

# News Release



## **BASF plans to sell its CONICA Sports Surfaces business**

- **Schaffhausen site to be sold along with CONICA Sports Surfaces**
- **Relocation of the industrial flooring business planned**

Schaffhausen, Switzerland – March 26, 2012 – BASF is planning to sell its CONICA Sports Surfaces business area. The intention is to divest the site at Schaffhausen (Switzerland) along with the business in order to create the conditions for the retention of jobs. Furthermore, production and production-related services – for example logistics – for other product lines currently based at Schaffhausen will be transferred to another BASF site. BASF now employs some 150 people at Schaffhausen.

“We have a strong position with CONICA Sports Surfaces in the European home market,” said Dr. Tilman Krauch, head of BASF’s Construction Chemicals Division. “However, growth opportunities for sports surfaces are mainly to be found outside of Europe. Furthermore, there are only few synergies with other BASF business areas that we can use to further expand the business. This is why we want to sell CONICA Sports Surfaces to a new owner who can offer the best possible chances for a long-term, profitable growth of the business.”

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Local press  
Franz Kuntz  
Telephone: +41 61 6363333  
[franz.kuntz@basf.com](mailto:franz.kuntz@basf.com)

Trade press  
Christian Schröpfer  
Telephone: +49 621 60 74488  
[christian.schroepfer@basf.com](mailto:christian.schroepfer@basf.com)

BASF Schweiz AG  
Postfach 2548  
4002 Basel  
Schweiz  
Telephone: +41 61 63 61111  
<http://www.basf.ch>  
Corporate Communications  
Telephone: +41 61 63 63333  
[media-switzerland@basf.com](mailto:media-switzerland@basf.com)

The CONICA Sports Surfaces business area includes the development, production and marketing of surface systems for running tracks, gymnasia, tennis courts and playgrounds as well as solutions for artificial turf and molding binders. A little less than half of the Schaffhausen staff is employed in that business area. BASF acquired the business in 2006 in the course of its takeover of Degussa's construction chemicals activities.

Other BASF products from Schaffhausen are mainly special flooring systems, in particular for public and industrial buildings, sealants and special polyurethane products. Their production will be reorganized in order to further boost the competitiveness of this business area.

“Our aim is to take advantage of synergies within BASF for our flooring systems and sealants business. Therefore we plan to relocate the production and production-related services to another BASF site close to our main customers,” explained Tilman Krauch.

The planned sale and transfer will be implemented in a socially responsible manner. The continued employment of employees from the CONICA Sports Surfaces unit is a matter for negotiation with potential purchasers. Those employees whose work is transferred to other BASF sites will be offered the opportunity to move with their job. For those employees whose jobs are eliminated, the possibility of offering further employment in the BASF Group will be examined. In the event of any redundancies, the existing redundancy program for BASF in Switzerland will apply.

The head of Schaffhausen's Department of Economic Affairs, Councilor Ernst Landolt, was informed of BASF's intentions in advance. In the discussion, Councilor Landolt agreed to offer support by the economic development and employment office in order to ease the entry of

potential purchasers, and wherever possible to cushion the impact of the planned changes.

**About BASF in Schaffhausen**

At its Schaffhausen site, BASF Construction Chemicals Europe AG develops, produces and markets sports surface systems, other special flooring systems, in particular for public and industrial buildings, as well as sealants and special polyurethane products. Sports surfaces are sold under the brand name CONICA Sports Surfaces. A special focus of the business is on surfaces for gymnasias and running tracks in stadiums, for example in Zurich's Letzigrund Stadium and in the Olympic Stadium in Rome (Italy).

**About BASF**

BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. We combine economic success, social responsibility and environmental protection. Through science and innovation we enable our customers in almost all industries to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and system solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring healthy food and nutrition and helping to improve the quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF posted sales of about €73.5 billion in 2011 and had more than 111,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).