



# connection

ISSUE '99 **3**

INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR HUNTSMAN POLYURETHANES RIGID-FOAM CUSTOMERS

## FROM THE EDITOR

*In recent years the chemical industry has become increasingly concerned about its overall performance regarding Safety, Health and the Environment. Many national chemical industry organisations worldwide have launched Responsible Care programmes of which Product Stewardship is a vital element. In this issue of **connection** we inform you of the latest developments from the Rigids Product Stewardship Team co-ordinated from our site at Everberg, Belgium. We also tell you about our Environmental Progress report with the latest news on our performance in Safety, Health and the Environment.*

*You will notice a few small changes to this edition following our identity change to Huntsman Polyurethanes, which has now successfully taken place. We intend to carry out a reader survey by telephone on all aspects of **connection** in the near future. If you are contacted as part of the survey, we would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation. Your comments are always valued and will be taken into account.*

*Best Regards,*

Andrea Lewis - Marketing Officer

## PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP HELPS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Product Stewardship is the process by which a business remains involved with its products throughout their life, from design and the allocation of resources to manufacture and use, and to final disposal. It is a key step toward our industry's goal of environmental accountability and sustainable development.

While still a novelty in many industries, Huntsman Polyurethanes has embraced product stewardship early on. Quality standards for all our products have been established on the basis of life cycle assessment. Life cycle studies are conducted on substances identified as having potential negative impacts on the environment.

Critical to this process is the very close work which Huntsman is doing with its customers and suppliers. Close co-operation ensures all parties fully understand the Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) issues related to chemical components and polyurethane products. For some years now this business has

been providing its customers with necessary support in product stewardship. Plant assessment for storage capacity of MDI, emissions monitoring and



engineering, or support and encouragement to create a SHE board, are but a few examples of the kind of product stewardship support Huntsman Polyurethanes has provided its customers. But the company has now taken the practice a step further by involving customers systematically in its Product Stewardship programme.



## PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP (FROM CRADLE TO GRAVE)



"An effectively managed Product Stewardship programme enables us to meet the increasing demand for safer and more environmentally sustainable products," says Product Steward Rik De Vos at the Everberg site. "It adds value to the products by minimising the risk of harm both to mankind and the environment, and reduces the risk of marketing a defective product as well as potential liabilities."

You can  
succeed  
at almost  
anything  
for which  
you have  
unlimited  
enthusiasm.

Based on a  
quotation from  
Charles M.  
Schwab,  
Charles  
Schwab & Co  
holding  
company.



The positive feedback Huntsman has received from customers led to the creation of the official European Rigid Product Stewardship Team a year ago, which provides solutions to customers' support needs. The group, composed of seven European Huntsman Polyurethanes Product Stewards, now meets on a regular basis to share best practice in supporting our customers. The business sees the group as a platform where learning will be used to extend the practice in the future. Judith Dobbs, the International Product SHE Manager, says, "Having led the development of the programme, the enthusiastic response of both internal and external audiences has been wonderful, as is the realisation that people in any job understand that they can make a difference in delivering a more sustainable future".



Photograph of the Product Stewardship team, from left to right, Rik De Vos (Chairman), Andre Verreycken, Domenico Stragapede, Judith Dobbs (International Product SHE Manager), Mireille De Witte, Inga Grauers, Paul Maddison.

The rigid polyurethanes business has scheduled a European-wide forum for systems house customers in October. The two-day Brussels forum will provide a platform to discuss all relevant topics regarding Product Stewardship. The group will reflect and try to find common solutions on generic and product specific issues. Prospective participants have been asked to identify the topics they consider the most pressing and important, such as product design and development, working with suppliers, the manufacturing process, warehousing and distribution, product impact on customer use (fire performance for instance), recycling, re-use and disposal. If you would like any further information about Product Stewardship or wish to attend our October forum, please contact your local Product Steward:

*Chairman of the group*

**Rik De Vos**, Everberg, +32 2 7589376

*for Italy, Greece and the Middle East*

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## OUR ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS IN 27 PAGES

"Reporting our performance is an integral part of our contribution to sustainable development. It is one of the ways to demonstrate our openness and determination to communicate with our stakeholders, customers, employees and legislators. The process helps us to gain a fresh perspective on our world-wide business and focus more clearly on the way we manage and set targets to improve."

These are the introductory words to the report that highlights the results of Huntsman Polyurethanes' SHE progress from 1997-98. Read in this report about Huntsman Polyurethanes' goals, summary of performance, actions on sustainable development, environmental protection, improving the quality of life for employees and the local community, safety, health and our actions on building a better business. For your



copy of the environmental report, please contact Katrien Perremans at Huntsman Polyurethanes, Everberg on: +32 2 758 9663 or by email: [katrien\\_perremans@huntsman.com](mailto:katrien_perremans@huntsman.com) You can also download the report from [www.huntsmanpu.com](http://www.huntsmanpu.com)

## HUNTSMAN POLYURETHANES ON-LINE

It is now official, Huntsman Polyurethanes is born. The productive harmony between Huntsman and the Polyurethanes business has already been demonstrated and we believe that the synergy between us will strengthen our global position and reinforce our services. In addition, Shell Chemicals and the rigid foam business of Huntsman Polyurethanes are to enter into a strategic alliance for rigid polyurethane foams later this year; this will contribute significantly to the global development of our business. The management and personnel you are familiar with will continue to work with you. Check all available information on our new website:  
<http://www.huntsmanpolyurethanes.com> or  
<http://www.huntsmanpu.com>

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