



New alkylation process ready for commercialization

2005-01-05 - AlkyClean process successfully completes demonstration phase

BLOOMFIELD, NJ, January 05 -- ABB Lummus Global, Albemarle Corporation, and Fortum Oil announced today the successful completion of the demonstration phase for the new AlkyClean (r) alkylation process. The demonstration unit, located at Fortum's Porvoo refinery in Finland, started up in March 2002 and operates on the same feedstocks as the nearby commercial HF alkylation unit.

The AlkyClean process employs an innovative solid catalyst in the production of the "clean fuel" gasoline blendstock, alkylate. Traditional alkylation processes use sulfuric or hydrofluoric liquid acids, which are corrosive and potentially hazardous. The safe AlkyClean technology has been lauded by Wall Street Journal Europe for its groundbreaking environmental merits.

The performance of this large-scale demonstration unit has met all expectations. The solid catalyst has been stable, showing good regenerability and tolerance of contaminants typically seen in feed to alkylation units. The catalyst, which apart from noble metal is mainly composed of the same raw materials found in sand, is safe, easily shipped, and represents a significant step in reducing risks associated with traditional alkylation units. Moreover, the AlkyClean process's capital and operating costs are in line with that of the liquid acid processes, thus allowing for this safer solution with comparable economics.

"We are very excited with the results," said Jyrki Ignatius, Alkylation Project Steering Manager for Fortum Oil. "The unit is able to produce alkylate with qualities such as octane that are as good or better than those produced with today's liquid acid technologies."

Albemarle Corporation, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, is a leading global developer, manufacturer and marketer of highly-engineered specialty chemicals for consumer electronics; petroleum and petrochemical processing; transportation and industrial products; pharmaceuticals; agricultural products; construction and packaging materials. The company operates in three business segments, Polymer Additives, Catalysts and Fine Chemicals and serves customers in approximately 100 countries. Learn more about Albemarle at <http://www.albemarle.com>.

Fortum Oil Oy is one of the leading oil refiners in the Nordic countries and the Baltic Rim and one of the two largest suppliers of petroleum products in the bulk sales market of the Nordic countries. The company focuses on the development, production and marketing of environmentally benign motor fuels, their components and lubricants.

ABB Lummus Global is part of ABB (www.abb.com), a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility and industry customers to improve performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in around 100 countries and employs about 103,000 people.

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