Johnson Matthey’s latest ATR technology licence underway after Methanex reaches final investment decision for Geismar 3 plant

London, UK, Sept. 10, 2019 -- Johnson Matthey (JM), a global leader in sustainable technologies, announces today that it has been awarded the methanol plant license for Methanex Corporation’s Geismar 3 plant, incorporating the world’s largest standalone ATR in the methanol marketplace. In mid-July, the Methanex Board of Directors reached a final investment decision to construct a 1.8 million tonne methanol plant in Geismar, Louisiana adjacent to its existing Geismar 1 and Geismar 2 facilities. Johnson Matthey was awarded the contract to supply the licence for the ATR (autothermal reformer) methanol technology flowsheet, including associated basic engineering, proprietary equipment and catalyst supply. Construction on the $1.3 – 1.4 billion plant will begin later this year with operations targeted for the second half of 2022.

When Geismar 3 operations commence, this will become the eighth Methanex plant in operation to use JM-licensed methanol technology and the second to use a JM ATR, a testament to the operational reliability and flexibility of JM’s portfolio and ATR technology. JM’s world scale methanol generation technology has been licensed for more than four decades with over 90 plant licenses granted in that time. JM’s syngas-generation technology options include steam methane reforming, combined reforming, ATR and gas-heated reforming, allowing for a tailored approach unique to each customer’s particular methanol project requirements.

"We are delighted to be selected as technology supplier by Methanex yet again, demonstrating our ability to deliver a bespoke flowsheet to suit our customers’ requirements. We look forward to closely supporting the project through the engineering, construction, commissioning and start-up phases and into ongoing operation,” said John Gordon, Managing Director, Johnson Matthey.

About Johnson Matthey ATR Technology

JM’s ATR technology is a well proven reactor where natural gas and oxygen and, optionally, the product from the primary reformer, are mixed in a proprietary device. The mixed gas combests and then reforms over JM’s KATALCO™ catalyst bed to provide low methane-containing syngas. The gas and oxygen are well mixed at the burner and combustion is completed well before the catalyst bed, so the gas is at a very uniform temperature across the ATR and there is no danger of over-heating the catalyst. JM’s ATR burner has no need for cooling to maintain mechanical integrity, and no complex nozzles or swirlers that can become blocked and cause premature failure. Customers benefit from high methane conversion, low maintenance, and no catalyst movement or significant pressure drop increase.

KATALCO is a trademark of the Johnson Matthey group of companies.

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Johnson Matthey is a global leader in science that enables a cleaner and healthier world. With over 200 years of sustained commitment to innovation and technological breakthroughs, we improve the performance, function and safety of our customers’ products. Our science has a global impact in areas such as low emission transport, pharmaceuticals, chemical processing and making the most efficient use of the planet’s natural resources. Today more than 14,500 Johnson Matthey professionals collaborate with our network of customers and partners to make a real difference to the world around us. For more information, visit www.matthey.com.
For more information, please contact:

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