

DBE<sup>®</sup>, the sustainable solvent alternative from DuPont,  
receives official recognition

## **Dr. Gerald Altnau rewarded for his achievements with DBE<sup>®</sup>**



Photo: DuPont

Dr. Cornelia Fischer, State Secretary in the German Ministry for Work and Social Affairs presents Dr. Gerald Altnau with a certificate for his achievements with DBE<sup>®</sup> from DuPont. This includes introducing the safer and biodegradable solvent to a broader audience and providing support to customers wishing to switch from dangerous solvent formulations.

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Bad Homburg, January 2001 - On October 21, 2000 in Munich, the German Ministry for Work and Social Affairs presented its Dangerous Chemicals Safety Award 2000 to mark the start of the "Safety at Work" congress. As part of the awards ceremony, Dr. Gerald Altnau, marketing and business manager Nylon Speciality Intermediates Europe, received a special citation for his achievements in the area of handling dangerous chemicals. This was in recognition of his achievements with DBE<sup>®</sup> Dibasic Esters, the non-classified environmental friendly solvent from DuPont.

An extract from the official citation states: "Organic solvents are still being used in many processes and products. Their properties, some of which are still unknown, can carry a danger for people and environment. With DBE<sup>®</sup> Dibasic Esters, DuPont developed a comprehensively tested and non-classified (according to EU criteria) alternative. DBE<sup>®</sup> can be used as replacement for dangerous solvents in many applications and products...".

In a series of projects with DuPont customers, Dr. Altnau has illustrated the advantages and benefits DBE<sup>®</sup> can provide for both the environment and industrial processes. The sustainable solvent is used in a broad variety of applications, e.g. as a solvent for coatings, cleaning formulations, paint strippers, foundry core binders, oilfield chemicals, adhesives, agrochemicals and even as a recycling solvent. Nevertheless, its full potential has not yet been reached.

The German Ministry for Work and Social Affairs held its Dangerous Chemicals Safety Awards for the fourth time. It honours exemplary and innovative methods of protection and brings them to the attention of a broader public.

The Dangerous Chemicals Safety Award itself was given to the Purchasing Association of the Decorative Painters in Luebeck, Germany (MALEG) for the development of a dangerous chemicals management system as a service to their members.

#### **Background Information on DBE**

If the aim is to improve safety at work, protect the environment and maintain product properties, then DBE<sup>®</sup> Dibasic Esters from DuPont are a good alternative to traditional solvents. The high flash point and the comprehensive toxicity testing of DBE<sup>®</sup> allow a high level of safety: DBE<sup>®</sup> is classified as "non-hazardous" according to all EU criteria. In many cases the high solubility power of DBE<sup>®</sup> leads to improved product properties and this is often in combination with a reduced amount of solvent needed.

If drop-in replacement is not possible - because the solubility properties of pure DBE<sup>®</sup> are too different - its re-formulation with other safe solvents will usually lead to a reduction of the risk potential and easier handling.

The primary refined ester product is designated DBE<sup>®</sup>, containing the di-methyl esters of glutaric, succinic and adipic acid. These are acids which are present in nature, helping to make DBE<sup>®</sup> readily biodegradable. DBE<sup>®</sup> is produced from dibasic acids, manufactured at DuPont's adipic acid plants (adipic acid is one key-intermediate for the production of nylon polyamides). DBE<sup>®</sup> can be fractionated into three mixtures of two components and the three pure esters. DBE<sup>®</sup> and its fractions are readily soluble in alcohols, ketones, ethers and most hydrocarbons, but are only slightly soluble in water and higher paraffinic hydrocarbons. If improvement of environmental protection, safety at the working place and product properties are desired, DBE<sup>®</sup> is a good alternative to traditional solvents like methylene-chloride or acetone and toluene to name only a few.

DBE<sup>®</sup> is a trademark from INVISTA Technologies S.a.r.l.

Koch Industries Inc. acquired INVISTA, formerly DuPont Textiles & Interiors on April 30, 2004.