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Mühlenchemie opens production plant in China

AHRENSBURG, GERMANY and SUZHOU, CHINA — At a ceremony attended by over 100 guests from local political and academic circles and partner firms, Mühlenchemie GmbH & Co. KG officially opened a production plant in Suzhou, China in early May.

This will enable the flour improvement specialist to meet the needs of Chinese millers on the spot, with tailor-made solutions. Besides facilities for manufacturing functional systems for flour standardization and improvement, the company has established a modern baking laboratory at the Suzhou site. The affiliate in Suzhou is a 100% subsidiary of Mühlenchemie, which is headquartered in Ahrensburg, Germany.

The Chinese are the world's biggest producers and consumers of wheat, and in this large country there are hundreds of genetically different wheat varieties. Mühlenchemie said this diversity results in extreme fluctuations in the baking properties of flour, so there is a growing demand for standardization in the production process in order to achieve uniform quality in the end products.

Mühlenchemie has established a production and research facility in Suzhou in eastern China, 120 kilometers from Shanghai, to meet the needs of Chinese millers faster and with more individual products.

In cooperation with Matcom IBC (U.K.), Mühlenchemie has designed a container blending plant that permits the flexible production of batches in volumes between 10 and 500 kilograms. By using different containers and separate production lines, it is possible to meet the highest safety standards and exclude the risk of contamination. In



The Mühlenchemie team at the production plant and research center in Suzhou, China. Photo courtesy of Mühlenchemie.

a second stage of expansion, the plant will also manufacture vitamins and minerals for the Chinese food industry.

One-third of the initial 15 employees at the site are engaged in research and development. In order to help the Chinese millers on the spot, the company has set up a baking and rheological laboratory in Suzhou where training courses for employees of the mills will take place regularly.

At the test facility, equipped in cooperation with the partner enterprises Brabender and Perten, it will be possible to analyze different wheat lots and simulate the effects of additives. In this way Mühlenchemie said it will enable its customers to find the right flour treatment agent for the end product they wish to make.

“We feel it's very important to involve our customers in the process of analysis and development. Besides achieving optimum results, we are also able to offer a high degree of transparency in the manufacture of the products — something the Chinese population is demanding more and more,” said Hendrik Mögenburg, general manager of Mühlenchemie in Asia.

In doing so, the company said it draws on the comprehensive know-how it has acquired as a leading enterprise in the field of flour treatment. Every year Mühlenchemie standardizes over 70 million tonnes of wheat. Established in 1923, it has been a member of the Stern-Wywiol Gruppe since 1990 and acts as a partner to over 1,000 mills in more than 120 countries.

Coello receives Presidential Award from Chief

KEARNEY, NEBRASKA, U.S. — Chief Industries' Agri Industrial Division recently presented its highest Presidential Award for Sales Volume to Oscar Coello, international regional sales manager, during the company's annual awards banquet this past March in Cancun, Mexico. This Presidential Award is a bronze Indian Head Bust, which signifies cumulative sales of over \$100 million.



Coello

“Oscar has reached a significant sales milestone that reflects a tremendous level of dedication and commitment,” President of Chief Agri Industrial Division Roger Townsend said.

“Chief is proud to recognize Oscar for such an achievement.”

A second presentation ceremony was recently held at Chief's Kearney, Nebraska, U.S. office for friends and family.

Chief Industries, Inc. is a diversified manufacturer of fabricated steel for grain handling, grain storage, correctional products, pre-engineered metal buildings, waste water treatment, secondary containment, factory-built homes and ethanol.

Chief also owns a common carrier subsidiary, a construction division and three retail manufactured housing locations. The company's manufacturing and operational facilities are located in Grand Island, Aurora, Kearney, Hastings and Ralston, Nebraska; Rensselaer, Indiana; Janesville, Wisconsin; Maldon, Essex, England; and Rousses, France.