades.

But we had a thought.

There are many sources of carbon already on and above the ground – like plants, plastic waste and even the carbon dioxide in the air. If we could harness those sustainably, at a big enough scale, we wouldn't have to take carbon from non-renewable sources under the ground.

That way, we will eliminate our use of virgin fossil fuels in our cleaning and laundry formulations. Better for the planet. Better for consumers. And better for our business.

Well, we've come up with a way to do just that.

Transforming the sustainability of global brands

'Clean Future' is a ground-breaking innovation strategy designed to fundamentally change the way that our cleaning and laundry products are created, manufactured and packaged.

It is unique in its ambition to embed circular economy principles into both packaging and formulations. That means reduce-reuse-recycle, rather than take-make-dispose.

At the heart of this strategy is a new ambition: to replace 100% of the carbon derived from fossil fuels in Unilever's cleaning and laundry product formulations with renewable or recycled carbon by 2030.

Clean Future will transform the sustainability of global brands like OMO (Persil), Sunlight, Cif and Domestos. It's also a big step towards our pledge of net zero emissions from our products by 2039.

"Clean Future is our vision to radically overhaul our business. As an industry, we must break our dependence on fossil fuels, including as a raw material in products," Peter ter Kulve, Home Care President

A radical overhaul of our business

The chemicals used in our cleaning and laundry products currently make up the greatest proportion of their carbon footprint across their lifecycle. By moving to renewable or recycled ingredient sources in their formulations, we will unlock novel ways to reduce that carbon footprint.

"Clean Future is our vision to radically overhaul our business," says Peter ter Kulve, President of our Home Care division. "As an industry, we must break our dependence on fossil fuels, including as a raw material for our products. We must stop pumping carbon from under the ground when there is ample carbon on and above the ground – if we can learn to utilise it at scale.

"We've seen unprecedented demand for our cleaning products in recent months and we are incredibly proud to play our part helping to keep people safe in the fight against Covid-19. But that should not be a reason for complacency.

We cannot let ourselves become distracted from the environmental crises that our world – our home – is facing. Pollution. Destruction of natural habitats. The climate emergency. This is the home we share and we have a responsibility to protect it."

Superior, affordable, greener

We have ring fenced €1 billion for our Clean Future strategy, which is in addition to our new €1 billion Climate & Nature Fund. This will finance biotechnology research, CO2 utilisation, low carbon chemistry, biodegradable and water-efficient formulations, and reducing the use of virgin plastic.

Essentially, we will use it to create affordable products that deliver the unbeatable clean people expect from our products, combined with a significantly lower environmental impact.

In fact, our Clean Future strategy is already supporting industry-leading projects around the world.

For instance, soda ash is a key ingredient in laundry detergents, but it's currently made using a lot of energy from fossil fuels. That's why we've partnered with Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals (TAC) in southern India and Carbon Clean Solutions (CCSL). They have pioneered a cutting-edge method to capture CO2 from their own production processes before it reaches the atmosphere, and use the captured CO2 as a raw material to make their soda ash.

In Slovakia, we're partnering with biotech leader Evonik Industries to develop rhamnolipids, a renewable and biodegradable surfactant which is already used in our Sunlight (Quix) dishwashing liquid in Chile and Vietnam. We hope to significantly scale and build from both technologies.

"Unilever's commitment to shift away from fossil fuels towards renewable resources, combined with strong sustainable sourcing, has real potential to make an important contribution to an economy that works with nature, not against it," Tanya Steele, Chief Executive WWF UK

Rewriting the rule book

As we pave the way to decarbonise our formulations, we must diversify the carbon sources we use.

We call this the Carbon RainbowTM.

We will replace non-renewable sources (black carbon) with captured CO2 (purple), plants and biological (green), marine algae (blue) and carbon recovered from waste material like plastic (grey).

Putting carbon diversity at the core of our Clean Future strategy is essential. This new way of sourcing carbon will be guided by environmental impact assessments and work alongside our industry-leading sustainable sourcing programmes to prevent unintended pressures on ecosystems.

