

Sasol Chemicals and Holiferm sign agreement to expand the market for biosurfactants

Colour is a marketing differential that has significant branding importance for a company's product range.

Sasol Chemicals and Holiferm Limited have announced a partnership to jointly develop new biosurfactants and enable the broad commercialisation of sophorolipids.

Sasol Chemicals agreed to purchase the majority of sophorolipids produced at the new Holiferm manufacturing facility in Wallasey, which is scheduled to begin operations in early 2023 and will be the largest of its kind in the UK. Sasol Chemicals will also fund Holiferm research and development to accelerate innovation initiatives to help meet the growing demand for sustainable solutions in primary surfactants.

Biosurfactants use natural materials to produce surfactants, which are key ingredients in detergents, cleaning products and personal care products. Sophorolipids are biosurfactants made through fermentation, using yeast to convert vegetable oils and glucose into final product. The Holiferm process offers an extensive reduction in carbon footprint comparative to conventional surfactants.

"We are increasingly using bio-based raw materials to make our products, as we work with our customers to develop solutions that in turn make their products more sustainable," said Silke Hoppe, Vice President of Essential Care Chemicals for Sasol Chemicals. "The Holiferm expertise in the area of fermentation technology and production is a perfect fit with Sasol's position as a global leader in the supply of surfactants and surfactant intermediates into the Fabric and Home Care, Personal Care as well as Industrial and Institutional Cleaning markets."

"We at Holiferm truly believe in the future of biosurfactants and fermentation technologies to reduce the dependence on fossil-based chemicals" said Richard Lock Managing Director of Holiferm. "The drive, passion and commitment Sasol Chemicals are showing with Holiferm Limited is a perfect fit, for both companies and the planet as a whole."

This agreement allows both companies remain at the forefront of the drive to make chemical manufacturing greener and more sustainable.

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