

Imerys opens its extended European Technology Center for performance minerals in Toulouse, France

- Geared towards our clients' operational requirements, the idea behind this investment is to speed up the launch of new products to meet the emerging needs of our key markets.
- The 2500m² Toulouse Technology Center hosts 50 experts and features state-of-the-art equipment for the polymer, rubber, paint, ceramic, building materials, filtration, health and food & feed markets.

Imerys is today opening the new facilities at its European Technology Center for performance minerals. Over an area of some 2500 m², the new site will focus Imerys' R&D resources on its key markets, while at the same time enabling knowledge to be shared with our other laboratories elsewhere in Europe, the US and Asia.

Recognised in Europe by manufacturers as a leading laboratory engaged in optimising and developing new mineral-based solutions for plastics (virgin, recycled and biopolymer resins), elastomers and life sciences, the Toulouse Technology Center is also a world centre of excellence for polymer applications. With this new investment, it now boasts experts and equipment for the ceramic, building materials, filtration, health and food & feed markets.

The Toulouse laboratory expanded its capacity at the end of 2020 and now employs more than 50 French and international technicians and scientists. Its location in Toulouse means that the Group will now have access to major university and scientific resources throughout a region that is home to major R&D initiatives.

Imerys' areas of expertise include:

- polymers for the automotive, electronics and recycling markets;
- agriculture, cosmetics, human food and animal feed and pharmaceutical products;
- ceramics for the tile and sanitaryware markets, for tableware and kiln furniture;
- innovative building materials, such as mineral insulation and geopolymers;
- filtration for industrial and food applications;
- paints and coatings for industrial applications.

"Focusing our R&D resources at our Toulouse Technology Center of excellence will help us achieve the critical size required to speed up the launch of new mineral solutions which our clients need in their own quest for innovation and performance", says Guillaume Delacroix, Imerys' Vice President in charge of Performance Minerals for EMEA. "We will be able to use this Center to simulate the way in which our mineral solutions can be used in our clients' production processes. The focus will also be on the life cycle of our new products – an increasingly important criterion in the ecological transition that industry in Europe is currently undergoing".

The world leader in mineral-based specialty solutions for industry, with €3.8 billion revenue and 16,400 employees in 2020, Imerys delivers high value-added, functional solutions to diversified set of industrial sectors, from processing industries to consumer goods. The Group draws on its knowledge of applications, technological expertise and its material science know-how to deliver solutions based on beneficiation of its mineral resources, synthetic minerals and formulations. These contribute essential properties to customers' products and performance, including refractoriness, hardness, conductivity, opacity, durability, purity, lightness, filtration, absorption and repellency. Imerys is determined to develop responsibly, in particular by fostering the emergence of environmentally-friendly products and processes.

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