

CH Information

News – Honors – Workshops – Conferences – Lectures

NEWS

China's quality watchdog has turned away more corn cargoes from the United States due to the discovery of a genetically modified strain not approved by Beijing and further rejections are likely. A report by the official Xinhua news agency said that China had rejected 601,000 tonnes of corn and corn by-products from the U.S. by the end of last year, which suggested that more corn cargoes had been turned away since Dec. 20, when 545,000 tonnes of the grain had been refused by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). "China's feed demand is pretty weak and we understand there are more cargoes of this unapproved variety on the way," said one Singapore-based grains and oilseeds trader, referring to the MIR 162 variety developed by **Syngenta AG**.

Clariant has begun expanding its ethoxylation plant at Daya Bay, Huizhu, China, doubling the capacity to 100,000 tonnes per year. This expansion will allow new products to be manufactured to meet rapidly growing Chinese demand. According to *CHEManager* the Basel-based chemical producer is in talks with potential buyers about the sale of a South African water treatment chemicals business acquired from Süd-Chemie in the 2011 takeover of the German company. AECI of Johannesburg is said to be among potential bidders for the business. Clariant has also completed the sale of its Detergents & Intermediates business to the private equity group International Chemical Investors Group (ICIG) for 58 million Swiss francs. The business located in Frankfurt trades as WeylChem. The new owners plan to merge the company with another Frankfurt-based chemical producer, Allessa, formerly known as Cassella. Both were part of the defunct chemical giant Hoechst.

Clariant plans to acquire Indian masterbatch producer Plasticemix Industries for around \$21.7 million, making it a leading producer of masterbatches in the country. The deal is projected to close in Q1 2014. Based at Vadodara, Plasticemix has production facilities in Rania, Kalol and Nandesari. The company is said to be a leading supplier of black, white, additive, filler and colour masterbatches, along with flushed pigments and mono-concentrates in addition to engineering plastics compounds. The deal, which reflects the company's strategy of focusing on emerging markets will allow Clariant to "offer a strong and intensive portfolio with customized products and solutions" as well as expanding its customer base "significantly", CEO Hariolf Kottman said.

Syngenta announced that it has signed an agreement to sell its Dulcinea Farms business to Pacific Trellis Fruit LLC, a US-based international grower and marketer of fresh produce. Based in California, Dulcinea was formed in 2004 in partnership with Tanimura & Antle, initially as a vehicle for branding proprietary mini-watermelon and specialty melon genetics directly to consumers through national food retail chains. Syngenta took full control of the company in 2005 and annual sales have since increased to around \$80 million. Under its new ownership, Dulcinea will continue to grow and commercialize its current

portfolio. Syngenta and Pacific Trellis have also signed a long-term supply agreement whereby Syngenta will continue to provide Dulcinea with mini-watermelon and specialty melon seed varieties. Syngenta Chief Operating Officer, Davor Pisk, said: "The sale will allow Syngenta to focus on bringing innovation to growers and the food value chain in our core Vegetables business. Pacific Trellis is the best partner to provide Dulcinea with the expertise needed to achieve greater scale and long-term business growth."

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA

SCS Spring Meeting 2014

April 24, 2014

University of Fribourg, Department of Chemistry, large auditorium, Fribourg

Full day symposium on organic chemistry.

www.scg.ch/springmeeting2014

Bürgenstock Conference

May 4–9, 2014, Seehotel Waldstätterhof, Brunnen, CH

The 'EUCHEMS Conference on Stereochemistry', better known as 'Bürgenstock Conference', is an outstanding international chemistry meeting of high scientific quality, with an optimal setting for intense inter-disciplinary discussion.

www.stereochemistry-buergenstock.ch/

Swiss Nanoconvention 2014

May 21–22, 2014

FHNW Campus, Brugg, CH

The Swiss Nanoconvention is the prime annual showcase for nanotechnology in Switzerland, bringing together experts from industry, universities, public research institutions and the media. If you are active in nanotechnology or interested in that field, participating in this event is a must for you.

www.swissnanoconvention.ch/2014

Bunsentagung 2014

113th Annual German Conference on Physical Chemistry: Physical Chemistry on the Nanometer Scale

May 29–30, 2014, University Hamburg, Germany

<http://www.bunsen.de/bunsentagung2014.html>

International Symposium on Synthetic Two-Dimensional Polymers

June 2–3, 2014

ETH Zürich, Hönggerberg Campus, HCI J 6, Zürich

The organizers of this international symposium are convinced of the enormous future impact that two-dimensional polymers and covalent molecular sheets will have. Their congeners, the linear polymers strongly advertised by Hermann Staudinger in the early 1920s, have in the meantime conquered an enormous market which impacts the daily life of people worldwide. With the

first passable trials into this novel class of polymers completed, the organizing committee intends to bring together high-caliber international specialists from all fields (chemistry, physics, theory, materials, structure analytics) to discuss the burning questions, ranging from synthesis issues to structure analytics and from properties to expected societal impact.

