

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

NEWS

Syngenta announced last month that Griffin Greenhouse Supplies, a leading United States-based supplier of greenhouse and nursery materials, has signed an agreement to acquire the Syngenta Horticultural Services (SHS) distribution and brokerage business.

The transaction will include the transfer of SHS assets and employees as well as distribution and brokerage capabilities located in the USA. SHS had sales of \$96 million in 2011. Griffin has also signed a long-term agreement to distribute and broker Syngenta Flowers genetics throughout the USA.

Financial terms of the transaction have not been disclosed.

Novartis's plant in Colorado has recently passed an inspection by U.S. regulators, indicating that quality control problems in its North American plants are being solved. Last December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration cited Novartis for significant violations of manufacturing regulations at its generic drug plants in Colorado, North Carolina and Quebec, Canada. Italian, Canadian and Swiss health authorities had already lifted similar bans.

Speciality chemicals maker **Clariant** reported a larger-than-expected fall in net income for the third quarter, hit by fresh deterioration in the global economy. Earnings fell to 49 million Swiss francs from 81 million a year ago. Chemical industry's dependence on highly cyclical machinery makers, car manufacturers and builders makes it especially vulnerable to economic downturns. The third quarter growth in the rest of the world, including in Asia, was unable to offset slackness in Europe.

Lonza plans to cut 500 jobs, 400 at its main plant in Visp, which produces chemical ingredients and microbial biopharmaceuticals and employs 2,890 workers. Lonza also plans a further 100 reductions in corporate functions over the next year. Lonza, which makes pharmaceutical ingredients for drugmakers like GlaxoSmithKline and Abbott, moved back into speciality chemicals last year through its acquisition of U.S.-based Arch Chemicals, as it sought to shield itself from the volatile pharmaceutical industry.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA

11th Swiss Snow Symposium 2013 (SYCA)

11.–13.01.2013, Panorama Hotel Alphubel, Saas Fee, CH
Science meets Snow! Symposium for young chemists up to 36 years with a interesting combination of science, networking, fun & sports.

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

Thinking Big in a Small World: Creativity in the Molecular Sciences

20.–22.01.2013

Rigi-Kulm Hotel, Switzerland

<http://biologie.scnat.ch/d/Veranstaltungen/rigi-workshop/>

29th Annual SAOG Meeting 'Biomolecules and Surfaces'

25.01.2013, Fribourg, Switzerland

<http://www.saog-gssi.ch>

3rd International Conference on Bioscience, Biochemistry and Bioinformatics – ICBBB 2013

24.–25.02.2013, Rome, Italy

ICBBB 2013 brings together innovative academics and industrial experts in the field of Bioscience, Biochemistry and Bioinformatics to a common forum.

<http://www.icbbb.org/>

Organic Process Research & Development

11.–13.03.2013, Clearwater, Florida, USA

<http://www.scientificupdate.co.uk/conferences/conferences-schedule.html>

245th ACS National Meeting & Exposition

07.–11.04.2013, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

www.acs.org/neworleans2013

Next-Generation Organics Photovoltaics

02.–05.06.2013, Groningen, NL

<http://conference.groningsolar.nl/>

ESOR 2013 – European symposium on Organic Reactivity

01.–06.07.2013, Prague, CZ

<http://www.uochb.cz/web/structure/1073.html>

LECTURES

Société Chimique de Genève

Université de Genève – Bâtiment Sciences II

18.02.2013

17.30 h

Prof. *Kay Severin*

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

'Contributions to the Chemistry of Boronic Acids and Nitrous Oxide'

Novartis Chemistry Lectureship

Horburg Auditorium, WKL-430.320, Müllheimerstrasse 195, 4057 Basel

16.01.2013

10.30 h

Prof. *Kai Johnsson*

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

Title to be announced

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