



Chemical Companies Get On Board with Vision2020

Twelve leading chemical companies have agreed to work together as never before to accelerate the development of more efficient and environmentally sustainable processing technologies. These companies are charter members of an industry-based organization known as the Chemical Industry Vision2020 Technology Partnership. The partnership promotes collaborative efforts among chemical companies and other stakeholders to share the costs and risks of R&D in pre-competitive areas.

The Vision2020 Partnership leverages resources to advance technologies and processes that will benefit a broad spectrum of the U.S. chemical industry. R&D efforts will increase the industry's productivity and enhance its environmental performance. Executives representing 12 dues-paying chemical companies and four professional associations serve on the steering committee for the Vision2020 Partnership and attended its first meeting on September 20-21 near Baltimore.

"Companies and others who are interested in chemicals R&D and in working with other companies, universities, and national labs should be interested in Vision 2020," said the Steering Committee Chairman Jack Solomon of Praxair, Inc., "--they'll want to become part of this success." Vision2020 seeks to establish broad-based chemical company collaboratives that will access the capabilities of National Laboratories and universities and create benefits for the entire chemical industry.

Collectively, the 12 companies that constitute Vision2020's charter membership account for over \$90 billion in annual sales. In addition to Praxair, the member companies are Air Products and Chemicals, BP, Cargill, Ciba Specialty, Degussa, Dow Chemical, Dow Corning, Dupont, General Electric, Millennium, and Rohm and Haas. Professional associations participating on the steering committee include the American Chemical Society, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, Council for Chemical Research, and Material Technology Institute. While dues-paying companies are entitled to a seat on the steering committee, the Vision2020 Partnership is open to all U.S. chemical companies.

As its first order of business at the September meeting, the steering committee sought to identify the pre-competitive areas of R&D in which it would make sense for chemical companies to work together. The committee considered a range of topics and determined two areas to be appropriate for further investigation and scoping studies: separations technology and the use of biomass to supply heat and power in chemical plants. The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Technologies will provide cost-shared support to assist the partnership in assessing R&D needs and opportunities in these areas through the Chemicals Plus funding mechanism. Once these areas have been further defined, the partnership will seek private and Federal R&D funding to

support work in those areas.

Each collaborative team that proposes a project is expected to develop a funding plan for future R&D, which may include support from DOE, NIST-ATP, NSF, or other sources, as well as from the companies and other organizations involved. The steering committee is now prepared to promote the Vision2020 Technology Partnership throughout the chemical industry to seek greater industry involvement and investment in high-risk R&D. For further information on Vision2020 and Chemicals Plus, visit www.chemicalvision2020.org or contact Vision2020 Chairman Jack Solomon at Jack_Solomon@praxair.com or 914-345-6442.