People want affordable, sustainable products that are just as good as conventional ones. Rapid developments in science and technology are allowing us to offer these, with the promise of exciting new benefits, from ultra-mild ingredients to self-cleaning clothes and surfaces.

"A new bio and circular economy is rising from the ashes of fossil fuels and it is rewriting the rule book of our industry," says Peter. "Diversifying sources of carbon is essential to grow within the limits of our planet. By sharing our Carbon Rainbow model, we are calling on an economy-wide transformation in how we all use carbon."

Source! https://www.hul.co.in/news/news/und-features/2020/we-gre-reimagining-the-future-of-cleaning.html

Product labels take on added importance in COVID-19 era

Susan Stansbury, industry consultant

While hustling to produce wet wipes that address the Covid-19 pandemic, it's as important that producers address quality and clarity. The labels that users rely on can confuse, or even mislead. Consequences of mis-labeled products may also render them mis-used. Just as many users do not understand the differences between KN95 and N95 masks, which filter at different levels, the difference between cleansing and sanitizing wipes is also important.

Nuances in understanding what claims are made affect the level of confidence applicable to fighting against the Covid-19 virus. Many wet wipes are said to kill 99.99% of many common bacteria. According to Mindy Costello, Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian and NSF International's Consumer Product Certification Specialist:

There are numerous products tested and certified to specific kill rates, from wet wipes to dishwashers, and they are generally tested on the most common bacteria or other microbes we might encounter, such as staphyloccus aureus, klebsiella pneumoniae, and pseudomonas aeruginosa. It's important to always read the label or check the product website to learn exactly what it has been tested to kill. Because the virus that causes Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is a novel virus, it's not very likely that a product like a wet wipe has been thoroughly tested for this specific virus. While an independently-tested high kill rate on the label is good news, it's only an indicator of the product's potential performance, and we can't automatically assume that it will perform as well on SARS-CoV-2 until the science of testing catches up to the current situation.

Beyond claims and kill rates, product labels need to meet several other standards for identity, ingredients, responsibility, usage, storage conditions and disposal. Even font sizes, graphics and logos are among requirements. It's not always widely known that products are not examined and recalled by the FDA unless there is a complaint brought to the FDA's attention. One industry expert asserts that, with a flood of products coming from all over the world, mis-labeled products can get to store shelves. "It's frustrating for some of us as long-term reputable suppliers," he said. In the case of masks, dozens of recalls occurred with a more focused spotlight on them.

When products are recalled, retailers like Walmart base the recall on manufacturers' and regulatory agencies press releases. According to Walmart, that information includes products involved and steps on what you should do if you have a recalled item. One resource is U.S. Product Safety Commission and another is the website www.recalls.gov where it includes:

- · Which agency is responsible for the recall
- · Details about the recalled product
- · Additional safety information
- · Ability to sign up for email alerts

In the case of liquid sanitizers, according to a sanitation specialist, the EPA relaxed some rules under the Covid-19 emergency. One industry person commented, "Certain companies had no business making hand sanitizers." Things like stability testing did not occur. Some liquid sanitizers even contained methanol (wood alcohol) and other non-compliant ingredients, resulting in a number of recalls. A liquid hand sanitizer was recently recalled for "undeclared methanol sold at Walmart and Sam's Clubs." Potential nausea, vomiting, headache and other consequences could occur. Meanwhile, standards for wet wipes were not relaxed.

The importance of correct labeling not only gives users confidence when buying wet wipes, it is a key feature in marketing advancements and differentiates offerings. During these critical times for sanitization, imparting knowledge has grabbed new attention. When compared with some hasty offerings with related products, the wet wipes industry looks to meet its promises.

Wipes Face Shortages

Did we ever think that this bastion of nonwovens applications would be so backlogged that store shelves are empty, and buyers are seeking any means to find them? That's the status of wet wipes, especially sanitizing and antibacterial wipes. At the same time, did we ever imagine a pandemic that would call for a higher level of cleanliness to fight a new viral threat?

Today pandemic anxiety continues. Schools and sporting activities are opened, and sometimes later closed. Travelers pack up their sanitizers and find out which states (or nations) have rules for entering "their" borders. Hotels tout their updated protocols. Those planning to fly study which airlines are more restrictive. People venturing out to eat may choose outdoor terraces where wipes canisters sit at the entrance, or tableside.

