

PRESS RELEASE

Faster product development and targeted optimizing of instant applications **Sternchemie: New pilot plant accelerates the development of innovative instant products for customers**

Ahrensburg, August 2026. With its new fluidised bed agglomerator, Sternchemie has expanded its application and development capabilities for instantizing and lecithin coating. The new pilot system makes it possible to test and optimize customer applications under controlled conditions and to industry standards. This shortens development cycles, tightens product recommendations, and significantly accelerates innovation processes. "With the fluidised bed agglomerator at our Stern-Technology Center in Ahrensburg, we can replicate customer applications under realistic production conditions," says Daniel Kandt, Technical Product Manager Instant at Sternchemie. "This brings us valid results faster, and solutions that are an exact fit. For our customers that means more certainty, higher speed, and at the same time the ability to address new areas of innovation."

Realistic simulations of customer processes

The fluid bed technology is an established industry standard, especially in the milk and instant products category. With this new pilot system Sternchemie can replicate industry conditions in its own laboratory. Powders are fluidised by the flow of air and then treated with special lecithin mixes. This provides intensive surface contact that applies an even layer of lecithin on the particles. Since the process closely replicates real production conditions, the result is a tailored lecithin solution that is directly transferrable to the customer's process.

Fast and efficient development of individual customer solutions

Up until now development often required external help, which could lead to capacity bottlenecks and long lead times. With the new system Sternchemie can react to customer requests much more flexibly and accelerate product development. Moreover, multiple lecithin blends, their dosages and process parameters, can be tested and optimised according to customers' needs. The results provide a sound basis for targeted production solutions and process improvements. This makes it possible to greatly reduce the number of time- and cost-intensive trials on production lines, or even avoid them altogether.

Improved functionality for customer-specific requirements

The instant food properties customers look for are often very application specific. At the same time, factors like solubility, wetting, and foaming vary by product, process, and instantizing method. The new system enables the targeted optimisation of these properties. In parallel, raw material and process influences can be systematically captured and tested, to secure the optimum functionality for the given application in customer use.

A platform for innovation and new applications

With the new system Sternchemie can work on new functional solutions, in addition to projects for customers. "Thanks to the system we can work more on issues like foam control, functional improvement, and alternative raw materials. This expands our technological expertise and at the same time creates the basis for future product innovation," notes Kandt.

The integration of the fluidised bed agglomerator in the Stern-Technology Center in Ahrensburg near Hamburg also opens up new possibilities for group-wide developments and customer solutions within the Stern-Wywiol Gruppe. The application of surface-active liquids to powdery products can positively affect a range of properties, including stability, processability, and digestibility.

You can find photos for this press release at this link:

<https://mediastock.stern-wywiol-gruppe.de/share/BFD9F450-53B6-4C61-97561A515F2A65CF/>

About Sternchemie:

Sternchemie GmbH & Co. KG, headquartered in Hamburg, is a specialist in lecithin and functional lipid solutions for the food and nutrition industries. Together with our customers, partners and staff, we stand by our vision: "We make it simple to produce safe and healthy foods." With production facilities worldwide and an international network of subsidiaries and numerous qualified foreign representatives, the company is represented in the world's key markets and is globally available for its customers and partners. As a member of the independent, owner-operated Stern-Wywiol Gruppe with a total of 14 sister companies, Sternchemie can make use of many synergies. Thus, the company has access to the concentrated knowledge of over 150 R&D specialists and the extensive applications technology and testing facilities of the large Stern-Technology Center in Ahrensburg, Germany. This lets it offer customers a high degree of flexibility and innovation. The Stern-Wywiol Gruppe is one of the world's most successful international suppliers of food & feed ingredients.

For more information:

Meike Knopp
Sternchemie Marketing
E-mail: mknopp@sternchemie.de

Press contact:

teamhansen / Manfred Hansen
Mecklenburger Landstr. 28 / D-23570 Lübeck, Germany
Tel.: +49 (0)4502 / 78 88 5-21
E-mail: manfred.hansen@teamhansen.de

We request courtesy copies of published articles. You can also e-mail us a PDF of the article or send us a link to the publication.