

# News Release

P080/26e  
April 28, 2026

## **BASF invests and commissions world-scale facilities for menthol and linalool in Ludwigshafen and citral plant in Zhanjiang**

- **Expanded capacities of menthol and linalool integrated into the Ludwigshafen site leverages existing Verbund efficiencies, structures and advanced production technologies**
- **New world-scale citral plant in Zhanjiang to strengthen BASF's supply reliability and serve growing demand in local and global markets**
- **Commercial production of menthol and linalool started in April 2026, creating 60 new jobs in Ludwigshafen**

Ludwigshafen, Germany, April 28, 2026 – BASF's Aroma Ingredients business unit today announced the official launch of three newly built world-scale plants – menthol and linalool in Ludwigshafen, Germany, and citral in Zhanjiang, China. This announcement follows the inauguration ceremony of BASF's Zhanjiang Verbund site held on March 26, 2026. In Ludwigshafen, the investment is in the triple-digit million-euro range.

The citral plant in Zhanjiang will supply the local market as well as the expanded downstream production, including menthol and linalool in Ludwigshafen. Menthol is an indispensable mint ingredient used in numerous products for oral and body care, in flavor compounds for confectionary and in the pharmaceutical industry. Linalool is a lavender aroma ingredient widely used in a broad range of applications – one of the largest areas of use for linalool is laundry care, but it is also a popular ingredient in other home, personal care and fine fragrance applications.

The integration of the new menthol and linalool downstream capacities into the Ludwigshafen Verbund site enables BASF to use resources, expertise and advanced production technologies based on the already existing assets at the site in the most efficient way. Dr. Katja Scharpwinkel, Member of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF SE, as well as Site Director of Ludwigshafen said: “These investments underscore the advantages of the Verbund within BASF’s global production network and represent a clear commitment to the Ludwigshafen site.”

Groundbreaking for the three construction sites was completed by June 2023. Since the first quarter of 2026, the citral plant in Zhanjiang and the expanded downstream capacities in Ludwigshafen have successfully produced in-spec products made available for customers as of April 2026.

The added capacities for some of BASF’s most in-demand aroma ingredients products in the citral value chain will support more opportunities for customers in the fragrance and flavor (F&F) industry in key growth regions while increasing supply reliability for a broad range of aroma ingredients and further downstream products. “This investment underlines our strong commitment to growth with our customers in the F&F industry,” said Steffen Goetz, Senior Vice President, Global Aroma Ingredients. “The large-scale investment projects have been completed safely, on schedule, within the defined scope, and on budget at two Verbund sites across two continents. With the new capacities, we have one of the broadest asset footprints in the industry, allowing us to maintain high levels of supply reliability and security for our customers,” he added.

With the full integration of the new capacities into the Verbund sites in China and Germany, BASF will use resources optimally and create synergies efficiently, thereby contributing to the company’s ambitious sustainability goals.

Images and video footage of the new plants can be found on BASF’s website: <https://www.basf.com/global/en/media/news-releases/2026/04/p-26-080>

#### **About BASF’s Nutrition & Health division**

BASF’s Nutrition & Health division provides a comprehensive product and service range for human and animal nutrition, pharmaceutical, and flavor & fragrance industries. With our science-driven portfolio, we address customers in globally growing markets to meet the demands of an expanding world population. Together with our customers, we play an active role in enhancing the nutrition, health and wellbeing of consumers all over the world. Our products fulfill the highest safety, regulatory

and sustainability standards. The Nutrition & Health division operates sites in Europe, North America and in Asia-Pacific. For more information, go to [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).

### **About BASF**

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. Our ambition: We want to be the preferred chemical company to enable our customers' green transformation. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Around 108,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio comprises, as core businesses, the segments Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, and Nutrition & Care; our standalone businesses are bundled in the segments Surface Technologies and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of around €60 billion in 2025. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the United States. Further information at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).