LubriTec LUBRICATION TECHNOLOGIES

INTERNATIONAL EDITION

OEM/Lube News

Lube Related OEM News, Lube Industry Personnel Appointments, New Lube Blending and Base Oil Plants, Mergers & Acqusitions, and Other Corporate News

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IEA's Global EV Outlook Reports 54% Increase in Electric and Plug-In Hybrid Cars in 2017

The number of electric and plug-in hybrid cars on the world's roads exceeded 3 million in 2017, a 54% increase compared with 2016, according to the latest edition of the International Energy Agency's Global Electric Vehicles Outlook. China remained by far the largest electric car market in the world, selling nearly 580,000 electric cars in 2017, a 72% increase from the previous year. The United States had the second-highest, with about 280,000 cars sold in 2017, up from 160,000 in 2016. Germany and Japan also saw strong growth, with sales more than doubling in both countries from their 2016 levels. Nordic countries remain leaders in market share. Electric cars accounted for 39% of new car sales in Norway, making it the world leader in electric vehicle (EV) market share. In Iceland, new EV sales were 12% of the total while the share reached 6% in Sweden. Electric mobility is not limited to cars. In 2017, the stock of electric buses rose to 370,000 from 345,000 in 2016, and electric two-wheelers reached 250 million. The electrification of these modes of transport has been driven almost entirely by China, which accounts for more than 99% of both electric bus and two-wheeler stock, though registrations in Europe and India are also growing. Charging infrastructure is also keeping pace. In 2017, the number of private chargers at homes and workplaces was estimated at almost 3 million worldwide. In addition, there were about 430,000 publicly accessible chargers worldwide in 2017, a quarter of which were fast chargers. Fast chargers are especially important in densely populated cities and serve an essential role in boosting the appeal of EVs by enabling long-distance travel. According to the IEA, the growth of EVs has largely been driven by government policy, including public procurement programs, financial incentives reducing the cost of purchase of EVs, tightened fuel-economy standards and regulations on the emission of local pollutants, low- and zero-emission vehicle mandates and a variety of local measures, such as restrictions on the circulation of vehicles based on their pollutant emission performances. The rapid uptake of EVs has also been helped by progress made in recent years to improve the performance and reduce the costs of lithium-ion batteries. However, further battery cost reductions and performance improvements are essential to improve the appeal of EVs. These are achievable with a combination of improved chemistries, increased production scale and battery sizes, according to the report. Further improvements are possible with the transition to technologies beyond lithium-ion. Innovations in battery chemistry will also be needed to maintain growth as there are supply issues with core elements that make up lithium-ion batteries, such as nickel, lithium and cobalt. The supply of cobalt is particularly subject to risks as almost 60% of the global production of cobalt is currently concentrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Additionally, the capacity to refine and process raw cobalt is highly concentrated, with China controlling 90% of refining capacity. Even accounting for ongoing developments in battery chemistry, cobalt demand for EVs is expected to be between 10 and 25 times higher than current levels by 2030. The report notes that ensuring the increased uptake of EVs while meeting social and environmental sustainability goals requires the adoption and enforcement of minimum standards on labour and environmental conditions. The environmental sustainability of batteries also requires the improvement of end-of-life and material recycling processes. Looking forward, supportive policies and cost reductions are likely to lead to continued significant growth in the EV market. In the IEA's New Policies Scenario, which takes into account current and planned policies, the number of electric cars is projected to reach 125 million units by 2030. Should policy ambitions rise even further to meet climate goals and other sustainability targets, as in the EV30@30 Scenario, the number of electric cars on the road could be as high as 220 million in 2030.

