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Global Suppliers Remain Optimistic for 2025 Despite Emerging Trade Tensions

According to Taulia's 10th annual Supplier Survey, conducted between November 7 and 29, 2024, 85% of international suppliers expressed optimism about their business prospects for 2025. This marks a significant increase from 2022, when only 18% were "very optimistic." Despite concerns over potential trade wars and protectionist policies, over half of the surveyed businesses are focusing on growth and adapting to changing market conditions. Additionally, 63% showed increased interest in early payment options to ensure consistent cash flow, up from 56% five years ago. Key areas of focus for these businesses include artificial intelligence (28%) and addressing inflation (27%).

Source: Supply Chain Brain

WE Soda's Acquisition of Genesis Alkali Positions It as World's Leading Natural Soda Ash Producer

WE Soda, a UK-based soda ash producer, has acquired Genesis Alkali, a US-based company, elevating WE Soda to the position of the world's largest producer of natural soda ash, surpassing Solvay. This strategic move is expected to enhance WE Soda's production capacity and market reach in the soda ash industry.

Source: CEN.ACS

Vietnam Slashes Import Tariffs on U.S. Goods Amid Looming Trade Tensions

In a strategic move to mitigate potential U.S. tariffs, Vietnam has announced significant reductions in import duties on various American products. The tariff on liquefied natural gas (LNG) will decrease from 5% to 2%, automobiles will see a reduction from a range of 45%-64% to 32%, and ethanol tariffs will drop from 10% to 5%. Additionally, duties on ethane will be eliminated, and tariffs on items like chicken thighs, almonds, apples, cherries, and wooden products will be lowered.

Source: ICIS

MGC and JFE Steel to Launch CO₂ Recycling Pilot for Methanol Production

Japanese companies Mitsubishi Gas Chemical (MGC) and JFE Steel have announced a pilot project to produce methanol by recycling carbon dioxide (CO₂), including emissions from JFE's steel production. Scheduled to commence in the 2026 fiscal year, the project involves constructing a 100-ton-per-year methanol

Investigation Reveals Harmful Chemicals in Face Creams

A recent investigation by the Danish Consumer Council THINK Chemicals has uncovered the presence of harmful substances, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and suspected endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs), in various face creams. PFAS, known as "forever chemicals," are highly

plant in Japan's Mizushima industrial complex. The methanol produced will be supplied to Mitsubishi Chemical for propylene production, a key component in plastics manufacturing.

Source: Argus Media

persistent in the environment and have been linked to health issues such as cancer, immune system disruption, and reduced fertility. EDCs can interfere with hormonal systems, potentially leading to reproductive problems and developmental disorders.

Source: Chem Trust

Upcoming Events

The **ILMA Annual Meeting** is scheduled on **October 4-7, 2025** in Beach Club at The Boca Raton, Boca Raton, FL.

The **Chemical Summit** is scheduled on **Sept 30-Oct 1, 2025** in Houston Texas.

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