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| August 22, 2017  **Contact specialized press Friederike Roth**  Communications Manager  Coating Resins  Phone +49 6151 18-4132  friederike.roth@evonik.com |
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**Evonik Resource Efficiency GmbH**

Rellinghauser Straße 1-11

45128 Essen

Phone +49 201 177-01

Fax +49 201 177-3475

[www.evonik.](http://www.evonik.)com

**Executive Board**

Dr. Claus Rettig, Chairman

Dr. Johannes Ohmer,

Simone Hildmann,

Alexandra Schwarz

Registered Office: Essen

Register Court: Essen Local Court

Commercial Registry B 25783

VAT ID no. DE 815528487

**Evonik construction of a specialty copolyester plant in Witten is on schedule for start-up in early 2018**

Essen/Witten (Germany). Evonik Industries is building a new production plant for specialty copolyesters at its Witten site in Germany. As binders for paints, specialty copolyesters are used in coil coatings and, increasingly, in food can coatings. The company is investing a mid-double-digit million euro sum in the plant, which will have annual production capacity of several thousand metric tons.

The project is on track to reach mechanical completion by end of November 2017. Following the successful Mechanical Completion the commissioning phase will be commenced and commercial operation is planned to start in Q1/2018.

Polyester based coatings are perceived as a good alternative to substitute the standard epoxy based coating systems to ensure a bisphenol a free food packaging. Evonik has early on anticipated this trend and decided at the end of 2015 to invest in additional capacity to be well prepared to accompany further growth in this market.

Evonik is one of the world’s leading suppliers of polyesters for pre coated metals and reactive hot melts. The company has production facilities at its sites in Marl, Witten and Shanghai. Polyesters from the DYNAPOL® brand serve as binders for paints. In addition to coil coatings, they are also increasingly used for food can coatings well as in flexible packaging. Polyesters from the DYNACOLL® brand are used in reactive hot melts applications.

**Company information**

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The focus on more specialty businesses, customer-orientated innovative prowess and a trustful and performance-oriented corporate culture form the heart of Evonik’s corporate strategy. They are the lever for profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company. Evonik benefits specifically from its customer proximity and leading market positions. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world with more than 35,000 employees. In fiscal 2016, the enterprise generated sales of around €12.7 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.165 billion.

**About Resource Efficiency**

The Resource Efficiency segment is led by Evonik Resource Efficiency GmbH and supplies high performance materials for environmentally friendly as well as energy-efficient systems to the automotive, paints & coatings, adhesives, construction, and many other industries. This segment employed about 9,000 employees, and generated sales of around €4.5 billion in 2016.

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