

CH Information

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NEWS

(source *CHEManager*)

Roche investiert Milliarden in seinen Konzernsitz in Basel. In den nächsten zehn Jahren sollen 3 Mrd. CHF (2,5 Mrd. EUR) in ein neues Forschungs- und Entwicklungszentrum, ein Bürogebäude und die Erneuerung der Infrastruktur fließen, teilte der Arzneimittelhersteller mit. „Roche setzt langfristig auf die Schweiz und Basel als Konzernhauptstadt und ist gleichzeitig einer unserer weltweit wichtigsten Standorte“, erklärte Konzernchef Severin Schwan.

Syngenta petitioned the US environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to increase the legal tolerance for residues of several crop protection agents, including a controversial neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticide, in several crops. The petition is particularly controversial as neonics have been suspected of at least contributing to the phenomenon of bee colony collapse disorder and is currently subject to a temporary ban in Europe. The US has lost more than half its managed honeybee colonies in the last 10 years, according to the Pollinator Partnership, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of pollinators and their ecosystems. Syngenta's request, published in the Federal Register, applies to use of thiamethoxam in alfalfa, barley, corn and wheat – sprayed on both the crop and the post-cultivation stover. Syngenta is seeking to increase the levels from as low as 1.5 times for stover from sweet corn to as much as 400 times for hay from wheat. Increases in neonic use are especially concerning in forage crops such as alfalfa, as bees collect pollen from the blooms. Syngenta said it is seeking to change the tolerance levels in order to use thiamethoxam as a leaf spray, rather than just a seed treatment, on late- to mid-season insect pests.

Ineos Upstream, the new oil and gas exploration arm of the Swiss-based petrochemical group unit, has taken an 80% stake in a UK shale gas exploration license owned by Reach Coal Seam Gas. Like the 51% stake in a license the privately owned group acquired in August from BG Group, the new exploitation area is located in Scotland's Midland Valley. Ineos has not revealed financial details of either acquisition.

In a deal said to be worth £54 million, **Ineos** plans to buy out Finnish energy company Fortum to take control of a gas-fired combined heat and power plant (CHP), which supplies its Grangemouth refinery in Scotland. Ineos said the takeover is in connection with its construction of a £300 million ethane gas terminal at the Scottish complex on the Firth of Forth. The Grangemouth CHP generates 145 megawatts of power and 257 megawatts of heat, providing electricity and steam to the site's petrochemical operations. Excess electricity sold on to the UK's national grid. In July, the UK government awarded Ineos a £230 million loan guarantee to build what will be the largest ethane storage tank, fulfilling a promise made in the aftermath of an industrial dispute at Grangemouth. John McNally, chief executive of Ineos Olefins and Polymers UK, called the latest investments “another key milestone in creating a successful future for the site

and those businesses that depend upon its continued presence in Scotland.”

In a deal expected to be completed in the fourth quarter, **Clariant** plans to acquire Hong Kong-based healthcare packaging manufacturer VitaPac. The privately owned company has sales of 4 million Swiss francs, 80 employees and a production site in Dongguan, China. VitaPac develops and manufactures high-end protective packaging solutions for the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and food industries as well as for the logistics and electronics sectors, mainly in Asia-Pacific. Focusing on active sorbents, the Chinese company has a leading market position for desiccant packets for moisture adsorption, Clariant said, adding that VitaPac maintains a Drug Master File (DMF) with the FDA, and its products comply with all pertinent regulations for use in direct contact with food and drugs. The acquisition is designed to complement the portfolio of Clariant's Medical Specialties business line and will help it to gain increased market share in important emerging markets in Asia but also in other regions. Clariant said the acquired Chinese plant at Dongguan plant will enlarge its global footprint, furthering the reach to multinational pharmaceutical industry customers.

Huntsman has signed a 12-month agreement with **Distona** covering distribution of its 'Suprasec' MDI products in Switzerland. The contract covers applications in adhesives, coatings and elastomers.

CONFERENCES IN SWITZERLAND

01.12.2014 – 31.05.2015

13th Snow Symposium 2015 by SYCA

23.01.2015–25.01.2015

Panorama Hotel Alphubel, Saas-Fee

Science meets Snow! Symposium for young chemists up to 36 years with an interesting combination of science, networking, fun & sports.

<http://scg.ch/snowsymposium/2015>

CHanalysis 2015

10.04.2015–11.04.2015

Dorint Hotel, Beatenberg

The goal is to stimulate a stronger cooperation among persons working in the different areas of analytical sciences. In addition to lectures and discussions, an informal evening session is scheduled for networking and building new contacts across scientific borders.

