

LANXESS signs marketing and distribution cooperation agreement with filtration membranes and system manufacturer Polymem

- **Liquid Purification Technologies business unit now also sells modules for ultrafiltration**
- **Range of services for water treatment further expanded**
- **Polymem to market Lewabrane RO membrane elements in France**

Cologne – The Liquid Purification Technologies (LPT) business unit of the specialty chemicals group LANXESS, one of the leading suppliers of products and solutions for water treatment, has entered into a cooperation agreement with French company Polymem SA, Toulouse. One of the world’s leading manufacturers of high-quality ultrafiltration membranes and systems for drinking-water and wastewater applications will be the distribution partner of LANXESS in France for the Lewabrane reverse osmosis membrane elements.. Starting on July 1, 2018, LANXESS will commence worldwide distribution of the Gigamem ultrafiltration modules range from Polymem featuring Neophil hollow fiber membranes. This adds ultrafiltration (UF) to the existing LANXESS range of water-treatment technologies.

“We are gaining a product portfolio that ideally complements our ion exchange resins and reverse osmosis membrane elements for water treatment. After all, around one third of all newly built reverse osmosis plants have upstream ultrafiltration – and the trend is rising. This results in valuable synergy effects,” says Jean-Marc Vesselle, head of the LPT business unit. Ultrafiltration will soon be integrated as a new module in LANXESS’s LewaPlus design software.

Jean-Michel Espenan, Co-Founder and CEO of Polymem SA, says: “We are very proud that the Liquid Purification Technologies business unit of LANXESS has chosen Polymem as a partner for the worldwide distribution of our ultrafiltration membranes. At the same

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time, we will be distributing high quality Lewabrane reverse osmosis membranes in France, a natural complement to our range of membranes and ultrafiltration systems. It is a high-value, win-win partnership in this fast-growing membrane market for water treatment.”

Ultrafiltration is the ideal preliminary stage of reverse osmosis

Ultrafiltration clarifies and disinfects water in one step. It is an alternative to conventional filtration in water purification, with a significant improvement in the effectiveness of the treatment, independent of the quality of the treated raw water and without the addition of chemicals.

Ultrafiltration often replaces other conventional treatment techniques and microfiltration, as it can eliminate not only small particles but also pathogenic germs such as microorganisms, viruses, pyrogens, and some dissolved organic species. It enables the treatment of water with up to 300 mg/l suspended matter (TSS) in pressure-filtration operation and up to 15 g/l in suction operation (membrane bioreactors).

Espenan emphasizes: “Our Gigamem UF modules are characterized by their high processing capacities. The UF240, for example, is the largest module available on the market and is of unmatched compactness. It combines all the advantages of filtration modules in terms of pressure filtration, high flow rate, easy maintenance and online integrity testing. These modules can be equipped with our hydrophilic Polysulfone membranes or our new durable hydrophilic PVDF Neophil membranes, all NSF61 approved”.

New trading partner for LPT in France

Founded in 1997 and based in Toulouse, France, Polymem specializes in the development and production of membranes based on hollow fibers and membrane processes. The company

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manufactures filtration membranes and modules for water, wastewater, and liquid treatment in municipal, industrial, commercial, and private sectors. “Due to their experience in the field of membrane technology and their efforts to promote the use of membrane technologies worldwide, Polymem is an ideal distribution partner for us for the distribution of Lewabrane in France,” says Vesselle.

The Liquid Purification Technologies (LPT) business unit

The LPT business unit is part of LANXESS’s Performance Chemicals segment, which achieved sales of EUR 1.44 billion in 2017.

LPT offers a comprehensive range of tailored ion exchange resins and RO membrane elements for a wide variety of applications in water-treatment. For detailed information, visit <http://lpt.lanxess.com>.

LANXESS is a leading specialty chemicals company with sales of EUR 9.7 billion in 2017 and about 19,200 employees in 25 countries. The company is currently represented at 74 production sites worldwide. The core business of LANXESS is the development, manufacturing and marketing of chemical intermediates, additives, specialty chemicals and plastics. Through ARLANXEO, the joint venture with Saudi Aramco, LANXESS is also a leading supplier of synthetic rubber. LANXESS is listed in the leading sustainability indices Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI World and Europe) and FTSE4Good.

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Information for editors:

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News Release

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Polymem, French independent SME located in the Toulouse area, established in 1997 by two engineers specializing in hollow fiber membranes for water treatment, manufactures water filtration membranes and modules for municipal, industrial and commercial markets. With over 250 installations worldwide, the company's know-how for the sector's OEMs and distributors relies on a comprehensive range of both standard and customized filtration membranes and modules in order to design reliable and cost-competitive membrane systems.

For detailed information, visit <https://www.polymem.fr/en/>

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Jean-Marc Vesselle, head of LANXESS's Liquid Purification Technologies business unit, and Jean-Michel Espenan, Co-Founder and CEO of Polymem SA, after signing the cooperation agreement.
Photo: LANXESS AG



The picture shows a water treatment plant with three pressure pipes for reverse osmosis membrane elements (right) and two ultrafiltration (UF) modules of the type Gigamem UF 240 (left). The technologies complement each other perfectly, as around a third of all newly built reverse osmosis systems have upstream ultrafiltration. Photo: Polymem SA



The Lewabrane line of reverse osmosis membrane elements that LANXESS offers for water treatment boast a long service life, a good permeate yield, effective salt rejection and low energy requirements.
Photo: LANXESS AG

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