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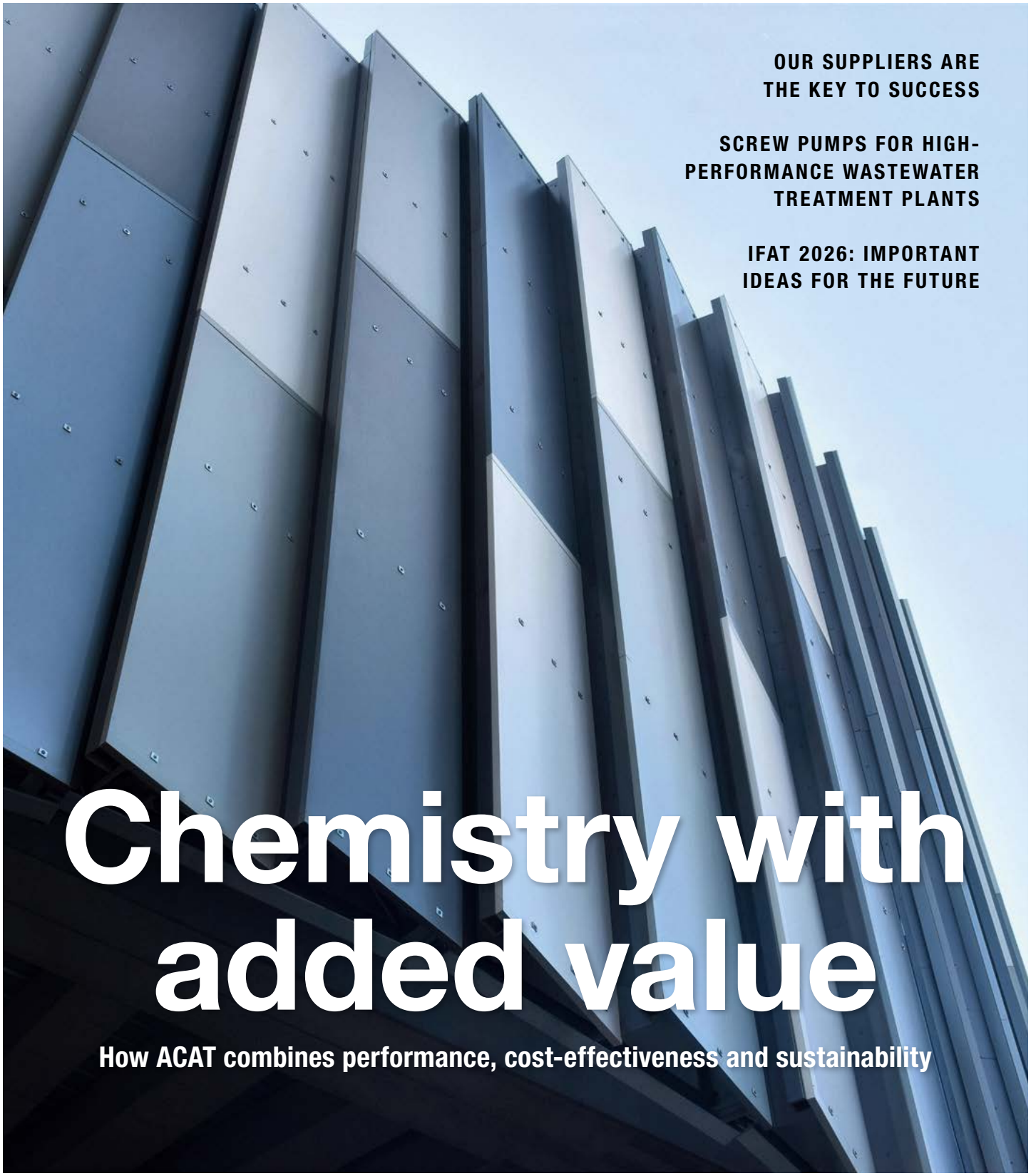

OUR SUPPLIERS ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS

SCREW PUMPS FOR HIGH-PERFORMANCE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

IFAT 2026: IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

Chemistry with added value

How ACAT combines performance, cost-effectiveness and sustainability

APPLIED CHEMICALS INTERNATIONAL GROUP / www.acat.com

Focusing on the best solutions for customers:
Alexander Frank, Head of the chemtech division

MÜNZING and ACAT: a long-standing success story

A Tyrolean wastewater treatment plant invested in durable, high-performance screw pumps.

