

EDITION 137

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FDA Approves First New Sunscreen UV Filter in 30 Years

The U.S. FDA has approved bemotrizinol (BEMT), the first new sunscreen UV filter authorized since 1996. Widely used in Europe for decades, BEMT offers broad-spectrum UVA/UVB protection, greater photostability, and minimal skin absorption, paving the way for more advanced sunscreen formulations in the U.S. market.

Source: C&EN

Brenntag Navigates Major Supply Chain Disruption Amid Strategic Reorganization

Brenntag's new CEO, Jens Birgersson, said the company's simplified organizational structure enabled rapid decision-making and supply continuity during the Iran conflict and Strait of Hormuz disruption, one of the most significant shocks to global chemical supply chains in recent history.

Source: ICIS

Chemical Industry Consolidation: Olin Acquires Huntsman in \$2.43 Billion Deal

Olin will acquire Huntsman in a \$2.43 billion all-stock deal, creating a \$12+ billion chemicals company and unlocking over \$400 million in synergies. The transaction highlights the growing importance of scale, integration, and cost optimization in today's challenging chemicals market.

Source: Reuters

Strait of Hormuz Reopening Fails to Restore Shipping Confidence

Despite a planned US-Iran agreement to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, shipping data shows vessel traffic remains largely unchanged as operators await clarity on transit fees, security conditions, and mine-clearing timelines. Ongoing uncertainty is keeping shipping lines cautious, prolonging

EU Considers Mandatory Supply Chain Diversification for Critical Industries

The European Commission is evaluating legislation that could require companies in critical sectors to source key materials from at least three suppliers, reducing dependence on single-source countries such as China. The proposal aims to strengthen supply chain resilience against geopolitical

supply chain risks for global energy, chemical, and commodity markets.

Source: ICIS

disruptions, export restrictions, and shortages of critical raw materials, with potential guidance expected from EU leaders later this month.

Source: Reuters

EU Finalizes Landmark U.S. Trade Agreement

The European Parliament has approved the implementation of the EU–U.S. trade agreement, paving the way for the removal of EU tariffs on industrial goods and expanded market access for selected U.S. agricultural and seafood products. The deal aims to stabilize transatlantic trade relations while including safeguards that allow the EU to respond if the U.S. exceeds agreed tariff limits or alters trade commitments.

Source: Supply Chain Dive

Turning Data into a Competitive Advantage in Distribution

With nearly 90% of distributors questioning whether their current strategies can keep pace with rapid market changes, the ability to consolidate and trust business data is becoming a critical differentiator. Companies that excel in volatile environments are those that leverage real-time, cross-functional visibility, build contingency plans around live data, and proactively respond to disruptions before they escalate.

Source: Supply Chain Brain

EC Clears Carlyle–BASF Coatings Deal Subject to Aerospace Raw Material Divestiture

The European Commission has approved Carlyle’s acquisition of a 60% stake in BASF’s coatings business, but requires the divestment of Nouryon’s polysulfides business to address competition concerns. Regulators feared that common ownership could give BASF preferential access to a key aerospace sealant raw material, potentially disadvantaging competing sealant manufacturers.

Source: C&EN

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