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FUCHS Invests GBP 10 Million at Its UK HDQ

FUCHS is building a new warehouse at its UK headquarters, as part of an ongoing GBP 10 (USD 13.3) million investment, which will include a new raw materials facility built at the New Century Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, site, and the installation of new, innovative manufacturing plant machinery. In the last 12 months the company has opened a new state-of-the-art head quarters building and improvements to the Research and Development Technical Centre. The construction of the new 4,000-pallet warehouse will enable FUCHS to significantly increase its capacity for raw materials. The new raw materials warehouse will free off space allowing an existing building to become a specialist packaging area. The investment will see new machinery being installed in the factory which will include a robotic arm, automatic fill machine and a second “Lube Cube” machine to cope with the increasing demand for recyclable packaging. Further investment is being planned, including a second robotic arm, driverless forklifts and automation upgrade to the existing production line. “This is a hugely significant project which will have fantastic benefits for the business, It will elevate FUCHS Lubricants to a unique position as the only lubricant manufacturer in the UK with this type of facility, firmly placing us at the forefront in the R&D, manufacture and distribution of lubricants in the UK, and maintains our pledge to continually build for the future.” said Richard Halhead, managing director at FUCHS Lubricants (UK). “Our ambitious aim is to produce the most modern lubricants blending plant in the UK, and we feel this significant expenditure in our infrastructure will put us well on the road to achieving that,” said Halhead.

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ExxonMobil Lubricants India Partners with Cross Roads India to Provide Doorstep Vehicle Maintenance Service

ExxonMobil Lubricants Pvt Ltd, who manufactures and markets lubricants in India, has partnered with Cross Roads India Assistance Pvt Ltd. as the official and exclusive lubricant partner for their door step service offering periodic maintenance service. ‘Mobil Service on Wheels by Crossroads’ will cater to passenger car owners across various segments in the Delhi NCR region. The purpose of this programme is to provide value for money, reliable and convenient PMS to vehicle owners at their door step. Speaking on the partnership, Deepankar Banerjee, Chief Executive Officer of ExxonMobil’s lubricants business in India, said, “Whether on the race track or your daily commute to work, you can trust our engine oils to deliver – exceptionally and efficiently. With this association, ExxonMobil takes one more step to reach out to consumers and give them an opportunity to experience its superior quality and performance. Partnering with Crossroads- a known name in providing various automobile services in the market for over 15 years, will enable us to provide quality service to customers at the convenience of their doorstep.” This service is priced starting at Rs 2,499 and varies depending on the customers’ car and engine type. Customers can book this service with an online payment option through their phone, mobile application or via the portal by registering and selecting a slot of their choice, along with the frequency of the service required. Kapil Mittal, Director of Market Development – India for ExxonMobil Lubricants Pvt Ltd said, “Our association with Crossroads gives us the opportunity to offer the best in car maintenance service at the customers’ doorstep. Car owners can choose from our range of premium quality lubricants that come with an ‘ExxonMobil promise of performance and superior quality’ which our customers across the world continue to enjoy.” Be it periodic maintenance, oil change, car cleaning, or even tyres and battery checks, this service programme has a complete 20-point check list that ensures that customer's car is always in its best shape. Crossroads also provides 24 by 7 service at convenience of its users to resolve and redressal of all client needs, including regular reminders for service and auto alerts, says Crossroads.

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Petro-Canada PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46 Receives OEM Approval from Husky

