

OLEON NV

Foundation

- Foundation: Oleon and Novance lead the European oleochemistry market with a joint capacity of over 500 000 metric tons of renewable products (fatty acids, esters, glycerol, etc...); subsidiaries of the Sofiprotéol Group

Turnover

- 600 million €

Employees

- 700

Branches

- 6 industrial sites
- Oleon and Novance specialize on complementary activities
- Novance handles research, innovation, and development for high value-added products
- Oleon produces and commercializes the group's broad range of renewable products through its global commercial and industrial network.

Key materials

- Vegetable and animal oils

Key bio-based products

- Radia® range: esters, glycerine, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, dimer acids, technical oils, biodiesel, specialty oleochemical



Company

Novance and Oleon are part of the Sofiprotéol Group, formed in 1983 at the initiative of the French federation of oilseed and protein crop producers and today a major agri-food group in France.

The Group's strategy involves maintaining a balanced presence in key fields related to nutrition and the environment: human and animal nutrition, renewable energy and renewable chemistry development.

Novance and Oleon are the two subsidiaries of the Sofiprotéol group specialized in renewable chemistry: as two major players among the leading European companies in this sector of activity, these two companies develop and market over 500,000 tons of vegetable oil-based chemical products, providing solutions which combine technological performance, safety-of-use and eco-friendly standards for industrial applications and end consumers.

Novance and Oleon offer a wide range of renewable products which can be used as alternatives to conventional petroleum-based products: solvents, resins, lubricants, surfactants, emulsifiers, plasticizers, chemical intermediates...

Material

RADIA® OLEOCHEMICALS

The production of the Radia® range is an integrated operation from natural fats and oils derived fatty acids, fatty alcohols and glycerin to their derivatives, specialties and performance chemicals. Governments and industry are today increasingly aware of the combination of technical performance, of lack of toxicity and of environmental protection provided by the use of oleochemicals.

Products

FATTY ACIDS AND ESTERS AS PERFORMANCE ADDITIVES FOR POLYMER APPLICATIONS

The use of relatively small quantities of these additives improve the processability of the polymer as well as the performance of the end product. The demand for plastic products increases constantly.

There are several applications of oleochemicals in plastics. Typical applications for fatty acids, metal stearates or esters are:

- Lubricants (both internal and external) reduce friction in process equipments
- Antistatic agents avoid the building up of electric charges
- Antifogging agents prevent formation of water droplets in film applications
- Plasticizers change the "brittleness" of a polymer
- Stabilizers, dispersers and viscosity regulators





Radia® and Radiesur® esters can be “engineered” to meet the most diverse application requirements. For example they can be made with a well-defined melting point, polarity or surface tension.

BASE OLEOCHEMICALS AS BUILDING BLOCKS FOR POLYMER SYNTHESIS

■ BASE OLEOCHEMICALS DIMERS

The specific hydrophobic properties of the dimer fatty acid, make it a unique molecule in polymer synthesis. Dimers are used in polyamide resins (hot-melt adhesives and inks), in polyurethanes for surface coatings (coating of metal coils) and epoxy resins, as dimer alcohols in polyesters or for the production of corrosion inhibitors, etc.

■ BASE OLEOCHEMICALS GLYCERIN

The applications of natural glycerin are based on a unique combination of properties: it is a colorless and odorless hygroscopic, non-toxic and non-irritant viscous liquid with a plasticizing and lubricating activity. Glycerin is a major raw material for the manufacture of polyether polyols, which are reacted with polyisocyanates to produce polyurethane foams.

■ BIO-BASED POLYOLS

Polyurethane foams, coating, adhesives, sealants and elastomers can also be made from renewable sources. A wide range of bio-based polyols are already available to meet customer requirements in the most demanding applications, including flexible foams (mattress, pillows, car seats...) and rigid foams (insulation).

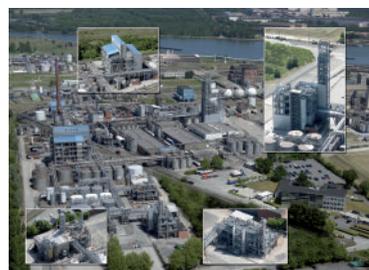
SAFE TO USE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

Oleochemical products developed by Oleon present the inherent advantages of their feedstock, natural fats and oils: non-toxic, non-irritating, biodegradable and environmentally friendly in general. The W.G.K. (Wassergefährdungsklasse) of all fatty esters produced by Oleon is between 0 and 1.

The harmlessness of oleochemicals also ensures that they are extremely well suitable for each step of the manufacture of plastics that come into contact with food.

R&D CENTER

The R&D center is based in Compiègne, France; it employs about 60 researchers and technicians to develop solutions meeting customers' requirements and in partnership with a strong network of public and private partners. The oleochemicals business unit benefits from the Sofiprotéol Group's upstream integration ensuring steady supply of raw materials and competitiveness of the marketed solutions.



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