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BRENNTAG NORTH AMERICA ANNOUNCES NEW COLLABORATION WITH UMICORE SPECIALTY MATERIALS BRUGGE NV FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF POLYURETHANE AND POLYESTER CATALYSTS

Brenntag North America, Inc., part of the Brenntag Group, announces a new collaboration with Umicore for the distribution of polyurethane and polyester catalysts in the United States and Canada.

Brenntag North America has been appointed as the exclusive distributor for two Umicore product lines:

- Valirex catalysts for Unsaturated Polyester Resins (UPR)
- Valikat® catalysts for Polyurethanes (PU)

Umicore's manufacturing and R&D is in Bruges, Belgium, and supplies catalysts for a variety of industries including paints and coatings, inks, adhesives, sealants, elastomers, insulating materials, PU flexible foam, artificial stone, and gelcoats.

"The Umicore UPR & PU catalyst product lines are an exciting addition to our ACES (Adhesives, Coatings, Elastomers, Sealants) portfolio," said Ted Davlantes, ACES Director for Brenntag North America.

"Distributing these products in North America will enable our team of technical sales professionals to meet the demands of new product development and the challenges of new regulations. By incorporating Umicore's catalyst line, Brenntag continues to show commitment to investing in key strategic principal collaborations and providing differentiated value to our customers."

New catalysts include:

- Valirex Co: accelerators for UPR based on cobalt, available in concentrations between 1 and 21%, and a variety of solvents such as white spirit, xylene, TXIB, and DINP
- Valirex K15 DEG: booster for cobalt accelerators in UPR
- Valirex Cu 8 D60: exotherm peak reducer for UPR curing
- Valikat Bi, Valikat Zn and Valikat ZB: catalysts based on bismuth and zinc for polyurethanes, replacing tin and mercury-based catalysts, which are available in multiple concentrations
- Valikat DCC: delayed cure catalysts for polyurethane, mimicking the effect of mercury

"Umicore has realized a tremendous growth in its sales of catalysts for PU and UPR within the past five years, taking clear market leadership in its product range in Europe. It is a logical step to expand our geographical footprint toward North America, and we believe Brenntag is the best possible collaborator to make a success story out of it," says Jensen Verhelle, Business Line Manager Carboxylates at Umicore.

About Brenntag:

Brenntag, the global market leader in chemical distribution, covers all major markets with its extensive product and service portfolio. Headquartered in Essen, Germany, the company operates a global network with more than 530 locations in 74 countries and a global workforce of more than 16,000 employees. In 2017, the company generated sales of EUR 11.7 billion (USD 13.3 billion). Brenntag connects chemical manufacturers and chemical users. The company supports its customers and suppliers with tailor-made distribution solutions for industrial and specialty chemicals. With over 10,000 products and a world-class supplier base, Brenntag offers one-stop-shop solutions to around 185,000 customers. This includes specific application technology, an extensive technical support and value-added services such as just-in-time delivery, product mixing, formulation, repackaging, inventory management and drum return handling. Long-standing experience and local excellence in the individual countries characterize the global market leader for chemical distribution.

More information on Brenntag North America, please visit <https://www.brenntag.com/north-america>.

About Umicore Specialty Materials:

The history of Umicore goes back more than 100 years, starting with the amalgamation of several mining and smelting companies, which gradually evolved into the materials technology and recycling company Umicore is today. Today Umicore is a global materials technology and recycling group, with about 10,000 employees and a turnover of €12.3 billion.

For more information on Umicore Specialty Materials, please visit www.umicore.com.

Valikat® is a registered trademark of Umicore Specialty Materials Brugge NV.

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