

SABIC to see continued growth in Chinese polymers markets: Executive VP

Platts.com, 30th Apr 2018

SABIC's polymer business would see continued growth in China, amid a strong economic outlook, riding on continued growth in piping and the building and construction sectors, SABIC's executive vice president for petrochemicals Abdulrahman Al-Fageeh told S&P Global Platts at last week's ChinaPlas 2018.

Among the products that SABIC had identified as having the most potential for growth were polycarbonate and polyethylene.

"SABIC has already invested more than \$1.8 billion in the Chinese market, including compounding facilities and joint ventures with Chinese companies, and will continue to expand our business in China," Al-Fageeh said during an interview with S&P Global Platts.

Piping, as well as the building and construction sectors were SABIC's core segments in the Chinese polymers market, and Al-Fageeh saw continued growth in these sectors.

Al-Fageeh said that he considers China's drive for self-sufficiency as an opportunity for SABIC to be a local player in China. "SABIC is moving ahead with plans to build the world's largest polycarbonate plant in Tianjin, China, with affiliate Sinopec Sabic TianJin Petrochemical Company Limited (SSTPC), with a planned capacity of 260,000 mt of polycarbonate per year," Al-Fageeh said.

The new polycarbonate plant was expected to be operational by 2020.

In addition to PC, SABIC also planned to continue growing its polyethylene business in China.

It had showcased its NEXLENE process technology at ChinaPlas, which enabled the creation of specialty PE products to meet the increased demand for flexible packaging.

Al-Fageeh added that SABIC was also actively seeking other business opportunities in China.

"China is the key strategic market for SABIC's petrochemical business. Producing highly differentiated and value-added PE products for various applications will enhance our position as top PE supplier in the world," Al-Fageeh said.