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BASF and Sinopec Reach Agreement On Expansion of Nanjing Cracker JV

By **Ian Young**

BASF and Sinopec have confirmed CW's earlier report that they will expand their ethylene and derivatives joint venture at Nanjing, China (CW, Sept. 28/Oct. 5, 2005, p. 19). The companies will invest \$500 million by 2009 to increase capacity for several basic petrochemicals and build plants producing new, downstream products. The 50-50 jv, BASF-YPC Co., has operated since mid-2005.



Expanding partnership: Chen (l.) and Hambrecht.

BASF-YPC's steam cracker will be expanded from 600,000 m.t./year, to 750,000 m.t./year of ethylene. The complex's acrylics chain will be extended with a 60,000-m.t./year superabsorbent polymers plant. BASF-YPC's ethylene oxide plant will be expanded by 80,000 m.t./year, to 330,000 m.t./year, and its butanol plant expanded by 50,000 m.t./year. Downstream plants making 80,000 m.t./year of butylglycol ether and 60,000 m.t./year of nonionic surfactants will be built. A C4 complex will be constructed based on a 100,000 m.t.-120,000 m.t./year butadiene plant and an 80,000 m.t./year isobutene unit. Downstream plants will produce 120,000 m.t./year of 2-propylheptanol, 50,000 m.t./year of polyisobutylene, and 30,000 m.t./year of polyisobutylene amine.

Meanwhile, BASF and Sinopec, have agreed to integrate their Yangzi-BASF Styrenics (Nanjing) jv with BASF-YPC. The move should "increase efficiency, and make full use of existing synergies," the companies say.

An agreement for the expansion was signed in Berlin last week by BASF chairman Jürgen Hambrecht and Sinopec president Chen Tonghai.

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