

News Release



BASF co-sponsored innovative diploma course yields first graduates at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University

- **Contribution addresses the critical scarce-skills needs of the chemical processing industry**
- **BASF remains committed to supporting the upliftment of science, mathematics and engineering programmes**

Port Elizabeth, April 19, 2016 - BASF South Africa joins the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's InnoVenton Institute in celebrating the recent graduation of students who were part of the first intake of the Diploma in Chemical Process Technology – a pioneering course that was tailor-made to meet the critical scarce-skills needs in the South African chemical processing industry. Fourteen diplomates have successfully completed the course, 10 of whom have already secured jobs in various industries.

In 2010, BASF, along with partner companies in the chemical industry, namely PetroSA, Umicore Catalyst SA, and Heraeus South Africa, played an integral role in the development of an industry-specific programme, which sees the chemical process industry's skills being uplifted. Skills gaps in the chemical-related qualifications on offer were identified, and, together with the InnoVenton team, this group of industry leaders developed a 3-year National Diploma in Chemical Process Technology (CPT). The course, which is the only one of its kind in South Africa, was launched in 2013. It was developed in close collaboration with international experts, based on a competency profile for a chemical process technician.

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The diploma programme sees process operators and controller technicians being equipped to not only control a process plant but also to support chemical and process engineers in various design and problem solving projects. The development stage of this qualification took three years to plan and gain all the necessary approvals through the higher education qualification structures.

Since the establishment of the CPT in 2013, BASF has sponsored a number of bursaries for students studying towards the diploma. In the founding year, BASF provided two bursaries, while 2015 saw nine students being supported by the company. Industry support extends further to on-site visits by the students to help them gain a hands-on understanding of the practical application of their studies.

BASF South Africa's Port Elizabeth Mobile Emissions Catalysts Site Director, Paul Allday, said that developing future engineers and scientists is crucial for the success of the chemical industry: "At BASF we are firmly committed to supporting the upliftment of science, mathematics and engineering programmes that will ultimately support the sustainability of our industry. We are proud to have been involved with InnoVenton over the years," he said.

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About BASF in Africa

At BASF – we create chemistry and have been doing so in Africa for over 90 years. African operations are divided into four country clusters, with headquarters in Midrand, South Africa for Southern Africa; Nairobi, Kenya for East Africa; Lagos, Nigeria for West Africa and Morocco for North-West Africa. BASF employs around 1600 people in Africa. Since 2016, the BASF African headquarters is based in Nairobi, Kenya. Further information: www.basf.co.za, www.facebook.com/BASF.Africa and on Twitter @BASF_Africa

BASF in Southern Africa

BASF was established in South Africa, which is the hub into Sub-Saharan Africa, 50 years ago. Headquartered in Midrand, Johannesburg, the BASF Group in South Africa consists of five companies with main locations in Johannesburg, Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. BASF has five productions sites, including a world-class automotive emissions catalysts production site in Port Elizabeth and a dispersions production plant located in Durban, which is producing and exporting acrylic dispersions. Other sites include a construction chemicals production site in Westonaria and an industrial coatings site in Vanderbijlpark. Since 2013 BASF Agricultural Specialities, former Becker-Underwood, situated in Durban, forms also part of the South African business profile. BASF has a staff complement of around 1000 people in South Africa. In 2015 BASF Zambia Ltd, a sales organization, with focus on the agriculture and mining business, was inaugurated in Lusaka, Zambia

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. The approximately 112,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into five segments: Chemicals, Performance Products, Functional Materials & Solutions, Agricultural Solutions and Oil & Gas. BASF generated sales of more than €70 billion in 2015. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information at www.basf.com