



Location

[Home](#) / [Topics 2016](#) / Contents

Strongly promoting global expansion of vinyl acetate-related business

Dedication Ceremony Held for New U.S. Polyvinyl alcohol ("PVA") Resin Plant

Establishing an optimized production and supply system spanning four key global regions

April 22, 2016
Kuraray Co., Ltd.

Kuraray Co., Ltd. (Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Masaaki Ito; hereinafter "Kuraray" or "the Company") hereby announces its local U.S. subsidiary Kuraray America, Inc. (located in Texas) has completed construction of a new polyvinyl alcohol ("PVA") resin plant. The dedication ceremony was held on April 21, 2016, U.S. local time.

1.Features of the New Plant

- The new plant is in line with the Kuraray Group's efforts to promote the global expansion of its core vinyl acetate-related business.
- The plant joins other Group concerns centered on PVA resins, including production bases in Japan, Singapore and Europe (Germany). The Group secured its first U.S. PVA resin (ELVANOL) plant in June 2014 through the acquisition of DuPont's vinyl acetate-related business.
- The new U.S. plant is capable of integrated manufacturing from dealing with the raw material vinyl acetate monomer to creating finished products and is highly cost competitive owing to its ability to use shale gas and other inexpensive raw materials and fuels.
- In addition, the plant is capable applying Kuraray production techniques to produce differentiated products like EXCEVAL.
- This plant and the ELVANOL plant, both U.S.-based, are part of an optimized PVA resin production system spanning four key global regions that Kuraray has established to ensure the stable supply of high-quality products around the globe.
- The plant will play a key role in Kuraray's unswerving commitment to developing markets in North America and Central and South America.

2.Overview of the Dedication Ceremony

Date	April 21, 2016 (U.S. local time)
Attendees	Masaaki Ito (Representative Director and President, Kuraray Co., Ltd.) Tomoyuki Watanabe (Vice President, Vinyl Acetate Resin Company; General Manager of the Poval Resin Division, Kuraray Co., Ltd.) George Avdey (President and CEO, Kuraray America, Inc.; Executive Officer, Kuraray Co., Ltd.) Hajime Suzuki (Vice President, Kuraray America, Inc.; Executive Officer, Kuraray Co., Ltd.) Bob Chvala (Vice President, Kuraray America, Inc.) Scott Landon (Plant Manager, Kuraray America, Inc.) Other attendees: Approximately 120

3.Overview of the New PVA Resin Plant

Location	Bayport Industrial District, Harris County, Texas, U.S.A.
Production capacity	40,000 tons annually in Phase I
Capital investment	Approximately US\$300 million

4.PVA Resin Production Capacity

Region	Annual capacity (tons)	Facilities
Japan	96,000	Okayama Plant
	28,000	Niigata Plant
Asia	40,000	Singapore (Kuraray Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.)
Europe	94,000	Frankfurt (Kuraray Europe GmbH)
U.S.A	63,000	La Porte (Kuraray America, Inc.)
	40,000	Bayport (Kuraray America, Inc.' s new plant)
Total	361,000	



The new U.S. plant

Reference

Overview of Kuraray America, Inc.

Company name	Kuraray America, Inc.
Representative	George Avdey
Capital	US\$10.1 million (wholly owned subsidiary of Kuraray Holdings U.S.A., Inc.)
Employees	Approximately 740
Principal businesses	Import and sale of fiber and textile products, resins, and chemicals; Production and sale of poval resins, polyvinyl butyral films, ethylene vinyl alcohol polymer resins (EVAL) and thermoplastic elastomers
Location	2625 Bay Area Boulevard, Suite 600, Houston, TX. 77058-1551 U.S.A.

Reference Materials

- [PVA Resin Global Business Strategy](#) [PDF] (581KB)

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