

FACT SHEET



BASF FINA PETROCHEMICALS LP NAPHTHA STEAM CRACKER PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

WHAT IS A STEAM CRACKER?

A "steam cracker" is a petrochemical plant that turns naphtha and light hydrocarbons into ethylene, propylene, and other chemical raw materials. These chemicals can be transported, via pipeline and other methods, to chemical and polymer facilities and converted into olefin-based products.

WHY DID BASF CORPORATION AND TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS USA, INC. DECIDE TO FORM THIS JOINT VENTURE?

Investment and project economics. Approximately two thirds of the existing steam crackers in this region are integrated into refinery networks. The cooperation between a chemical company, such as BASF Corporation, and a petrochemical company, such as Total Petrochemicals USA, Inc., results in significant economic advantages and represents a win-win situation for both partners.

HOW MUCH HAVE BASF CORPORATION AND TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS USA, INC. INVESTED IN THIS PROJECT?

The project represents an investment of approximately \$1 billion. This includes the steam cracker construction, as well as aromatics extraction, condensate splitter, refinery integration and storage facilities. It does not include pipelines and cogeneration facilities. The steam cracker is a state-of-the-art operation featuring the latest technology.

HOW MANY JOBS HAVE BEEN CREATED WITH THIS NEW INVESTMENT?

160 full time positions and 50 contract maintenance positions have been created. 3,500 construction jobs were created at the peak of construction.

WHERE IN TEXAS IS THE TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS USA, INC. REFINERY LOCATED?

The TOTAL Petrochemicals USA, Inc. Port Arthur refinery is located in southeast Texas, at the mouth of the Neches River, and close to Beaumont, Texas and the Gulf Coast. It is a facility with the capacity of 240,000 barrels per day, that was transformed in the last two decades into a sophisticated complex known for top-rated efficiency.

WHAT KIND OF MANUFACTURING OCCURS AT THE TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS USA, INC. PORT ARTHUR REFINERY?

The refinery primarily produces transportation fuels: Gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and, to a lesser extent, propane, butane, and bunker oil. It also manufactures asphalt and provides propylene, benzene, toluene, and xylene for chemical uses. Its crude and other feedstocks now are mostly received from ocean-going vessels via a Gulf of Mexico marine dock on the Neches River. Refinery products are shipped by pipeline, truck, and ocean-going vessels.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Maureen Paukert
BASF Corporation
Corporate Communications
100 Campus Drive
Florham Park, New Jersey 07932
(973) 245-6077
E-mail: maureen.paukert@basf.com

Helping Make
Products Better™


The Chemical Company

www.basf.com/usa

NO-17-2004

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS THE SPECIAL STEAM CRACKER TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL ENHANCE PROPYLENE PRODUCTION?

It is called metathesis technology. Metathesis is a general principle of olefin conversion, which can be used to enhance the propylene output of steam crackers. It is based on a catalytic re-positioning of double bonds between two different olefins, and involves a catalytic disproportionation reaction of ethylene and butylene to make propylene. By using this technology, BASF Corporation and TOTAL Petrochemicals USA, Inc. nearly double the propylene/ethylene production rate compared to a process which does not rely on metathesis.

WHO WERE THE MAJOR CONTRACTORS FOR THIS PROJECT?

ABB Lummus Global, Inc., Bloomfield, New Jersey, hired Zachry Construction Company, San Antonio, Texas, as its construction contractor.

HOW ARE BASF CORPORATION AND TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS USA, INC. SHIPPING ETHYLENE AND PROPYLENE FROM THE CRACKER TO THEIR MANUFACTURING SITES?

By pipelines, which connect the cracker with existing pipeline networks on the Gulf Coast.

HOW MUCH OF THE CAPACITY IS BEING SOLD INTO THE MARKETPLACE?

Very little. The steam cracker's capacity is designed for captive usage.

HOW WILL BASF CORPORATION USE THE CRACKER PRODUCTS?

The cracker will help satisfy BASF's additional propylene requirements that have doubled at Freeport, Texas, as a result of oxo alcohol and acrylic acid expansions. Ethylene from the cracker will be used to produce ethylene oxide and ethylene glycol at Geismar, Louisiana. In turn, the ethylene oxide can be used to produce surfactants at BASF sites in Washington, New Jersey; Whitestone, South Carolina; Gurnee, Illinois; and Clear Lake, Texas. Both ethylene and benzene from the cracker may also be used to produce styrene, which BASF uses to make polystyrene at Joilet, Illinois and Altamira, Mexico, and expandable polystyrene at South Brunswick, New Jersey. Styrene is also used to make styrene butadiene latex dispersions at BASF's Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Monaca, Pennsylvania, sites.

HOW WILL TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS USA, INC. USE THE CRACKER PRODUCTS?

TOTAL Petrochemicals USA, Inc. will use ethylene to produce high-density polyethylene and to manufacture styrene for internal conversion into polystyrene. TOTAL Petrochemicals USA, Inc. will use propylene to produce polypropylene.