

PRESS RELEASE

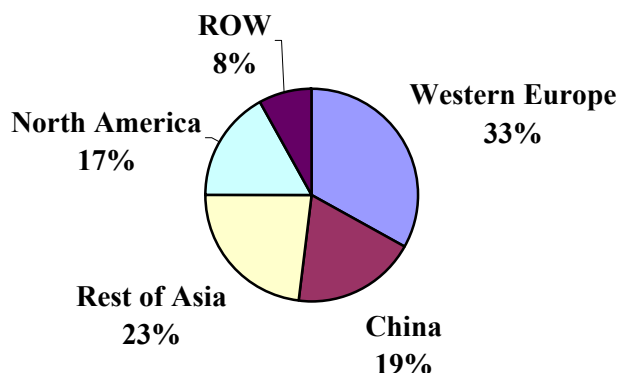
AN OVERVIEW OF THE GLOBAL MARKET FOR ALIPHATIC POLYESTER POLYOLS

World production capacity for aliphatic polyester polyols stood at almost 963,000 tonnes in 2001, according to the new 2nd Edition of *An Overview of the Global Market for Aliphatic Polyester Polyols*, now available from IAL Consultants.

- The Asia-Pacific region is the largest regional producer and consumer of aliphatic polyester polyols and offers considerable growth, especially in China, where growth is forecast at nearly 7.5% pa.
- Europe is the second-largest producer and consumer and divides between the more mature Western market (forecast growth of 1.5% pa) and the much smaller Eastern European market (forecast growth of 3% pa). A similar picture prevails when considering the smaller markets of the Americas, with South America offering better growth than North America.
- Total aliphatic polyester polyol consumption stood at nearly 902,000 tonnes in 2001 and with overall annual growth of 4.1% is expected to reach 1,103,470 tonnes by 2006. An increase in production capacity is needed.

Overall consumption follows this pattern:

Global Consumption of Aliphatic Polyester Polyols (2001)



Source: IAL Consultants

The elastomer and coating industries are the two largest consumers of aliphatic polyester polyols.

- Consumption of aliphatic polyester polyols in the elastomer industry continues to show particularly good growth in the Asia-Pacific region but this will be limited by a

number of factors, including the rise of polyether polyols, shortages of other raw materials and the consolidation in China in the wake of its entry to the WTO

- In the coatings sector, the rise of acrylic technology will detract from polyurethane coating use in some areas but Eastern Europe and China offer good prospects as manufacturers reduce their exposure to the maturity of the Western European markets.

“The global aliphatic polyester polyol market still offers growth potential in terms of both volume and profit for many producers. Their precursors are relatively low cost, production straightforward and the versatility of these polyols make them attractive in the higher value added markets of the polyurethane CASE sectors” says Angela Austin, Associate Director, IAL Consultants.

An Overview of the Global Market for Aliphatic Polyester Polyols covers the following regions:-

- Western Europe
- Central & Eastern Europe
- North & South America
- Asia Pacific
- Middle East & Africa

Consumption is analysed in each of the following sectors:

- Flexible Polyester Slabstock Foam
- Elastomers
- Paints and Coatings
- Adhesives and Sealants
- Synthetic Leather

Containing in its 156 pages some 68 tables, *An Overview of the Global Market for Aliphatic Polyester Polyols* is now available from IAL Consultants for \$1,200. Its full contents are as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Executive Summary and Forecasts
3. Global Production of Polyester Polyols
4. Global Consumption of Polyester Polyols
5. Directory of Major Global Producers of Polyester Polyols
6. Sources of Information

For further information, or to purchase this report, please contact:

Mrs Cathy Galbraith,

IAL Consultants,

109 Uxbridge Road

Ealing, London W5 5TL

UNITED KINGDOM

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8832 7780

Fax: +44 (0) 20 8566 4931

Email: ial@brg.co.uk

Website: www.ialconsultants.com