

LANXESS expands high performance rubbers portfolio with Fluororubbers (LEVATHERM F)

The specialty chemicals major LANXESS AG and the Russian synthetic rubber manufacturer Halopolymer, OJSC, Moscow signed an agreement on the 17th April for distribution of fluoropolymers worldwide by Lanxess. Halopolymer will serve the Russian market as in the past. Maxim V Doroshkevich, CEO of Halopolymer, and Dr. Guenther Weymans, Head of the Technical Rubber Products Business Unit of LANXESS signed the global distribution agreement at the Moscow office of the local subsidiary OOO LANXESS.

With this important agreement, LANXESS is expanding further its already impressive range of specialty rubbers into the market for fluororubbers. LANXESS has christened its fluororubber LEVATHERM F. Dr. Guenther Weymans commented: "This product is the perfect addition to our range of high-performance rubbers, ensuring that LANXESS has exactly the right elastomers in its portfolio for an even wider range of highly specialized applications. Here the best Russian research resources and the expertise of LANXESS have joined together to potentially drive forward the development of new products – to the benefit of our customers across the globe."

Dr. Werner Breuers, member of the LANXESS Board of Management stated that "The partnership with Halopolymer combines the potential of two highly specialized rubber manufacturers. The innovative spirit that is deeply ingrained in Russian culture is perfect for LANXESS and ties in nicely with our goal of establishing successful, long-term business relationships on this market."

LANXESS AG had opened its new independent sales company OOO LANXESS in Moscow in March this year.

Fluororubbers have a global market volume of more than 20,000 metric tons/year. In the medium term, LANXESS plans to market a considerable proportion of this under the name LEVATHERM F. In addition to the existing LANXESS sales network, a team of experts specializing in marketing and technical service has been put in place. Halopolymer will serve the Russian market as in the past.

Speaking on the occasion, Maxim V Doroshkevich, CEO of Halopolymer, stated "Halopolymer is one of the biggest

fluoropolymers producers in the world. We produce about 13,000 metric tons of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) per year. It is a global strategy of Halopolymer to diversify our fluoropolymers business from the production of PTFE as a commodity to specialized products – melt-processable fluoropolymers and fluorinated rubbers – to gain about 10% of the global market. The cooperation with LANXESS is of great benefit to our company, helping us to promote our new products on the market and providing us with a



Dr. Guenther Weymans, Head of the Technical Rubber Products Business Unit of LANXESS (left), and Maxim V Doroshkevich, CEO of Halopolymer, signed a contract on the global distribution of fluororubbers. (Photo courtesy: LANXESS AG).

very good partner in the field of technical rubbers."

Fluoroelastomers are extremely resistant to chemicals and heat. This makes them ideal for applications in which other types of rubber are pushed to their very limits. For example, fluororubbers can withstand service temperatures of up to 230 °C. They are also very resistant to aggressive liquids. Fluororubbers are used in aerospace, the automotive industry, oil extraction and process engineering to make seals, hoses, diaphragms, and sealing plugs, for example.

Halopolymer, OJSC is one of the world's largest



(Left to Right) - Dr. Martin Mezger, Dr. Denis Baskakov, Stefan Augst (all of Lanxess) Maxim Doroshkevich - General Director HaloPolymer, Alexander Willemson, Innovation Director Halo Polymer, Murin Alexey Main Technologist of ZP KCHHK, Dr. Werner Breuers, Board Member Lanxess, Olaf Isenberg-Schulz, Lanxess, Natalya Pololy, Dr. Guenther Weymans, Georges Barbey - General Director OOO Lanxess

producers of fluoropolymer products (with 9% of the world market). The company is the number one Russian producer of freons and fluoropolymers, and one of the largest producers of inorganic chemicals in Russia. It is number one by volume in potassium chloride production. Halopolymer comprises two large Russian chemical enterprises; it supplies products to more than 30 countries around the world; it has over 4,500 highly skilled employees; and sales amount to more than USD 200 million. The

company has its own science and research center for fluoropolymers and invests in the research and development of modern fluorochemicals.

LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 6.58 billion in 2008. It currently has 14,800 employees in 21 countries. The company is represented at 44 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of plastics, rubbers, intermediates and specialty chemicals.



(Left to Right): Georges Barbey - General Director OOO Lanxess, Dr. Werner Breuers, Board Member Lanxess and Dr. Guenther Weymans, Head TRP Business Unit of Lanxess.