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Per O. Bjöörn
CEO Applied Chemicals International Group

Dear readers,

In 2026, once again, it became clear why the IFAT is such a key event in our trade fair calendar: as the world's leading trade fair for environmental technologies, it provided the ideal platform to showcase our work. From solutions for the efficient treatment of wastewater to effective odour control: in Munich, we were able to present what we are working on and the direction in which we are heading.

At the same time, the IFAT thrives on dialogue. Discussions with customers and partner companies from a variety of sectors provide us with a clearer understanding of specific requirements, confirming where we are on the right track and where we can improve. You can read a review of the many impressions and encounters in this issue.

ACAT's mission is clear: we aim to provide our customers with the best possible solutions. To achieve this, we collaborate with the best suppliers. After all, the highest quality and most effective innovations can only be achieved through teamwork and equal partnerships. In this issue, we introduce some of these companies whose products we are privileged to distribute, in some cases exclusively, through our chemtech division. They exemplify how robust, long-term collaboration yields tangible benefits for our customers. I am particularly pleased that we have once again been able to expand our portfolio in a highly targeted manner this year. True to our motto: 'We grow together'

Best regards,

Yours Per O. Bjöörn

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“We grow alongside our customers”

Interview: ACAT

“One major advantage is the expert advice provided by the technical sales team. ACAT staff are highly trained in technical matters – in other words, they know what they’re talking about.”, says Alexander Frank, Division Manager ACAT chemtech

Solutions that take customers to the next level: Alexander Frank heads the chemtech division

Alexander Frank is the head of ACAT's chemtech division. The company's additives and speciality chemicals improve the effectiveness of paints and coatings, ensuring that building materials can be processed more easily, for example. Close collaboration with suppliers of these technologically sophisticated products, which ACAT often distributes exclusively, is key to this success. Customers from a variety of industries, including the paint and coatings industry, construction chemicals and the automotive sector, benefit from these partnerships and the extensive technical expertise of the chemtech team.

Which milestones have shaped chemtech's development over the past ten years?

ALEXANDER FRANK: One of the most significant milestones was undoubtedly the acquisition of Alpha Alpen, a highly successful Swiss company, in 2021. This acquisition has significantly strengthened our presence in the region. At the same time, we succeeded in expanding the sales territory of our long-standing partner, MÜNZING, to include Switzerland and Austria. Another highlight is our representation of Silysiamont: Initially responsible for Austria and Switzerland, we now manage this partnership in other parts of Central Europe too. Overall, the past few years have been characterised by growth, new partnerships and a consistent expansion of our market.

In which countries is ACAT chemtech currently active?

In addition to Switzerland and Austria, we are also present in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Moldova, Croatia and Slovenia. One of our major strengths is our local staff, who have an excellent understanding of both the markets and the respective cultures. Furthermore, our local presence enables us to reach our customers quickly.

What additional benefits do customers gain from working with ACAT chemtech?

One major advantage is the expert advice provided by the technical sales team. ACAT staff are highly trained in technical matters – in other words, they know what they're talking about. Direct contact with the suppliers' product development teams adds further value. We can offer solutions tailored to our customers' individual requirements. However, we go one step further and support customers with laboratory tests to help them choose the right product. This involves testing the proposed product so that customers can assess the effectiveness of the additives. What is particularly important to me is that, as a family-run business, we represent continuity. This is evident in our staff, many of whom have worked at ACAT for several decades, as well as in our long-term partnerships with our customers.

Keeping the goal firmly in sight: always staying one step ahead for our customers.

How has the product portfolio evolved in recent years? What trends do you currently see, and what do you foresee for the future?

One defining trend is undoubtedly the increasingly stringent regulatory requirements, which our in-house department monitors very closely. Our aim is not merely to react, but to stay one step ahead wherever possible. A good example is the development of PFAS-free solutions: We are actively seeking alternatives here and working closely with our suppliers to be able to offer viable products at an early stage.

At the same time, we are witnessing a clear shift in the raw materials used in many different areas of application.

In the paints and coatings industry in particular, the trend away from mineral oil-based products towards bio-based solutions has strengthened significantly. Accordingly, we have developed our portfolio in this direction specifically over the past few years.

