

Kraton joins Together for Sustainability



Suzanne Pesgens

The American company Kraton joined TFS in May 2020, bringing the total TFS membership to 26 multinational chemical companies, jointly representing €424bn in global turnover (total revenue) and €282bn in global spend. TFS Communications interviewed Suzanne Pesgens, CPO of Kraton, on her expectations and how she sees Kraton contributing to the TFS initiative. With Kraton fully focused on accelerating environmental and social improvements, Ms Pesgens believes TFS is the platform where chemical companies can collaborate more effectively across the industry. As TFS allows cross-reads of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scorecards, she anticipates that the resulting efficiency gains will enable Kraton to focus more and more on continuous improvement and corrective action plans (CAPs). This will lead to a more effective Responsible Procurement programme. In addition, Kraton considers TFS to be the ideal platform to shape the future and image of the chemical industry!

Q: First, on behalf of the TFS membership, we wish you a very warm welcome to the TFS initiative. Before we discuss your expectations, can you briefly describe your company?

A: Kraton develops, manufactures and markets bio-based chemicals and speciality polymers that deliver exceptional value and enhance the lives of people all over the world. As a leading global producer of styrenic block copolymers (SBC) and pine chemicals, we manufacture high-performance materials that differentiate our customers' products and meet multi-market needs. Our global footprint, reliable supply, extensive expertise and integrated portfolio of high-quality products enable our customers to push the boundaries of performance to power the future of innovation.

Q: How do you feel as a brand new TFS member? What does it mean to become a TFS member?

A: Kraton is proud to join Together for Sustainability. As a leading global

supplier of styrenic block copolymers and pine chemicals, we aspire to make a positive difference. Kraton's alignment with TFS enables us to more effectively collaborate across the industry – from our suppliers to our customers – to accelerate environmental and social improvements.

Q: Can you describe your approach to sustainable supply chain and procurement?

A: Specifically, in the last two years we have directed our efforts to sustainability of supplier management. The heart of our supplier management process is a re-iterative process of supplier performance evaluation and improvement. We focus on our key supplier base to keep this process manageable from a resource perspective while still ensuring it is effective. The EcoVadis platform and CSR scorecards are being used to assess supplier performance. This year we will start to develop action plans for suppliers in certain sections of our portfolio.

Q: What drove you to take the decision to join TFS and why TFS in particular?

A: To be successful delivering on our commitment to drive sustainability improvements across supply chains, we realised we would need partners that think alike. We believe that TFS is the right platform to fill this need: TFS hosts 26 reputable, multinational chemical companies representing more than US\$460bn in total revenue and US\$306bn in spend, that have consistently shown their commitment to sustainability over the years.

Q: What does your company expect to gain from the TFS membership and how do you see the mid-to long term benefits from TFS membership?

A: Sustainability is integral to achieving our vision of becoming an admired Fortune 500 speciality chemical company that delivers exceptional value to shareholders, customers and employees. As a new member of TFS, we expect to benefit from best practice sharing amongst the member companies. Despite having been awarded with a gold medal by EcoVadis recently, we realise we have a world of opportunity ahead of us!

At Kraton, we are committed to safe and sustainable operations. Our programme "Responsible Procurement: Making a Positive Difference" aims at accelerating environmental and social improvements across our supply chain in collaboration with our key partners. Through its partner EcoVadis, TFS provides member companies to cross-read supplier CSR score cards. We expect significant efficiency gains as a result of this data sharing initiative. As a result, we expect to be able to dedicate our resources more and more to supplier corrective action planning following the principle of continuous improvement, which will improve the effectiveness of our Responsible Procurement Program.

Last but not least, TFS consists of companies in the chemical industry that take sustainability seriously, so collectively we have the power to shape the future and image of the chemical industry! This is imperative, as more and more stakeholders are looking to businesses to address environmental, social and economic issues.

Q: Which challenges and opportunities do you anticipate encountering when rolling-out TFS in your organisation?

A: Sustainability in business is often described as a journey. It is fair to say that the road can be curvy at times. To make this journey a successful one, we felt it would be necessary to find a way to make the meaning of sustainability tangible and relevant to our employees. In short: Truly embed sustainability in our organisation. We figured that aligning our sustainability strategy and actions with our business priorities would do just that. Therefore, we focus on sustainability creating value by contributing to our ability to grow, improve productivity and reduce risk. A few examples illustrate our approach aimed at involving each layer and discipline in our organisation.

