

Abstract – Dr. Martin Vollmer

“Forschung in der Spezialitätenchemie - Was ist daran so spannend”

“Research in Specialty Chemicals – why is it so exciting”

The world population is expected to grow to 10 billion people by 2050. This leads to an increasing demand for goods, services, and resources such as energy, water, nutrition and raw materials. But this situation causes a number of challenges. Without chemistry and sustainability initiatives, mankind would not be able to tackle these challenges.

The presentation will highlight several research areas where Clariant – a global leader in specialty chemicals – translates megatrends and market needs into new chemical concepts and finally new products and processes. Examples are new products boosting the efficiency and efficacy in crop protection to increase crop yields; new catalysts transforming certain green house gases into harmless substances; or chemical energy storage by converting carbon dioxide. Moreover, enzymes converting agricultural residues into second generation biofuels and bio-based chemicals will be presented. Clariant builds its research on four Technology Platforms: Chemistry & Materials, Biotechnology, Catalysis, and Process Technology. The intelligent combination of these platforms and the engagement of external collaboration partners are the keys to contribute to solutions for the most urgent problems of our times. And this makes research in specialty chemicals indeed exciting.

Clariant is a globally leading specialty chemicals company, based in Muttenz near Basel/Switzerland. The group owns more than 100 companies worldwide in over 60 countries with more than 200 production sites and a total workforce of 18 099 employees on December 31, 2013. In the financial year 2013, Clariant recorded sales of CHF 6.076 billion for its continuing businesses.

The company reports in four business areas: Care Chemicals, Catalysis & Energy, Natural Resources, and Plastics & Coatings. The “flagship” amongst Clariant’s R&D Centers is the newly inaugurated Clariant Innovation Center in Frankfurt (Germany) accommodating 500 employees, mainly chemists, engineers and technicians.