

## EDITION 170

### January 28, 2026

### USA Rare Earth to Power Europe's Rare-Earth Supply Chain with New Metal & Alloy Plant in France!

USA Rare Earth, through its subsidiary Less Common Metals (LCM) Europe SAS, has unveiled plans to build a 3,750-metric-ton-per-year rare earth metal and alloy production facility in Lacq, France — a strategic move to strengthen rare-earth processing capacity in Europe. The new plant will be co-located with Carester SAS's 1,600 mtpa Caremag oxide processing facility, creating a more integrated rare earth value chain for processing, metal production and alloy manufacturing on the continent. The project is supported by French government incentives, including direct tax credits under the C3IV program, and aims to enhance supply chain resilience for high-tech and clean-energy applications.

#### Key Points:

- Facility capacity: 3,750 mt per year of rare earth metals and alloys.
- Co-location with Caremag oxide processing plant, boosting end-to-end capabilities.
- French government backing via substantial tax credits and support measures.
- Part of broader efforts to reduce reliance on China for critical minerals supply.

*Source: ICN*

### MAK Germany Shifts Major PTA & PET Production from Rotterdam to Oman in \$550M Deal

German chemicals producer MAK Germany has signed agreements to relocate its purified terephthalic acid (PTA) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) production capacity from the Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands to a new integrated complex at Sohar Port and Freezone in Oman. The project, valued at about \$550 million, will be developed by MAK Germany's subsidiaries and is supported by a long-term feedstock supply deal with Oman's state-owned energy group OQ. The new facilities are expected to have a combined capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per year and will serve markets in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Europe, leveraging Sohar's integrated logistics and port infrastructure.

### Genentech Bets Big on U.S. Biomanufacturing with \$2 Billion North Carolina Expansion

Genentech, the U.S. arm of Roche, has announced it will more than double its investment in a new biomanufacturing facility in Holly Springs, North Carolina, taking the total to around \$2 billion. The expanded investment builds on its earlier \$700+ million commitment announced in May 2025 and follows the project's groundbreaking in August 2025. The facility, expected to be operational by 2029, will significantly expand production capacity and focus on next-generation treatments for metabolic diseases, including obesity. By using advanced biomanufacturing, automation, and digital technologies, Genentech aims to improve efficiency, sustainability, and strengthen its U.S.-based supply chain.

## India & EU Seal Landmark 'Mother of All' Free Trade Deal After Nearly 20 Years!

India and the European Union (EU) are very close to concluding negotiations on a historic Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that will create a vast free-trade area covering about 2 billion consumers and a significant share of global GDP after nearly two decades of talks. The deal is being called the "mother of all trade deals" due to its scale and strategic importance. It will dramatically lower or eliminate tariffs on most goods traded between India and the EU, boosting exports of textiles, chemicals, gems and jewellery, and giving European companies better access to the Indian market. Formal signing is expected after legal vetting over the next few months, with implementation likely within a year. The pact reflects closer economic ties and comes as both sides seek to diversify trade amid global protectionist pressures.

Source: Chemical Industry Digest

## Winter Storm Fern Sends Major Delivery Delays Across U.S. Parcel Networks!

Winter Storm Fern has disrupted delivery operations for major U.S. carriers, including FedEx, UPS and the U.S. Postal Service, as heavy snow, ice and extreme cold hammers transportation networks. UPS has warned that over 3,000 ZIP codes across states like Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Indiana may see no pickup or delivery services on affected days, and its air hub in Louisville, Kentucky is facing weather-related disruptions. FedEx issued a national service disruption alert, cautioning that packages due for delivery may be delayed throughout the week despite contingency plans at key hubs in Memphis, Tennessee and Indianapolis.

Source: Supply Chain Dive

## Zydus Launches World's First Nivolumab Biosimilar in India to Make Cancer Immunotherapy More Affordable

India's Zydus Lifesciences has introduced Tishtha, the world's first biosimilar of the cancer immunotherapy drug nivolumab, in the Indian market. Nivolumab is a key treatment used against several types of cancer. The new biosimilar is priced significantly lower than the original drug, potentially improving access for many patients who previously faced high costs for advanced immunotherapy. The launch follows important regulatory and legal developments that cleared the way for this biosimilar's entry ahead of the reference drug's patent expiry. This marks a major milestone for cancer care in India and underscores Zydus's growing strength in biosimilar oncology treatments.

Source: Chemical Industry Digest

## Vioneo Shifts Its First Big MTP Plant From Europe to China to Tap Green Methanol Supply!

Chemical start-up Vioneo has decided to move its planned 300,000 t/yr methanol-to-polymers (MTP) production plant from Europe to China, prioritizing proximity to green methanol feedstock to make pricing more competitive and speed up market entry. The China facility — using the same technology partners and producing 200,000 t/yr of polypropylene and 100,000 t/yr of polyethylene — is expected to start operations in 2029-30. Vioneo's original plan was to build the plant in Antwerp, Belgium, as part of Europe's first large-scale fossil-free plastics complex based on green methanol, but challenges including feedstock supply and cost conditions influenced the shift.

Source: Argus Media

Series #1

## Everyday Products x Hidden Ingredients



### Citric Acid

Adds tangy flavors and preserves by lowering pH.

#### 🍊 Ingredient Spotlight: Citric Acid (CAS 77-92-9)

A widely used ingredient across food, beverages, syrups, skincare, and pharmaceuticals.

Key Uses:

- Juices & soft drinks
- Jams, syrups & confectionery
- Skincare & personal care
- Pharma formulations
- Preservative & pH adjuster

Why it matters:

- Adds tangy flavor
- Enhances shelf stability
- Controls pH
- Improves overall product performance

APAC's Role:

- We source and export food, cosmetic & pharma-grade Citric Acid from trusted Asian manufacturers
- Full documentation support: COA, SDS, TDS, ISO/GMP

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