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Shrieve Expands Specialty Chemicals Portfolio with Dual Acquisitions in US & UK

Shrieve Chemical Company acquired Vertec BioSolvents in Chicago and FIS Chemicals Ltd. in Aberdeen to strengthen its specialty chemicals portfolio.

The deals enhance Shrieve's capabilities in sustainable solvents and high-performance industrial solutions while expanding its reach across key sectors like oil & gas, renewables, and industrial markets globally.

Source: *CHEManager*

Taiwan Crisis Could Trigger a Far Greater Global Economic Shock Than Hormuz Disruption

The ongoing disruption in the Strait of Hormuz highlights how vulnerable global supply chains are, but a crisis involving Taiwan would have far more severe economic consequences. Taiwan's central role in semiconductor production makes it irreplaceable, and any blockade or conflict could cause a major global downturn. Experts warn that such a scenario could shrink global GDP significantly, urging Europe to accelerate contingency planning and strengthen cooperation with Taiwan.

Source: *Chatham House*

BASF Expands Global Aroma Ingredient Capacity with New Integrated Plants in Germany and China

BASF has commissioned world-scale menthol and linalool plants in Ludwigshafen and a citral facility in Zhanjiang, strengthening its global aroma ingredients value chain. The integration leverages Verbund efficiencies to enhance supply reliability and meet rising demand in fragrance, flavor, and pharma markets. Commercial production began in April 2026, alongside new job creation and improved regional supply capabilities.

Source: *BASF*

Key Distribution & Warehouse Trends Shaping Competitiveness in 2026

In 2026, distributors face rising expectations for same-day delivery and detailed order data, while dealing with labor shortages and margin pressure. To stay competitive, companies are adopting automation, smarter warehouse systems, and phased digital transformation. Success

Strait of Hormuz Shutdown Triggers Severe Chemical Supply Crisis

The Iran conflict and closure of the Strait of Hormuz have caused the most severe disruption to the chemical industry since 1979, sharply restricting exports and driving up costs. With key ports like Jebel Ali impacted and limited alternatives, companies are operating at a fraction of

depends on balancing speed, cost, and workforce efficiency through practical technology adoption.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

capacity, facing rising inflation, weakened demand, and prolonged post-war recovery timelines.

Source: ICIS

Brenntag Secures Exclusive Global Deal with Shinehigh for Advanced Beauty Actives

Brenntag has signed an exclusive global distribution agreement with Shinehigh to supply advanced functional active ingredients for beauty and personal care.

The partnership leverages Shinehigh's supramolecular technology to enhance ingredient performance and skin penetration, covering key markets including North America, Europe, India, and parts of Latin America and Asia.

Source: Brenntag

US Deploys Naval Escorts in Hormuz as Iran Pushes Back, Raising Oil Market Concerns

The US has launched "Project Freedom" to escort commercial vessels through the Strait of Hormuz amid ongoing disruptions, while Iran claims it is resisting US naval presence. Military tensions and reported incidents have slowed shipping, especially impacting crude oil flows and driving volatility in energy markets. Despite escorts, shipowners remain cautious, weighing safety risks against commercial needs.

Source: ICIS

From Efficiency to Ecosystems: Why AI Is Forcing a Supply Chain Reset

CEOs are betting on AI to drive growth, but most admit their current operating models aren't ready for an AI-led future. The real opportunity lies beyond internal efficiency—AI enables supply chains to evolve into partner ecosystems that unlock shared growth and resilience. Success will depend on combining AI-driven coordination with strong leadership, relationship-building, and an outside-in mindset.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

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