

## **Hanwha Chemical drops plans to acquire Dow Chemical's chlor-alkali business**

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South Korea-based Hanwha Chemical has shelved its plans to acquire Dow Chemical's chlor-alkali business.

A Hanwha Group spokesman was quoted by Reuters as saying that the company is no longer considering buying the Dow Chemical's unit.

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Hanwha expects the purchase of Samsung units to strengthen its petrochemicals and defense-related businesses.

Earlier this year, the company approached Credit Suisse to assist it on the planned acquisition of the US-based Dow Chemical firm's chlorine business; however, it then said that its interest was in the early stages.

The sale of chlorine operations is part of Dow Chemical's plan to dispose or spin-off commodity chemicals assets, valued at about \$4bn.

Dow Chemical announced plans earlier this year to sell its non-core assets by 2015 and raise as much as \$6bn through asset sales.

The company appointed Goldman Sachs and Barclays to advise it on the sale of the epoxy and chlorine businesses.

In November, private equity firm Golden Gate Capital agreed to buy Angus Chemical for more than \$1bn.

Dow also said it will reduce its stakes in the ME Global and Greater EQUATE joint ventures in Kuwait in line with its strategy to restructure its investments in certain assets.

The company increased its divestiture target to about \$8.5bn by mid-2016.