<https://scg.ch/chanalysis>

Freiburger Symposium by DIAC

23.04.2015–24.04.2015

Hochschule für Technik und Architektur Freiburg, Gebäude A, Auditorium Edouard Gremaud, Freiburg

«Smart Solutions in the Chemical Process & Product Development»; Case Studies from the Chemical Industry

<http://scg.ch/freiburgersymposium/2015>

SCS Spring Meeting 2015

24.04.2015

Universität Basel, Department of Chemistry, Basel
 «The Chemistry of Complex Systems»; A symposium in collaboration with the National Centers of Competence in Research (NCCR)
<http://scg.ch/springmeeting2015>

Labotec 2015

06.05.2015–07.05.2015

MCH Beaulieu Lausanne, Lausanne
 Labotec 2015 is the show for technologies and services for laboratories. Keep abreast of the challenges your industry must cope with, such as advances in medicine, pricing caps, cost containment, pressure to perform and quality assurance. At Labotec you'll find the right products and solutions for your business.
http://www.easyfairs.com/laboteclausanne_48072/

LECTURES 01.12.14 – 31.12.2014**Universität Basel, Pharmazeutische Wissenschaften**

Lecture Hall 1, Pharmazentrum

03.12.2014 *Dr. Jean-Robert Ioset, Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi), Geneva, Switzerland*
 17.00 h
 'R&D in the field of Neglected Diseases'

10.12.2014 *Prof. Marc Cronin, John Moores University, Liverpool, UK*
 17.00 h
 'Using Chemical Features to Predict Organ Level Toxicity'

Universität Basel, Physikalische Chemie

Physikalische Chemie, Departement Chemie, Universität Basel, Kleiner Hörsaal, Raum 4.04., 2. Stock

10.12.2014 *Prof. Dr. Ann-Sofie Cans, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology, Göteborg, Sweden*
 16.30 h
 'Cells, Synthetic Cells and Biosensors'

Société Chimique de Genève

Université de Genève, Bâtiment Sciences II, Auditoire A. Pictet A100

01.12.2014 *Dr. Clemens Lamberth, Syngenta Crop Protection AG, Stein, Switzerland*
 17.30 h
 'Current trends and challenges in the discovery of agrochemicals'

Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A-100

03.12.2014 *Prof. Sanshiro Komiya, Gakushuin University, Tokyo, Japan*
 16.30 h
 «Synthesis, Reaction and Catalysis of Heterodinuclear Organotransition Metal Complexes»

04.12.2014 *Prof. Dr. Helma Wennemers, Laboratory of Organic Chemistry, ETH Zurich, Switzerland*
 16.30 h
 'Bioinspired Chemistry with Proline-rich Peptides'

11.12.2014 *Prof. Clémence Corminboeuf, EPF Lausanne, Switzerland*
 16.30 h
 'A Walk Through Computational Chemistry Challenges in the Land of Organic Molecules'

18.12.2014 *Prof. Syuzanna R. Harutyunyan, Stratingh Institute for Chemistry, University of Groningen, Netherlands*
 16.30 h
 'Catalytic enantioselective synthesis of tertiary alcohols and tetrahydroisoquinoline derivatives: methodology and mechanistic aspects'

ETH Zurich, Chemie- und Bioingenieurwissenschaften (ICB)
ETH Hönggerberg, HCI H 8

12.12.2014 *Dr. Agnieszka Hunka, 3TU.Ethics Centre, University of Twente, Netherlands*
 10.30 h
 'Is chasing sheep really best left to shepherds? Interdisciplinarity and successful risk communication'

19.12.2014 *Dr. Alexander Sterchi, Infrastructure and Materials Management, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Switzerland*
 10.30 h
 'The energy inside drug products – energy consumption and sustainable concepts in a pharma production building'

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie

ETH Hönggerberg, HCI J 3

01.12.2014 *Prof. Igor Alabugin, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA*
 16.00 h
 'Stereoelectronic control of cyclizations, cycloadditions and fragmentations'

15.12.2014 *Prof. Jana Roithová, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic*
 16.00 h
 'Approaching reaction mechanisms in the condensed phase by mass spectrometry'

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie

ETH Hönggerberg, HCI J 3

02.12.2014 *Prof. Madhavi Krishnan, Institut für Chemie, Universität Zürich*
 16.45 h
 'From single molecule measurements to soft matter switches: the electrostatic fluidic trap'

09.12.2014 *PD Dr. Alexander Kuleff, Physikalisch-Chemisches Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Deutschland*
 16.45 h
 'Ultrafast correlation-driven electron dynamics: Facts and fiction'

16.12.2014 *Sahand Razzaghi, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie, ETH Zürich, Schweiz*
 16.45 h
 'EPR Relaxation-Based Distance Measurements'

The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on www.scg.ch/lectures