www.2dp.ethz.ch/

Young Faculty Meeting 2014

June 5, 2014

University of Bern, DCB, Auditorium EG 16, Bern, CH

The 'Young Faculty Meeting' was set up in order to promote scientific exchange and networking among young academics in chemistry in Switzerland.

www.chemistry.scnat.ch/YFM

Annual Meeting of the Swiss Physical Society SPS

June 30 – July 2, 2014

University of Fribourg, Building Pérolles 2, Fribourg, CH

In 2014 the Swiss Institute of Particle Physics (CHIPP), the NCCR MUST, the Association MaNEP (emerged from the former NCCR MaNEP) and the Swiss Neutron Scattering Society will partake.

www.sps.ch/events/spg_jahrestagung_2014/

SET2014 The 13th International Conference on Sustainable Energy Technologies

August 25–28, 2014, Geneva, CH

SET 2014 is a multi-disciplinary international conference on the sustainable energy sources and technologies, and will provide a forum for the exchange of latest technical information, the dissemination of the high-quality research results on the issues, the presentation of the new developments in the area of sustainable energy, and the debate and shaping of future directions and priorities for better environment, sustainable development and energy security.

www.hes-so.ch/set2014

65th Annual Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry

August 31 – September 5, 2014

Swiss Tech Convention Center (STCC), EPF Lausanne, CH

The meeting will illustrate the central role played by electrochemistry in different fields ranging from analytical chemistry to solar cells, from corrosion to fuel cells, from transportation to DNA sequencing.

annual65.ise-online.org

Websites for International Conferences:

<http://www.conferencealerts.com>

<http://www.conference-service.com>

<http://www.chemistry-conferences.com>

<http://www.rsc.org/conferencesandevents/>

<http://www.gdch.de/veranstaltungen/tagungen.html>

LECTURES

Universität Bern, Organische und Bioorganische Chemie

Departement für Chemie und Biochemie, Hörsaal S379

28.03.2014
15.00 h
Prof. Aphrodite Kapurniotu
Department of Bioscience, Technische Universität München
'Cross-amyloid inhibitors of protein aggregation in Alzheimer's disease and type 2 Diabetes'

University of Fribourg

Main Auditorium, Chemin du musée 9

19.03.2014
17.15 h
Prof. Peter Schreiner
University of Giessen, Germany
'Tunnelling Control of Chemical Reactions'

Université Genève, Chimie organique

Auditoire A-100, 30, Quai Ernest Ansermet

06.03.2014
16.30 h
Prof. Tony James
University of Bath, UK
'Exploiting the Reversible Covalent Bonding of Boronic Acids: Recognition, Sensing and Assembly'

13.03.2014
16.30 h
Prof. Mark Gandelman
Schulich Faculty of Chemistry, Technion Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel
Title to be announced

17.03.2014
16.30 h
Prof. Peter Schreiner
University of Fribourg
'Enantioselective Multicatalysis - Retrocatalysis'

27.03.2014
14.00 h
Prof. Rienk Eelkema
Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
'Control over Dynamics in Supramolecular Architectures'

Lausanne; EPFL, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques

EPFL BCH 2218 (batiment Chimie UNIL)

05.03.2014
17.15 h
Prof. Kilian Muniz
ICIQ Tarragona, Spain
'Oxidative Amination with and without Metals'

20.03.2014
17.15 h
Prof. Peter Schreiner
Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany
'Tunneling Control of Chemical Reactions'

ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie

Hörsaal HCI J 3, ETH Höggerberg

03.03.2014
16.00 h
Prof. Kaspar Locher
Institut für Molekularbiologie und
Biophysik, ETH Zürich
'Structure and Mechanism of Bacterial
Oligosaccharyltransferase Catalyzing
Protein N-Glycosylation'

10.03.2014
16.00 h
Prof. Thorsten Bach
Fakultät für Chemie, Technische Universität
München
'Chirality and Light: Enantioselective
Catalysis of Photochemical Reactions'

24.03.2014
16.00 h
Prof. Luisa De Cola
Institut de Science et d'Ingénierie
Supramoléculaires (ISIS), University of
Strasbourg, France
'A Journey into Self-assembly. From
Molecules to Materials'

31.03.2014
16.00 h
Prof. Nicolas Winsinger
Department of Organic Chemistry,
University of Geneva
'DNA-display and DNA-templated
Reactions in Chemical Biology'

ETH Zurich, Laboratorium für Physikalische Chemie

Hörsaal HCI J 3, ETH Höggerberg

04.03.2014
16.45 h
Dr. Markus Ammann
PSI, Villigen
'The reaction of ozone with aerosol
particles: kinetics and spectroscopy'

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



ECM-30

Swiss Society for
Crystallography
www.sgk-sscr.ch

Come to Basel in 2016!
28.08.-01.09.2016

EUROPEAN CRYSTALLOGRAPHY MEETING
Chairs: Katharina M. Fromm (University of Fribourg), Jürg Schefer (Paul Scherrer Institute), Michael Hennig (Roche)