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PPE: Polyester & Intermediates Market Dynamics

Polyester & Intermediates 2013 is one in a series of reports published annually as part of the Petroleum and Petrochemical Economics program.

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the polyester chain including:

- Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA)
- Dimethyl Terephthalate (DMT)
- Ethylene Oxide (EO)
- Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG)
- PET Melt Phase
- PET Bottle Grade

Note: para-Xylene, which is the main raw material for PTA and DMT is covered separately in the Aromatics Report

Published: December 2013

Abstract:

2013 saw a recovery in demand in global demand for most products, although the PET resin market remained stagnant in some developed regions. Capacity additions in PTA, PET resin and PET fibre however greatly outweigh underlying consumption growth, creating intense competitive pressure and forcing the ongoing closure of laggard capacity.

The PTA market has become the most severely oversupplied part of the PET value chain, having captured most of the value of the cotton/fibre boom in 2011. The massive development of capacity has been focused in China and has largely been as back integration by the major downstream operators. As PET resin and fibre producers in other regions also pursue cost savings through integration with PTA, the share of merchant supply is declining. Several million tons per year of older export-based capacity remains under threat in areas such as Europe and Asia.

The global PET industry remains dominated by the fibre sector, although film is having a noticeable effect in some regions. The spike in cotton prices in 2011 became a major influence on the PET fibre market. The cotton effect was relatively neutral during 2013, but there is concern over potential inventory dumping in the latter part of 2014 which could undermine demand for PET fibre. The severe oversupply of PTA in Asia has served as an enabler for Asian fibre exporters, putting further pressure on the remaining producers in other regions.

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Each product chapter is segmented by key region and further segmented into three principle areas:

- Consumption: Assesses historic and forecast consumption; forecasts are based on projections of end-use and economic activity in each region.
- Supply: Includes a list of all producers, their production capacity, location, etc., and discussion of the status of new projects.
- Supply, Demand and Trade: Provides historical analysis and forecasts to 2030 of consumption, production, imports/exports, inventory build-up/decline, capacity and capacity utilisation for each region.

This analysis will identify the issues shaping the industry, as well as provide an independent appraisal of the market.

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