On growth: For a speciality company this means growth through innovation. Our R&D

team focuses on developing sustainable customer solutions that enable the bio economy (through our pine chemicals portfolio) and connect the circular economy (through our styrenic block copolymers offering). Related to improved productivity, we strive towards ensuring optimal use of plant capacities, increasing resource efficiency and lowering emissions and waste. Reducing risk is a key part of, amongst others, our Responsible Procurement Policy.

Q: Where do you see your company contributing to the Tfs initiative, also taking your sustainability expertise into account?

A: As a new member, we will be able to look at Tfs discussion topics with a fresh pair

of eyes and contribute accordingly. We will actively take part in strategic discussions on Tfs growth and impact. In addition, we feel we will be a valuable addition to teams working on topics relevant to the society as a whole, such as the circular economy for example.

Q: To conclude this interview, do you have any closing remarks?

A: We are proud being part of Tfs now, especially as we achieved it through a cross-functional approach touching each layer of the organisation. We take this recognition as tangible evidence of our commitment to sustainability!

www.kraton.com

www.tfs-initiative.com

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Clariant's additive solutions add more than just a finishing touch to North America's industrial coatings

Clariant has unveiled solutions fit for elevating industrial coatings to the demanding performance and increasing sustainability requirements of North America's diverse end-users – the automotive, transportation, building & construction and consumer & household goods industries.

Delivering innovations in key areas, such as light stability and durability, fire resistance, waterborne and low VOC coatings and higher solid solventborne coatings, the latest additions to Clariant's portfolio equip local manufacturers to make the most of opportunities in the globally growing industrial coatings market.

Longer fire resistance time for sustainable steel constructions:

Steel is North America's most recycled material, gaining in popularity for commercial and industrial buildings and infrastructure due to its strength, durability, versatility and 100% recyclability^{1,2}. Clariant now offers manufacturers of intumescent, fire-protective steel coatings the chance to take their products' sustainability and protection performance a step further.

New halogen-free flame retardant

Exolit® AP 418 (TP) helps solvent-based intumescent coatings for steel structures to reach up to 10% longer fire resistance time compared to conventional solutions. Clariant's EcoTain®-labelled flame retardant has a favourable environmental and health profile, making no contribution to a solvent-based coating's VOC emissions.

Clariant has also introduced a new solution for water-based intumescent coatings, to sustainably improve the negative impact of cold weather exposure during shipping and storage. Halogen-free Exolit AP 435 prolongs shelf life, keeping the coating



fluid and workable for longer by preventing paints from either drying out quickly in their pail or becoming unusable due to increased stiffness. The EcoTain-labelled innovation supports a greater use of waterborne coatings and reduces the environmental impact of intumescent coatings.

Extending service life of protective coatings

On the back of positive development of the US-based^{3,4} automotive manufacturing announced in 2019, Clariant is supporting producers of paints and clear coats for metal and plastics automotive components by offering solutions aimed at extending the service life of coatings. The synergistic high-performance light stabiliser solution AddWorks® LXR™ 313 contributes to an increased durability of waterborne and solvent-based clear and pigmented coatings. Formulated without xylene, it extends its benefits from automotive to general industrial applications. AddWorks LXR 313 enables coating formulators to develop new solutions for today's modern coating systems where light and heat stabilisation are key requirements.

PTFE waxes compliant with upcoming PFOA ban⁵

Based on the persistency of PFOA, the

European parliament decided to ban PTFE substances that contain PFOA in a concentration equal to or above 25 parts/bn (g/1000t) with reference to entry 68 of Annex XVII of REACH. The effective date was July 4, 2020 and exemptions that are currently under discussion will only be temporary.

Conforming with this new REACH regulation⁶, Clariant is introducing its new Ceridust® 3942 F TP and Ceridust 3943 F TP to give its customers more options to select REACH compliant PTFE wax solutions. These new micronised PTFE modified polyethylene wax additives enable powder coatings with a fine and homogeneous textured structure and a matte finish. The new solutions show excellent properties in terms of mar resistance, dirt repellence and anti-slip performance. The need for PFOA REACH-compliant PTFE waxes can also be observed for other coating and also ink applications.

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References

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- "Entry 68" of Annex XVII to REACH requires sophisticated analytical techniques. We have used a scientifically sound, reliable measurement method and PFOA could not be detected (detection limit of the analytical method <2 ppb).