When your good friends in the wet wipes converting industry cannot answer the phone for days since they are so busy. When contract manufacturers do not want to be quoted or receive any notice while they are working day and night on backlogs. The stress from retail, healthcare and other markets has rippled into and throughout the wet wipes industry and the nonwovens supply stream.

There are some in the industry beginning to comment at the brand level. Clorox CEO and Chairman Benno Dorer, in August, said that although supplies will improve over the next four to six months, its disinfectant wipes remain unavailable until some point in 2021. Currently, stocks of disinfectant wet wipes are often only available for first responders or healthcare professionals. For Clorox, often seen as the first major entrant in the wet wipes cleansing marketplace around the year 2000 and whose brand led the way to acceptance, the current situation has to be trying, despite a surge in sales. For families eyeing cold and flu season, forget these wipes says Prevention magazine.

Behind the scenes, an effort to increase output is occurring too. Rockline Industries, for example, has announced a \$20 million investment that is projected to double its disinfectant wipes capacity with a state-of-the-art production line. According to Randy Rudolph, president, the investment is targeted "to meet consumers' increasing demand for disinfecting wipes." The "Galaxy" line has been custom designed by Rockline engineers in conjunction with leading equipment manufacturers and will be operational in mid-2021.

In another case, Neptune Wellness Solutions Inc., a company focused on natural lifestyle brands, has received a company number from the U.S. Environmental Agency for surface disinfectant wipes, moving the company beyond its hand sanitizing portfolio. Michael Cammarata, CEO, commented on consumers "seeing empty shelves" with restocking waiting until next year. "We are mobilizing on the regulatory, product development and supply chain fronts," he said.

Several companies have reached out to meet critical needs. Rockline Industries and others have donated to hospitals. Nice-Pak recently generated data showing its EPA Reg. products demonstrated efficacy against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, sold under brand and private labels. Its sister company PDI, with Super Sani-Cloth wipes, are also effective against the virus. Also affirming its effectiveness against Covid-19 is Diamond Wipes International with its HandyClean Steridol wipes for hard, non-porous surfaces. The company is shifting its production focus to its sanitizing products.

At the converter level, one wipes manufacturer principal said that much of their production is committed for some 18 months! At the nonwovens level, many variations are sought:

- Spunlace nonwovens, the major player in the wet wipes industry, are under increasing tight supply with long lead times. Some spunlace nonwovens
 producers are "not taking any new orders" according to one wipes converter.
- Meltblown nonwovens, which are also crucial elements in N95 and other masks, also have long lead times for wipes. Some converters have seen "some ease in availability, but still not near normal" even with new tonnage coming on line.
- SMS (spunbond-meltblown-spunbond), spinlace and similar nonwovens are also in play with wet wipes manufacturers casting for alternatives.

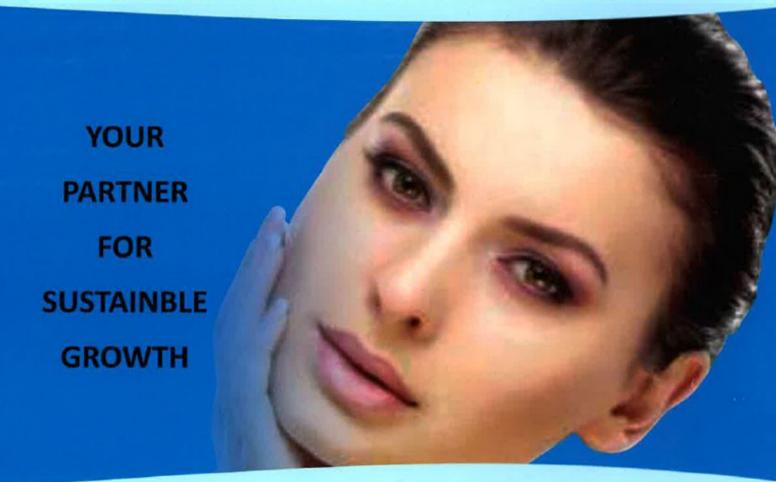
While liquid sanitizers have come in as alternatives, some in this category have also been recalled because of novice and noncompliant producers. Here to stay are higher levels of usage, from schools, public transit, restaurants and retailers, and of course healthcare facilities, which have all driven demand sky high.