Petro-Canada Lubricants Inc. (PCLI) announced that they have received OEM approval from Husky Injection Molding Systems for PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46, making PCLI the first supplier globally to provide both a food grade and non-food grade OEM approved hydraulic fluid, according to PCLI. PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46 surpassed the minimum 12 month field trial requirements and has been awarded Husky approval for use in its injection molding equipment globally. Petro-Canada Lubricants is the only supplier that can provide an H1 food grade fluid, PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46, along side HYDREX™ AW 46, PCLI's H2 non-food grade hydraulic fluid for plastic injection molding applications, stated PCLI. "With the reformulation of PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46 we have successfully advanced the performance of food grade lubricants to the next level," said Carrie Boschman, marketing category specialist, Petro-Canada Lubricants. "Alongside the wider PURITY FG product line, we are well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of our customer operations as the pressures to maintain the highest levels of performance and protection increase." The new PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46 is an advanced food grade lubricant proven to deliver extended service life of over 10,000 hrs without compromise. Tough enough to perform in both hot and cold temperatures and wet food processing environment, PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46 delivers excellent wear protection and extended drain capabilities, stated the company. Built for use across a wide range of challenging applications, such as rotary screw compressor, vacuum pump, pneumatic and hydraulic systems, PURITY FG Synthetic Fluid 46, according to PCLI, delivers outstanding oxidation stability that helps to reduce fluid degradation and prevent deposit build-up that often lead to operational issues, such as valve sticking and restricted oil flow. Petro-Canada Lubricants blends and packages more than 350 different lubricants, specialty fluids and greases that are exported to more than 80 countries on six continents. HollyFrontier Corporation, through its subsidiary, owns Petro-Canada Lubricants Inc., whose Mississauga, Ontario facility produces 15,600 barrels per day of base oils and other specialized lubricant products.

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SINOPEC to Go Overseas for Increased Sales

SINOPEC Lubricants last week said it will expand lubricant production, logistics and marketing channels for overseas sales, especially in Asia, where lubricant demand is growing and where lubricant quality is rising. The company said it will then gradually move to Europe and America, eventually forming a global market for production, logistics and sales of its lubricants. Organized by SINOPEC, the SINOPEC Lubricants International Partner Conference 2018 was held in Singapore on May 29, 2018. The conference, the company's second Asia-Pacific Regional conference, demonstrated the current status of SINOPEC's lubricant business development in the international market in recent years. More than 120 partners from more than 20 countries and regions in the Asia Pacific attended the meeting. During the conference, the participants visited the SINOPEC Lubricant (Singapore) Company Ltd. plant, SINOPEC's first overseas blending plant. Company officials pointed out the achievements of SINOPEC lubricants' brand strength, product technology development, marketing, and the company's future development plan for overseas markets. Mr. Kou Jianchao, Vice President of SINOPEC Lubricants Co., Ltd., attended the meeting and stated: "Since the 'Belt and Road Initiative' was proposed by the Chinese government in 2013, 1,676 Chinese-funded enterprises have begun construction in the Asia-Pacific region. Precisely that year, the construction of SINOPEC Lubricants Co., Ltd.'s Singapore plant was also completed and has commenced operation. In recent years, with the rapid transfer of Asian manufacturing to Southeast Asia and the vigorous development of infrastructure construction in the Asia Pacific region, the demand for lubricants in the Asia-Pacific region has been continuously increasing. The rapid increase in the demand for high-quality lubrication products will inevitably bring huge market opportunities for the business development of SINOPEC lubricants". The international quality of SINOPEC lubricants has become China's lubricant with "high-tech, high-quality" image, according to SINOPEC. The brand is China's largest automotive OEM supplier and industrial and mining enterprise lubrication service provider, the company said in a press release. As China has gradually become the center of global manufacturing, the rapid growth of overseas exports of "Made in China" machinery and equipment has created new opportunities for SINOPEC lubricants to enter the international market, the company stated. In the past ten years, the overseas lubricants sales volume of SINOPEC has grown from an initial annual sales of 14,000 tons in 2007 to 124,000 tons in 2017, and has achieved a growth of more than 20% for four consecutive years. Kou continued by stating that SINOPEC Lubricants Co., Ltd. will continue its efforts to promote the transition from "trading" to "marketing", and accelerating the deployment of lubricant production, logistics and sales systems for the internationalization of SINOPEC. According to Mr. Kou, SINOPEC is currently seeking to become a globally competitive transnational energy and chemical company, and SINOPEC lubricants, ranking fourth in the world, according to the company, will become an important part of its international marketing strategy. SINOPEC said it will rely on its strong overseas branches to continuously improve its overseas supply network. The laying of outlets will gradually move from Asia to Europe and America, eventually forming a global market for production, logistics and sales.

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