

Asia drives growth in HDPE

Global demand for HDPE will increasingly be driven by the faster growing economies of Asia, with a smaller but significant contribution from growing demand in eastern Europe, according to a new sector study from German company Ceresana Research.

Although North America and Western Europe accounted for approximately 44% of worldwide consumption during 2007, Ceresana says the Asia-Pacific contribution to worldwide consumption reached 35% in 2007, up from 31% in 2000.

HDPE manufacturers in the Asian region are benefiting from rapidly growing markets and increasing opportunities to export to the markets of North America and Western Europe. This is driving a migration of production capacity to the region.

Ceresana says only marginal production capacity increases will take place in Western Europe and North America, with expansion primarily coming through the modernisation of older production facilities.

HDPE production in the Middle East region has increased at an average of 20% per year since 2000 and there is no end in sight for this rapid development.

Until 2013, projects with a total capacity of 6.7m tonnes are planned, which is expected to make the region the most important supplier of HDPE.

Ceresana says China and India will be the fastest growing HDPE consumers in the coming years. However, eastern Europe is also seeing significant growth rates which has taken market volume to 2.5m tonnes,,

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