Source: https://www.nonwovens-industry.com/ September 4, 2020



Indian Home & Personal Care Industry Association

SOAPS • DETERGENTS • COSMETICS • AFFILIATED INDUSTRY



YOUR NETWORK - YOUR VOICE



YOUR NETWORK - YOUR VOICE

The Indian Home & Personal Care Industry Association (IHPCIA) is a non-profit organization under Section 25 of the Companies Act 1956. The Association represents the Home & Personal Care (HPC) industry and provides a platform for National & International networking and interaction with regulatory bodies. The Association is committed to developing solutions for healthy living and quality lifestyle and aims to be the voice & network of the industry.

IHPCIA has a Board of Directors and following Committees:

- 1. Policy and Planning
- 2. Regulatory Reforms & Standard
- 3. Membership & Resource Mobilisation
- 4. Programs, Education & Communication

OUR OBJECTIVES

Represent the interests of the members from Home-care, Personal care and allied industries.

- To promote trade & commerce, science & technology, consumer awareness and education in the areas of Home-care and Personal-care.
- To represent and make known members point of view and interests of Home-care, Personal –care
 and allied industries before governmental and quasi governmental authorities, trade and industrial
 bodies, chambers of commerce, scientific bodies, educational institutes and other organizations.
- To create a platform to facilitate co-ordination, co-operation, exchange of views and ideas and sharing of knowledge amongst the Association members and similar International Associations.
- To act as the certifying and approval body for national and international testing procedures.
- To provide education, information and training to the members for improving health, hygiene and safety.
- To interact and network with national & international associations, organizations and bodies connected with Home & Personal Care Industries.

Members of the Association



Cavinkare Pvt. Ltd.



Godrei Industries Ltd.



Hindustan Unilever Ltd.



ITC Limited



RSPL Limited



Nirma Limited



Procter & Gamble







Milindia Ltd.



Aarti Industries LtdTrivedi Group



Safechem Industries



Galaxy Surfactants



Fena Pvt. Ltd.









Indian Oil Corporation



ECOF Industries Ltd.







McNROE Consumer Products Private Limited



Emami Limited

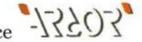


Kumar Organic Products Limited

Sealed Air



Reliance Industries Ltd.



ARDOR International Ltd.



Aditya Finechem Limited



Ultramarine & Pigments Ltd.

Affiliate Industry Associates



Tamilnadu Smali Scale Soap & Detergent Manufacturers Association



Gujarat Small Scale Detergent Manufacturers Association



Fragrances & Flavours Association of India



Bengal Soap & Detergent Manufacturers' Welfare Association

Bengal Soap & Detergent Manufacturers' Welfare Association



Maharashtra Sosps, Detergent & Cosmetic Manufacturers Association



Ahilya Surfactants Manufacturing Association



Indian Society of Cosmetic Chemists



BECOME A MEMBER

Founder Member

Any corporation, partnership or other type of business entity which is engaged in the business of manufacturing, processing, packaging, marketing or servicing of Industry Products and is invited to be a member, is prima facie eligible for membership as a Founder Member subject to the payment of applicable founder membership fees. Founder member will enjoy all the privileges of Members and shall have the rights to vote at general meetings.

Life Member

Any corporation, partnership or other type of business entity which is engaged in the business of manufacturing, processing, packaging, marketing or servicing including providing support services, such as logistics, chemical analysis, raw material & packing materials, databasing, computing, financial, technical consulting or legal counsel, to the Industry, and is prima facie eligible for membership as a Life Member subject to the payment of applicable life membership fees. Life member will enjoy all the privileges of Members and shall have the rights to vote at general meetings.

