Market Insights: Polyisobutylene - 2020 is one in a series of reports published as part of Nexant Energy & Chemicals Advisory Markets & Profitability program.

NexantECA’s upcoming Market Insights report provides a comprehensive review of the global polyisobutylene market, and is segmented by:

- Low molecular weight conventional-polyisobutylene (Low MW C-PIB)
- Medium/high molecular weight conventional-polyisobutylene (Medium/High MW C-PIB)
- Highly reactive-polyisobutylene (HR-PIB)

The report includes:

- Discussion regarding key market drivers and constraints for each region
- Supply, demand trade for nine regions: North America, South America, Western Europe, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, and China
- Competitiveness analysis, including competitive landscape, who’s who of suppliers and cost competitiveness
- Price forecasts with commentary regarding latest trends
- Forecast period: 10 years history and 15 year forecast to 2035

Along with the written report, data is provided in Excel including global capacity listings.

Published: August 2020

Report Abstract:

Polyisobutylene (PIB) are a class of polymers/oligomers of various molecular weights. PIB is typically produced by the polymerization of high purity isobutylene or high concentration isobutylene. Product properties and grades are controlled by feed purity, catalyst type and concentration, and reaction temperature.

Conventional PIB grades occupied close to 60 percent of the market. Lubricant additive is the key end-use for conventional PIBs, though its share in overall conventional PIB demand is much lower than that for HR-PIB.

North America and Western Europe are the largest consumers of PIB, with mature value chains. PIB demand is driven by the development of automotive, construction, pharmaceuticals and consumer sectors that are all associated with economic growth. PIB finds growing demand in adhesives and sealants owing to its tackiness and stability, which makes it ideal for various hot melt pressure sensitive adhesives. Additionally, moisture resistance, high degree of elongation and good adhesion properties to multiple substrates make it useful for sealants.

Operating rates have been relatively low as various end-use demand forecast such as C-PIB replacing brightstock and increasing demand of fuel and lubricants has not materialised.

Operating rates have been gradually improving despite new capacity coming online mainly in the Asia Pacific (excluding China) region, as growing local demand quickly absorbed the new supply within the region. In the near term, no major new capacity addition is expected which will support higher operating rates. Longer term, additional speculative capacity is expected.

For more information contact us at Markets@Nexant.com or www.NexantECA.com
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Each region section in Chapter 3 includes:
- Market Overview
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For related reports, please refer to:
- Market Analytics: Butadiene and Derivatives
- Profitability and Price Forecast: Butadiene
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The Markets and Profitability program tracks over 60 feedstocks, petrochemicals, polymers, chemical intermediates and fertilizers on an ongoing basis and provides regularly updated reports covering all commercial aspects of these global industries. The accompanying database, provides global analysis and forecasts in two major inter-related areas: Markets and Profitability.

NexantECA serves its clients from over 30 offices located throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Americas
Tel: +1 914 609 0300
44 S Broadway,
4th Floor White Plains
NY 10601-4425
USA

Europe, Middle East & Africa
Tel: +44 20 7950 1600
1 King’s Arms Yard
London EC2R 7AF
United Kingdom

Asia Pacific
Tel: +662 793 4600
22nd Floor, Rasa Tower I
555 Phahonyothin Road
Kwaeng Chatuchak
Khet Chatuchak
Bangkok 10900
Thailand

Contact Us
For more information:
Markets@Nexant.com
or
www.NexantECA.com

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