

Newswatch

Publication keeps employees tuned in to industry



NAPERVILLE, Ill.—It's nearly impossible to keep up with every aspect of chemical industry news, yet it's vital for making informed business decisions.

That's why the Information Research and Analysis Team at the Amoco Research Center here created the Chemical Industry Newswatch (CIN).

The CIN, started in 1986, supplies employees each week with a synopsis of the chemical industry, zeroing in on Amoco Chemical Company business interests.

"It's not enough to be just an engineer anymore," says Joe Aubuchon, a senior process engineer at Amoco Chemical Company's Chocolate Bayou plant near Alvin, Texas. "You have to keep your antenna up for information, especially in today's global economy."

"One idea you might read about could turn into something bigger for Amoco," says Aubuchon, who reads the Olefin Polymers section each week in the CIN.

Primary news source

"We've found that the CIN is the primary source of industry news for people here," says Thomas Wolff, editor of



Members of the Information Research and Analysis Team (from left in back) are Robert Buntrock, Mark Ramsey (team consultant), Alan Stewart, Robert Wilke, and Brian Berfield. In front are: Thomas Wolff and Susan Kaley.

the publication and senior research scientist. "My goal for the CIN is to pack each issue with pertinent industry information, while keeping it in a simple format."

In a 1992 survey, 70 percent of the CIN subscribers responded that the CIN saves them time—at least 78 hours total of company time per week, Wolff says.

For more information about the CIN or PMN, contact Wolff by SOCON at 231-4662 or at (708) 420-4662, or by electronic mail to ZTEW02 (LNOTES).

Full-text articles or abstracts from trade journals and wire services are taken from the PREDICASTS Overview of Market and Technology (PROMT) data base. Each record is evaluated for relevance and value to Amoco Chemical and then excerpted as appropriate.

Evolving news coverage

Since the CIN was first pioneered by Mark Winzenburg, formerly of the Information Research and Analysis team, the publication has evolved to fit its growing readership's needs.

For instance, one reader suggested that every mention of Amoco be highlighted; now it's policy. Wolff also expanded coverage of engineering matters as well as coverage of the Chemical Manufacturers Association, Responsible Care, quality, and safety issues.

Feedback has shown several ways that the CIN is valued. One reader said she was connected with all activities in her product area but used the CIN as an information safety net, Wolff says.

Another employee said he looks forward to reading every item just out of interest, not because of any particular relevance to his field. Others rely on the CIN as their principle source of industry news.

"It's a big responsibility and challenge to meet such a variety of customer needs," Wolff says. "I really value all customer feedback."

The CIN is issued in hard-copy form to about 200 subscribers worldwide. It also can be accessed from OfficeVision/PROFS PF6 menu or by typing "CIN" at the ready prompt on systems CHOVM, CPRVM, CTSVMC, DECVM, JOLVM, NAPVM, and TCCVM. ■

Information Research and Analysis



The Information Research and Analysis Team can help when it comes to finding specific technical, business, health or safety information.

The team specializes in providing cost-effective information retrieval services.

Team members conduct individual searches on topics such as technical literature, patents, business and marketing information, and competitive intelligence.

They also specialize in current awareness products, including periodic technical publications in polypropylene, terephthalic acid, and fine acids.

Information can be delivered to clients as hard-copy documents, E-Mail notes or searchable and browsable personal bibliographic databases.

This service is available to Amoco employees worldwide. All information retrieval and analysis costs are charged to clients on a cost-recovery basis.

The team's members—Brian Berfield, Robert Buntrock, Susan Kaley, Alan Stewart, Robert Wilke, and Thomas Wolff, are chemical industry specialists with degrees in chemistry, biology or metallurgy. For more information, contact any Information Research and Analysis Team member in Naperville by SOCON or electronic mail. ■

Another news source



This year, the Information Research and Analysis team took over producing another weekly publication, the *PLASPEC Market News (PMN)*.

The *PMN* was originally created by Brian Conroy, a staff chemist for Naperville's polypropylene R&D group, to keep fellow researchers current in polypropylene and polystyrene marketing news.

The contents of the *PMN* are selected from an information service from editors of *Plastics Technology* magazine and are edited by Susan Kaley, an information specialist, and Thomas Wolff, a senior research scientist.

Specifically, the *PMN* covers polypropylene and polystyrene marketing and technical news. This includes new products, pricing, capacities, plant openings and closings, new plastics applications, and environmental and regulatory news.

The *PMN* is distributed in a hard-copy format at the research center and G.O. It can be accessed by OfficeVision/PROFS systems CHOVM, CTSVMC, JOLVM, and NAPVM by selecting *PLASPEC Market News* on the PF6 menu or by typing "PLAS" at the ready prompt. ■

\$1 million donation

CHICAGO—Monica Choca, Amoco Chemical Company manager of marketing—olefins, presents Amoco Foundation Inc.'s \$1 million contribution to John Gould, dean of the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business.

The contribution will support construction of the University of Chicago Downtown Center, located about two blocks north of the G.O. The center will house the university's evening and executive MBA programs and other activities.

More than 200 Amoco employees have earned MBA degrees at the University of Chicago, and 46 employees currently are enrolled in its evening and executive MBA programs.



"As an alumnus of the Executive Program and Amoco's University Executive for the University of Chicago, I was especially proud to present this contribution, which recognizes the importance that we place on this source of management expertise for our organization," Choca says.

"Moreover, as part of the nearly \$11 million being contributed by the Foundation this year in support of education, this contribution exemplifies Amoco's longstanding commitment to improving the quality of education available to current and prospective employees." ■