Annual Member

Any corporation, partnership or other type of business entity which is engaged in the business of manufacturing, processing, packaging, marketing or servicing of Industry Products, is prima facie eligible for membership as an Annual Member subject to the payment of applicable annual membership fees. Annual Members will enjoy all the privileges of Members, and shall have the rights to vote at general meetings.

Affiliate Industry Association Member

Any Industry Association whose members are in the business of manufacturing, processing, packaging, marketing or servicing of home & personal care Industry Products and is invited and prima facie eligible for membership as an Affiliate Industry Association Member. The Affiliate Industry Association Member is not subject to membership fees and will not have rights to vote at general meetings. Membership of Affiliate Industry Association will be subject to Board of Directors approval.

Honorary Member

Any individual who has rendered distinguished service to the Association and is invited to be honorary member provided that the name of such distinguished service of the person made known in writing by the Secretary and membership will be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

- · Reached the age of 50 years
- Retired from the Industry and
- Held office in the Association or in the Industry for a period of at least 5 years or for such other period as may be specified by the Board of Directors.

Honorary Member will enjoy all the privileges of members, however, the membership is not subject to membership fees and Honorary Member will not have the rights to vote at general meetings.

International & Regional Associates

IHPCIA is the member of the International Network of Cleaning Product Association (INCPA) and Regional Asia Oceania Soap and Detergents Association Committee (AOSDAC).

INCPA Members

















AOSDAC Members







TSDMA

The Soap and Detergents Manufacturers Association

ISDA

Indonesian Soap and Detergents Association

MSDA

Malaysian Soap and Detergents Association

The Membership Fees (as of 30th September, 2017)

STRUCTURE (IN INR)											
(A)	Founder Member	5,00,000									
(B)	Life Member (By Invitation)	Large Industry	Medium Industry	Small Industry	Micro Industry						
	Member (Manufacturing)	2,50,000	1,50,000	75,000	50,000						
	Associate Member (Service Provider)	2,00,000	1,00,000	50,000	35,000						
(C)	Annual Member	Large Industry	Medium Industry	Small Industry	Micro Industry						
	Annual Member (manufacturing)	50,000	30,000	15,000	10,000						
	Annual Member (service provider)	40,000	20,000	10,000	7,000						
(D)	Affiliate Industry Association Member (by invitation)	Nil	S-nC-								
(E)	Honorary Member (by invitation)	Nil									

	Ad	lmisitra	tive Fees	as on 01	-04-2018	7 0		-
	Category	Industr y Type	Members hip Fees	@18%	*Total Membership Fees (Inclusive of taxes) Amount	Quarterly Administrat ive Charges Amount	GST @18%	Total Quarterly Administrativ e Charges Amount
	0.							
			(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
		r	FOUNDER I	MEMBER				
	Founder	All	500,000	90,000	590,000	25,000	4,500	29,500
			LIFE ME	MBER			7	
[A]	Member [manufacturing]	Large	250,000	45,000		20,000	3,600	23,600
	Member [manufacturing]	Medium	150,000	27,000	177,000	10,000	1,800	11,800
	Member [manufacturing]	Small	75,000	13,500	88,500	5,000	900	5,900
	Member [manufacturing]	Micro	50,000	9,000	59,000	2,500	450	2,950
[B]	Associate Members	Large	200,000	36,000	590000	15,000	900	29,500
	(service provider)							
	Associate Members	Medium	100,000	18,000	590000	7,500	900	29,500
	(service provider)							
	Associate Members (service provider)	Small	50,000	9,000	590,000	3,000	540	3,540
	Associate Members (service provider)	Micro	35,000	6,300	41,300	1500	270	1,770

Note:

- * All figures are in INR.
- * In addition to Membership fee, Administration fee is applicable for Founder members and Life members.
- * Membership fees and administration fees are non-refundable.
- * All the fees are subject to applicable taxes.
- * Large Industry: Annual turnover above INR 25 Crore.
- * Medium Industry: Annual turnover above INR 5 Crore upto 25 Crore.
- * Small Industry: Annual turnover above INR 25 Lakh upto INR 5 Crore.
- * Micro Industry: Annual turnover upto INR 25 Lakh.



Registered Office

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Secretariat

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