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 Bay, Huizhu, China, doubling the capacity to 100,000 tonnes per year 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 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 Plastichemix 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, Plastichemix 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 Hariofit 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.”
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**


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

**Webistes for International Conferences:**

http://www.conferencealerts.com
http://www.conference-service.com
http://www.chemistry-conferences.com
http://www.rsc.org/conferencesandevents/
https://www.gdch.de/veranstaltungen/tagungen.html

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**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’
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>03.03.2014</td>
<td>16.00 h</td>
<td>Prof. Kaspar Locher</td>
<td>ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, Hörsaal HCI J 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Institut für Molekularbiologie und Biophysik, ETH Zürich</td>
<td>ETH Hönggerberg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>‘Structure and Mechanism of Bacterial Oligosaccharyltransferase Catalyzing Protein N-Glycosylation’</td>
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<td>10.03.2014</td>
<td>16.00 h</td>
<td>Prof. Thorsten Bach</td>
<td>ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, Hörsaal HCI J 3</td>
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<td>Fakultät für Chemie, Technische Universität München</td>
<td>ETH Hönggerberg</td>
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<td>‘Chirality and Light: Enantioselective Catalysis of Photochemical Reactions’</td>
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<td>24.03.2014</td>
<td>16.00 h</td>
<td>Prof. Luisa De Cola</td>
<td>ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, Hörsaal HCI J 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Institut de Science et d’Ingénierie Supramoléculaires (ISIS), University of Strasbourg, France</td>
<td>ETH Hönggerberg</td>
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<td>‘A Journey into Self-assembly. From Molecules to Materials’</td>
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<td>31.03.2014</td>
<td>16.00 h</td>
<td>Prof. Nicolas Winssinger</td>
<td>ETH Zürich, Laboratorium für Organische Chemie, Hörsaal HCI J 3</td>
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<td>Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Geneva</td>
<td>ETH Hönggerberg</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>‘DNA-display and DNA-templated Reactions in Chemical Biology’</td>
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The complete and updated lecture calendar is available on www.scg.ch.