Johnson Matthey technology chosen to produce sustainable methanol for Perstorp Group’s Project Air

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- Project Air – Perstorp Group’s industrial initiative in Sweden – will create one of the first large-scale sustainable methanol plants
- It will reduce CO₂ emissions by 500,000 tonnes per year, which is equal to the annual emissions of around 340,000 new cars running on fossil fuel
- Johnson Matthey will provide the methanol license and engineering services to produce 200,000 tonnes of sustainable methanol per year

Johnson Matthey (JM), a global leader in sustainable technologies, has been selected to provide the methanol license and engineering services for Perstorp Group’s ground-breaking Project Air in Stenungsund, Sweden.

The initiative – which will substitute all the fossil methanol used by Perstorp in Europe as raw material for chemical products with sustainable methanol – is expected to be fully operational by 2026 and is a cooperation between Perstorp and Uniper.

The new plant will operate a first-of-a-kind Carbon Capture Utilisation (CCU) process at an industrial level – converting carbon dioxide emissions from Perstorp’s operations, together with biogas and renewable hydrogen to create sustainable methanol.

Methanol is an important building block in chemistry. It is used in the production of chemical intermediates like formaldehyde, acetic acid, and olefins, which are then used to manufacture everyday products – such as furniture, cars, buildings, cleaning agents, glass, paint, animal feed, and electronics.

The project has received €97 million funding from the European Union Innovation Fund which supports green technology projects in the EU, and approximately €30 million from the Swedish Energy Agency.

Alberto Giovanzana, Managing Director of Catalyst Technologies at Johnson Matthey said: “The chemical industry has often depended on fossil-based raw materials to produce products. Moving away from fossil feedstock at the beginning of the value chain is crucial to reduce the overall carbon footprint of end products.”
“Project Air demonstrates how JM’s Low Carbon Solutions technologies can create more sustainable chemicals on a large-scale, significantly reducing the environmental impact of manufacturing.”

Håkan Kihlberg, VP Strategic Projects at Perstorp said: “We are happy to take this next step towards realising Project Air together with Johnson Matthey technology. This is not only important for us and our journey towards climate neutrality but will also help reduce the carbon footprint of thousands of end products. We hope that it will inspire the chemical industry to find innovative ways of reducing fossil dependence.”

Using CCU to help our customers convert their waste streams into products is aligned with JM’s new strategy, utilising our syngas expertise to help our customers reduce CO₂ emissions from their existing operations.

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About Johnson Matthey

Johnson Matthey is a global leader in sustainable technologies, catalysing the net zero transition. 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, energy, chemical processing and making the most efficient use of the planet’s natural resources. Today, about 13,000 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

About Perstorp Group

Perstorp believes in improving everyday life – making it safer, more convenient, and more environmentally sound for billions of people all over the world. As a world leading specialty chemicals company, our innovations provide essential properties for products used every day and everywhere. You’ll find us all the way from your car and mobile phone to towering wind turbines and the local dairy farm. Simply put, we work to make good products even better, with a clear sustainability agenda.

Founded in Sweden in 1881, Perstorp’s focused innovation builds on 140 years of experience, representing a complete chain of solutions in organic chemistry, process technology and application development. Perstorp has approximately 1,500 employees and manufacturing units in Asia, Europe and North America. Sales in 2021 amounted to 13.5 billion SEK. Perstorp is a wholly-owned subsidiary of PETRONAS Chemicals Group Berhad (PCG), Malaysia’s leading integrated chemicals provider and part of PETRONAS Group.
Learn more at www.perstorp.com

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