

Press release

29 June 2017

Hempel announces new investment in life-saving fire protection coatings

Global coatings company Hempel announced today that it is investing in a new research and development centre focused solely on passive fire protection coatings. Located just outside Barcelona in Spain, the centre is due to open towards the end of 2018. The investment demonstrates Hempel's commitment to further developing its range of life-saving fire protection coatings as well as expanding its unique global R&D network.

Passive fire protection (PFP) coatings are increasingly important in the construction and oil and gas industries. Applied to structural steel in large buildings and industrial oil and gas installations, the coatings expand to form an insulating layer of carbon char when exposed to high temperatures. This enables the steel to maintain its load-bearing capacity for up to four hours longer during a fire, giving people valuable time to escape the building and for fire fighters to put the fire out.

Hempel is a leading manufacturer of PFP products. Its existing range of PFP coatings for cellulosic fires, Hempacore, includes both fast-drying and waterborne versions, and has been used on civil structures around the globe including airports, train stations, logistics centres, sport facilities, warehouses and industrial factories. A new R&D facility focused solely on PFP coatings will enable Hempel to further expand its PFP product range, including developing PFP coatings for hydrocarbon fires, which are encountered in the oil and gas industry.

Lars Petersson, Group Executive Vice President & Chief Operational Officer at Hempel, comments. "The new facility will significantly increase our fire testing capabilities, enabling us to expand and accelerate our PFP coatings development. This is important for our company strategy, and it will benefit many customers, who have the safety of their employees as a top priority."

The new facility will employ 35 experienced technicians and scientists. It will be located in Santa Perpètua de Mogoda near Barcelona, just five kilometres from Hempel's existing Spanish R&D facility and Spanish head office in Polinyà, which was established in 1964 (although Hempel's presence in Spain dates back to the 1920s).

According to Hempel Group President & CEO Henrik Andersen, it will be an important addition to Hempel's global R&D network.

He comments: "At Hempel, R&D begins and ends with the customer. Our 15 R&D centres around the globe all work together as one organisation to ensure that our customers get best-in-class solutions and technical support, whether they are global, multinational or local. PFP coatings are a key element in our *Journey to Excellence* strategy, and the new PFP-focused R&D centre will ensure we remain at the leading edge of this important technological area."

Hempel's new passive fire protection coatings R&D centre at a glance:

- The new facility will be located in Santa Perpètua de Mogoda, near Barcelona and just five kilometres from Hempel's existing Spanish R&D centre in Polinyà
- The R&D centre will employ 35 highly skilled technicians and scientists from a number of countries
- Opening date: Q3 2018
- Focus: Passive fire protection coatings for both cellulosic and hydrocarbon fires

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About Hempel

Since 1915 Hempel has been a world-leading coatings specialist, providing protection and inspiration to the world around us. Today we have over 5,500 people in 80 countries delivering trusted solutions in the protective, decorative, marine, container, industrial and yacht markets. This includes many recognised brands like Crown Paints, Schaeppman and Jones-Blair.

Hempel is proudly owned by the Hempel Foundation, which supports cultural, humanitarian and scientific causes across the world.