

## Press Release

Loos, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015

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# TESSENDERLO GROUP ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENT AT LOOS SITE

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**Tessenderlo Group will invest €50 million at its PC Loos (Produits Chimiques de Loos) site, part of the business unit Water Treatment. The bulk of the investment will be spent on the construction of a new membrane technology based production plant, to replace the existing mercury electrolysis. In conjunction with this investment, PC Loos is planning a re-entry by Q3 2015 into the potassium hydroxide market, in which the company again wants to play a crucial role.**

Tessenderlo Group is a leader in iron-based coagulants for waste water treatment plants in Western Europe, with production sites in France and Belgium. These products are used for waste water treatment and drinking water purification. It supplies hundreds of municipalities' purification plants (including major cities such as Paris, Brussels, Geneva, Lille, etc.), as well as major industrial players. PC Loos is currently the largest manufacturing site of water treatment coagulants in Europe.

### **Conversion from mercury electrolysis to membrane electrolysis**

The chlorine required for the production of these coagulants is currently manufactured using a process based on mercury electrolysis. However, current regulations impose the phase-out of this technology by the end of 2017. The Board of Directors of the Tessenderlo Group has approved an investment of €50 million to build a new membrane electrolysis unit in Loos. Start-up of the new plant is foreseen by early 2017.

### **Entry into the potassium hydroxide market**

After a few years of absence PC Loos will re-enter the market for potassium hydroxide, a product that is used for the production of bio-fuels, de-icing agents, fertilizers, and detergents. PC Loos will again play a leading role in this market, strengthened by its favourable strategic location and important internal needs for potassium hydroxide within the Tessenderlo Group.

### **Further development of the PC Loos site**

In addition to securing continuity for PC Loos current activities, this investment enables new opportunities for further development of the site.

*Tessenderlo Group is a worldwide specialty company, focused on food, agriculture, water management and on valorizing bio-residuals. The group employs about 4,800 people and is a leader in most of its markets, with a consolidated revenue of 1.4 billion EUR in 2014. Tessenderlo Chemie NV is listed on NYSE Eurolist by Euronext Brussels and is part of Next 150 and BEL Mid indices. Financial News wires: Bloomberg: TESB BB – Reuters: TesBt.BR – Datastream: B:Tes*

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This **press release** is available in **Dutch and English** on the corporate website [www.tessenderlogroup.com](http://www.tessenderlogroup.com) - under 'News & Media'