

LANXESS wins Responsible Care competition 2019 of German Chemical Industry Association (VCI)

- **Award for “Resource-efficient manufacturing of leather chemicals” (ReeL) project**
- **Modular plant for the recovery of retanning agents from leather residues successfully tested**

Cologne – Specialty chemicals company LANXESS received on September 26 the first prize in the nationwide Responsible Care competition from the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI). The company submitted the project “Resource-efficient manufacturing of leather chemicals” (ReeL).

Responsible Care is the chemical industry's global initiative to continuously improve its performance in environmental protection, health and safety. This year's competition was held under the motto “Sustainability in the supply chain”.

“Sustainability is also crucial for the leather industry and this award confirms to us that we are on the right track. In particular, the recycling of residual materials and the development of material cycles are essential topics,” said Luis López-Remón, head of the LANXESS Leather business unit. “Our ReeL project is not only good for the environment, but also brings economic benefits for the tanners.”

ReeL: Innovative technology for leather tanning

In this research project, LANXESS has developed a completely new technology for tanneries. Thanks to a modular system, it is possible to recycle all the residues from leather production directly on site. The main raw materials are biomass, collagen-containing shavings and waste cuts, which have so far generally been disposed of. Tanners

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can now produce X-Biomer retanning agents from these byproducts themselves and use them for the production of leather.

A medium-sized tannery produces about one to two tons of shavings per day. The waste materials used in the plant can be fully recycled – no residues remain and no emissions are generated.

The pilot plant for the project was developed in cooperation with the Leverkusen research institute INVITE. The process has since been tried and tested at the third cooperation partner HELLER-LEDER GmbH & Co. KG and proved its feasibility. Eight times larger production plants are currently being planned in cooperation with leading large-scale tanneries in Europe.

Award-winning research project

In April 2019, LANXESS won the Responsible Care state competition in North Rhine-Westphalia with “ReeL”. As the state winner, the Group also took part in the national competition. A jury of independent experts decided on the winners. The project has already won several awards, including the Climate and Environment Innovation Award in February 2018, which is presented by the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Construction and Nuclear Safety.

LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 7.2 billion in 2018. The company currently has about 15,400 employees in 33 countries and is represented at 60 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of chemical intermediates, additives, specialty chemicals and plastics. LANXESS is listed in the leading sustainability indices Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI World and Europe) and FTSE4Good.

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Forward-Looking Statements

This company release contains certain forward-looking statements, including

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Information for editors:

All LANXESS news releases and their accompanying photos can be found at <http://press.lanxess.com>. Recent photos of the Board of Management and other LANXESS image material are available at <http://photos.lanxess.com>.

You can find further information concerning LANXESS chemistry in our WebMagazine at <http://webmagazine.lanxess.com>.

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Image



The modular plant for the “resource-efficient manufacturing of leather chemicals” is designed to produce retanning materials of the “X-Biomer” brand for the production of leather from shavings and biomass directly on site in tanneries. Photo: LANXESS AG

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