

Newsflash - April 2020



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Dear Business Partner,

First of all we hope you all can stay safe and keep away from Covid-19 !

Everybody is struggling with the question "What impact has Covid-19 on chemicals?" . Clearly we don't have more answers than anybody else but we have tried to give our view on some trends we see in the markets now that April negotiations have moved along.

There are 2 clear trends in the chemical industry with regards to impact from Covid-19. Some molecules are extremely tight (isopropanol, ethanol) or show very strong demand (caustic soda, ...) due to increased hand washing practices. On the other hand the closure of automotive plants has a big impact on the demand for many molecules and indirectly also on chemicals used for metal working and parts manufacturing in general. We have tried to give some indication in the sections below describing the various molecules.

There seems to be no other news any more than updates on the number of people

April 2020

- Crude oil prices – Corona versus Opec+
- Ethylene and propylene take a big fall in April
- MEG & DEG resisting the price pressure
- MPG prices are historically low
- Acetone – once more short but for how long
- Methanol prices keeps being depressed by lack of fuel consumption
- VAM pricing stronger than acetic acid
- Oxo-alcohols and acrylates
- Caustic soda prices trend upwards due to plant shutdowns
- Interesting numbers to compare
- Is water worth an investment?