
Innovation happens naturally,
ask Sekisui S-Lec
chemelot
The chemical innovation community

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Sekisui S-Lec is part of the Japanese Sekisui Group, an organization with a global workforce of over 30,000. This in turn is part of Sekisui Chemical Co. Ltd., a producer of a wide range of plastic products for industrial applications and consumer products. After an extensive search across Europe to find a suitable open site, Sekisui S-Lec decided to locate its new ER100 plant at Chemelot. Production is expected to start here by the end of 2006. Managing Director Sirt Mellema commented, “Chemelot’s professional and extensive infrastructure was the decisive factor. But from the very beginning the DSM people, headed by former director Just Fransen van de Putte, certainly helped to persuade us to build a plant on the Chemelot site. They made full use of their interpersonal skills, knowing that the more spiritually-oriented Japanese set great store by strong personal contacts, even when doing business.”

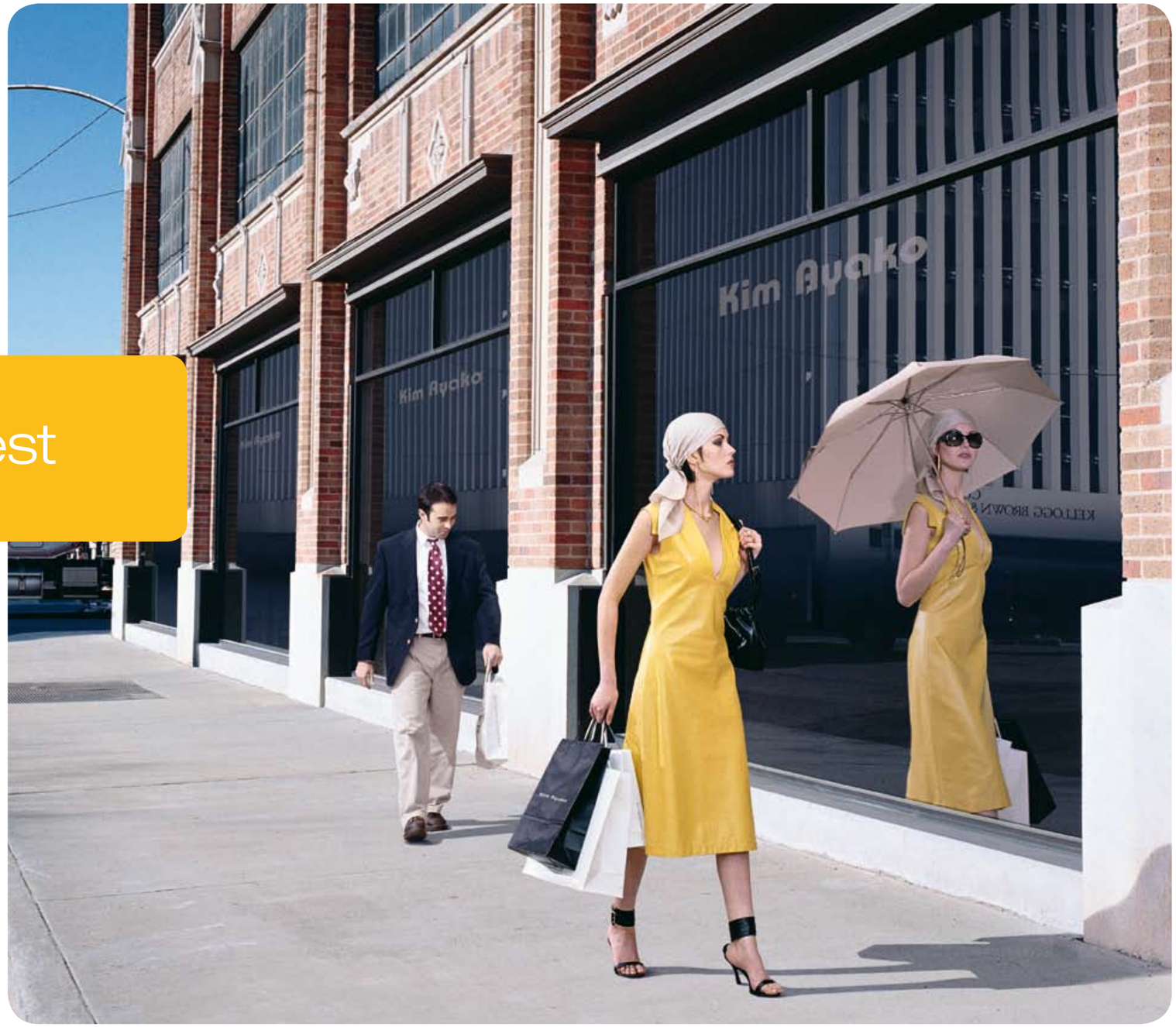
PVB, developed here

At Chemelot Sekisui S-Lec produces the resin raw material, introduced back in 1958 by Sekisui Chemical, for its successful polyvinyl butyral (PVB) film. This interlayer film is used in laminated (safety) glass for the automotive industry and in various applications in the construction sector. The company currently holds a 30% of the world market in the automotive sector, and 12% in the construction sector. Innovation and financial growth are key business objectives, and in this respect, Chemelot also plays a large role. In the past, the resin raw material was shipped from Kyoto in Japan to Sekisui S-Lec's Dutch plant in Roermond. By re-locating to Chemelot, Sekisui S-Lec was able to slash transport costs and eliminate any risks associated with exchange rates. To avoid investment risks, the company also makes use of Chemelot's analytical lab for specific research purposes and, where necessary, buys chemicals from DSM.

Best in class, acknowledged globally

As a Japanese company, Sekisui S-Lec are renown for their excellent technology, high-quality production methods and 100% customer focus. But comfort, safety and the environment are also key in all the activities that the company undertakes. The Japanese philosophy of strong building and development phases, coupled with a long-term commitment to customers, is also a major weapon in its struggle for market share. The number of competitors in this field is limited and Sekisui S-Lec, together with its major players like DuPont and Solutia in the United States and Kuraray in Japan, serve 98% of the total PVB market.

Trusted by the best



In the automotive industry, there is clearly a leaning towards using more glass. Based at the Chemelot site, with all its excellent facilities, it's a trend that Sekisui S-Lec has been more than able to respond to. Of course, safety and protection are of primary importance, and that is why one of the physical properties of the PVB developed by Sekisui S-Lec is so important. The PVB adheres to smooth surfaces, so that if glass is shattered in a vehicle, the shards cling to the film, thus reducing the risk of injury. Sekisui S-Lec is also constantly looking for added value for its customers by introducing new properties into its high performance films. For instance, the S-Lec® SCF film absorbs 40% of harmful infrared radiation from the sun and the S-Lec® SAF film provides significantly improved acoustic protection. Just two of the reasons why some of the world's leading car manufacturers and architects choose Sekisui S-Lec. What's more, because Chemelot is centrally located within Europe, it is also possible for Sekisui S-Lec to cooperate with companies in the direct vicinity.

Sekisui S-Lec is now working on…

The company is currently working on providing improved acoustic protection and very powerful infrared protection. By constantly developing new generations of PVB that centre on the themes of comfort, safety and environment, the company hopes to maintain a future focus. By researching social developments and trends over many years the aim is to create PVB that reflects the social requirements for generations to come. “The Japanese word sekisui can be freely translated as bundled force of water”, Managing Director Sirt Mellema explains, “Therefore we were happy to join forces with Chemelot, a move that has already given us quite some momentum.”

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