

**MEXICO'S ETILENO XXI TO BEGIN PRODUCING ETHYLENE SUNDAY, PE NEXT WEEK:
SOURCE**

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Mexico's Etileno XXI will begin producing on-spec ethylene on Sunday, Braskem-Idesa spokeswoman Yeraseth Bello said late Wednesday.

"We began feeding the cracker with ethane three days ago," Bello said. "We will start up a PE line next week."

The start-up is a combination of a project that was first conceived in 2008 and has a cost of \$5.2 billion.

Etileno XXI polyethylene production is expected to begin with HDPE injection resin, the first resin produced, with blow molding coming during the second set of start-ups. Low density production is expected to begin in the second half of April. In total, the project will include a 1 million mt/year of PE capacity.

A joint venture between Braskem (75%) and Mexico's Grupo Idesa (25%), Etileno XXI will focus on meeting Mexico's growing PE demand, with remaining output available for export, including to the US and South America.

XXI will be anchored by a 1 million mt/year ethylene capacity steam cracker and include 1 million mt/year of polyethylene capacity and will be the first new steam cracker built in North America in more than a decade.