Eastman Tritan™ Copolyester Plant – Something to Celebrate

Eastman celebrated the grand opening of its new plant producing Eastman Tritan™ copolyester. The plant expands production capacity of Tritan to meet the increasing market demand for the material.

Company leaders hosted a grand opening event at the new Kingsport plant that included government officials, trade and local media, and Tritan customers. The grand-opening celebration included tours of the new facility and presentations by Eastman executives, including Jim Rogers, president and CEO, Mark Costa, executive vice president, specialty polymers, coatings and adhesives, and chief marketing officer, Dante Rutstrom, vice president and general manager of the Specialty Plastics segment and Parker Smith, vice president of worldwide manufacturing.

“Tritan represents growth and a thriving future for Eastman,” said Rogers. “It is the culmination of innovative thinking, deep market insights, cross-company collaboration, and dogged determination – all of the things Eastman is known for, and all of the things that give me confidence in our ability to successfully grow our company.”

Eastman Tritan™ copolyester is manufactured in a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. Innovative operations within the plant increase the overall sustainability by minimizing the environmental impact of processes and products, showcasing Eastman’s continued commitment to sustainable material solutions.

The new Tritan facility is a very impressive project at Eastman, not only because it was completed ahead of schedule, but was constructed and brought online without a single injury. The plant began manufacturing Tritan on December 3, 2009 and has been running consistently without a major incident.

“The staff that runs this facility consists of four crews that maintain operations 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said Smith. “We’re grateful to have such a highly skilled and dedicated crew assigned to this area.”

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2010 Holston River Studies to Be Conducted July 12-16

For 45 years, Eastman has sponsored a program to monitor the health of the South Fork Holston River. A key part of this program is the environmental studies conducted by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. The Academy is a world-renowned, private, non-profit institution founded in 1812 and dedicated to increasing knowledge of the natural world through environmental research and natural history education.

This will be the seventh such study performed by the Academy. Previous studies were performed in 1965, ’74, ’77, ’80, ’90 and ’97. The purpose of these studies is to document water quality and the abundance and diversity of aquatic plants and animals on the South Fork Holston River and Horse Creek and to compare the results with previous studies.

A team of Academy scientists will be in Kingsport the week of July 12 through 16 to conduct intense study of five sample zones in the South Fork Holston River and two sample zones on Horse Creek. The sample zones are shown in the diagram.

While some of the field work will be conducted from boats, most will be conducted on foot in the river, particularly along the banks and in the shallow sections of the river. Access to the sample zones on foot as well as access to boat launch will be needed. Eastman appreciates the help from local residences, businesses and municipalities providing permission to access the river and Horse Creek in the vicinity of the sampling zone. The study results and feedback will be finalized in the first quarter of 2011.

Eastman Emergency Medical Services Crew Awarded Star of Life

Saving a life is one of the most intimate and powerful things a person can do for another human being. And on June 1, 2009, Eastman’s Emergency Medical Services “Crew #4” responded to a call that saved the life of Shane Ayers.

Eastman emergency responders arrived on the scene within four minutes of the call coming in, where they found Ayers, then a 39-year-old contractor employee, outside operations building 440 lying in a graveled area. His skin color was blue, no pulse, eyes dilated . . . he was in full cardiac arrest.

The EMS crew went into action and when the patient did not respond the crew did not give up. They continued to work the patient en route to the hospital, and after nine attempts with the defibrillator he regained a pulse. Vital medical information was transmitted to the emergency room while the ambulance was en-route. This helped expedite successful surgery upon arrival at the hospital. Ayers had a full recovery.

The crew relied on their excellent skills and training and demonstrated outstanding performance under pressure. It may be no surprise, then, that they were selected from a pool of applicants to receive a statewide award for their lifesaving efforts.

On May 11, 2010, Tennessee’s Emergency Medical Services for Children (TN EMSC) organization recognized the Eastman EMS crew #4 with a Star of Life award. Each year, TN EMSC honors exemplary life-saving actions by EMS personnel from around the state. Eastman is the first company ever to be presented the award.
Eastman Chemical Company Steps Up In Time of Crisis

The first half of this year has already presented many major challenges for our neighbors across the world. Several natural disasters have occurred leaving people in desperate need of assistance. Eastman employees continue to find ways to help others in their time of need, and the company supports these efforts by working through the Eastman Chemical Company Foundation to fund relief activities. The Eastman Chemical Company Foundation is a private charitable foundation established in 1993 to provide funding support to charitable organizations. The following are Foundation contributions that have been made specifically to provide aide in areas where natural disasters have hit this year:

- $5,000 to assist with flood relief efforts in Middle and East Tennessee.
- $20,000 to assist the earthquake relief efforts in Chile.
- $20,000 to assist the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

These donations were managed by the American Red Cross of Northeast Tennessee. Eastman is proud to support these efforts. In addition to these, and as a way to celebrate the company’s “Best Ever” safety rate, the Eastman Chemical Company Foundation contributed $50,000 to UNICEF to support the orphaned children of Haiti in celebration and in honor of each employee’s commitment to safety.

Eastman Tritan™ Copolyester Plant – Something to Celebrate

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A focus on markets, applications and customers that benefit from the attributes of Eastman Tritan™ copolyester has enabled Eastman’s Tritan business to quadruple in the past 12 months. Since the launch of Tritan in 2007, marketplace use has increased from three initial industries — reusable sports water bottles, housewares and small appliances — to seven target markets, including medical, infant care, bulk water and signs.

“The future outlook for Eastman Tritan™ copolyester is promising, especially considering numerous brands are commercializing innovative applications requiring sizable volumes of Tritan,” Rutstrom said. “By responding to our predicted annual global copolyester market growth of 6 percent to 8 percent, we are already exceeding expectations of marketplace success. We are now even more equipped to increase the opportunities available in the industry.”

Eastman Workforce Development Scholarship Winners Graduate

The Eastman Chemical Company Workforce Development Scholarship programs are designed to assist students who enroll in selected programs of study at Northeast State Community College. Current programs of study include electrical or electromechanical technology, machine tool, welding/metal fabrication, and chemical process operations.

To date, 308 students have been awarded 580 scholarships totaling $299,940 from this Eastman program. Minimum awards are $500 each. Eighty-six recipients have graduated since the program’s inception in 2008. Students major in one of the Associate of Applied Science degrees or certificate programs listed above.

The scholarship criteria requires applicants to apply for admission to Northeast State, meet all college entrance requirements, apply for the federal Pell Grant, and enroll in a designated degree or certificate program. Scholarships are renewed based on continued enrollment in the major and a minimum grade point average requirement. The scholarship programs are geared toward increasing the number of highly-skilled labor recruits to meet workforce demands - at Eastman and other area companies.

Congratulations to scholarship recipients who graduated in May!

For more information on scholarship eligibility, contact Greg Walters, director or scholarship programs at Northeast State at 423-354-5120 or gnwalters@NortheastState.edu.

Congratulations Apprenticeship Graduates!

Thirty-one employees graduated from the apprenticeship program on May 18 at the MeadowView Conference Center.

The apprenticeship program is registered with the Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship and provides employees with the necessary knowledge and skills to do their jobs safely, efficiently and effectively. This program consists of job-related education and job-specific training. Employees in the Operator and Lab Analyst programs received their training from Northeast State Technical Community College.

These employees have been working very hard in various areas of Eastman for three to four years to complete the program.
This year Eastman celebrates the 90th anniversary of our Kingsport Tennessee manufacturing facility.

Eastman’s Kingsport Site Recognized Again for Energy Efficiency

For the 17th consecutive year since the program began, Eastman has earned energy efficiency awards from the American Chemistry Council (ACC). As part of the Responsible Care® program, the ACC honors specific projects that have achieved distinction in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Eastman received four awards, two of which received an ‘exceptional merit’ designation.

“Eastman is honored to be awarded again. This recognition demonstrates Eastman’s continued commitment to being a sustainable company, and specifically to improving energy efficiency and reducing our greenhouse gas emissions,” said Jim Rogers, CEO.

ACC presented a total of 51 awards to 12 member companies with 16 of the projects given the “exceptional merit” designation.

“Due to the economic climate of 2009, Eastman’s efficiency efforts shifted to reducing energy costs without capital investments,” said Ray Ratheal, Director, Energy and Climate Change Policy. “These four winning projects are innovative examples of achieving energy efficiency through creative redesign, exploration and trials with new types of equipment, initiation of campaign strategies, and operational changes.”

Combined, the projects save 525,500 MM BTUs and 54,900 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. That’s enough energy to power 14,000 homes and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from over 8000 cars!

ACC reported that improvements made by these 12 companies cumulatively saved enough BTUs to power all the homes in a city the size of Dayton, Ohio for one year.

Since 1992 Responsible Care® companies have reduced greenhouse gas intensity by more than 28 percent, a remarkable achievement for one of the most energy-intensive industries.