How important is sustainability to ACAT chemtech?
Sustainability is a top priority for us. We have set up a dedicated department to address this issue systematically. As a medium-sized company, we believe it is our responsibility to take the lead in this area and help develop solutions. This applies not only to our product portfolio, but also to our own processes and sites. For instance, our plant construction facility in Scheibbs generates part of its own electricity requirements from solar energy. Such measures demonstrate that we are committed to implementing sustainability in practice within the company, rather than merely viewing it as a buzzword.

Which industries do your customers come from – and in which applications are the products used?
A large proportion of our customers are from the paints and coatings industry. This includes manufacturers of industrial coatings, wall paints, and wood preservatives, for example. Another key sector is construction chemicals, such as tile adhesives, plasters, and other construction chemical applications. We also supply customers in the adhesives industry and the corrosion protection sector. The automotive industry is also a key player, for example in the production of sound-damping materials and brake pads. Functional coatings are currently a particularly dynamic field. These involve highly specific and, in some cases, complex coating systems, particularly for packaging. The requirements for the coating vary considerably depending on whether a package is intended for yoghurt or biscuits, for instance.

Essentially, we grow alongside our customers and their technological developments. Customer requirements are constantly changing; they don't simply keep buying the same product. Instead, applications continue to evolve. We adapt to precisely these changes.

How have customer expectations and challenges evolved?
Overall, customer requirements have become significantly more complex. In the past, the price was often the primary consideration. This focus on price alone has now diminished considerably. Instead, questions about specifications, technical characteristics, and above all, approvals and regulatory requirements, are becoming increasingly important. Another key issue is the origin and availability of raw materials. Security of supply is playing an increasingly important role for many companies. We therefore make a conscious effort to work with EU-based suppliers.

What role do suppliers play?
At ACAT chemtech, we primarily operate as a distributor, acting as an extension of our suppliers in the market. Our collaboration with them is correspondingly close. We exclusively distribute many products in our region under the original brand names of the manufacturers. These partnerships have often been in place for many years, and in some cases, even decades. This has fostered a relationship built on a high degree of trust, which ultimately also benefits our customers. We see ourselves as an interface between the application technology and development departments of our customers and suppliers. This close exchange is particularly important precisely because we focus heavily on technically sophisticated products.

“One defining trend is undoubtedly the increasingly stringent regulatory requirements. This is a key issue for us that we monitor very closely thanks to our in-house department. Our aim is not merely to react, but to stay one step ahead wherever possible.”

Alexander Frank (Division Manager ACAT chemtech)

What developments or highlights are on your agenda for 2026?
One highlight has already taken place: since January, we have been authorised to distribute AcRoPol products in Croatia, Slovenia and the Czech Republic. These are water-based emulsions that are used as binders in adhesives, paints and varnishes. We are also planning a significant expansion of our portfolio for the second half of the year. We will provide further details on this in due course.

What kind of customer feedback do you personally enjoy the most?
I am most satisfied when our staff are praised for their work. They demonstrate a great deal of dedication, expertise and hard work in their daily interactions with customers, so it's particularly rewarding when that's recognised and valued.

Equally important to me are customer relationships that endure for many years, or even decades. Such partnerships only develop when collaboration works and when we meet on equal terms. For me, the best feedback one can receive is when customers place their trust in us over a long period of time.

Strong partnerships are the key to finding the best solutions

Author: Alexander Frank

This applies to the paints and coatings industry, construction chemicals and the automotive sector. Today, additives and specialty chemicals must be efficient and sustainable, comply with regulatory requirements and integrate smoothly into existing processes. To meet these criteria, ACAT collaborates with leading suppliers from across Europe.

ACAT chemtech does not simply supply products; it develops bespoke solutions for specific applications. Led by Division Manager Alexander Frank, the team sees itself as a link between manufacturers and end users, offering extensive market knowledge and a wealth of technical expertise. This enables the team to analyse customers' requirements precisely and translate them into solutions.

Added value through proximity, expertise and innovation

A key factor in our success is our close collaboration with selected suppliers. ACAT relies on partnerships with companies that develop technologically advanced products and continuously invest in innovation. Many of these products are distributed exclusively. These partnerships, which are based on mutual respect, enable ACAT to access new developments at an early stage and implement new solutions quickly. At the same time, close coordination ensures that products can be tailored to specific applications. The result is solutions that meet current and future requirements and can be efficiently integrated into existing processes.

Strength lies in diversity

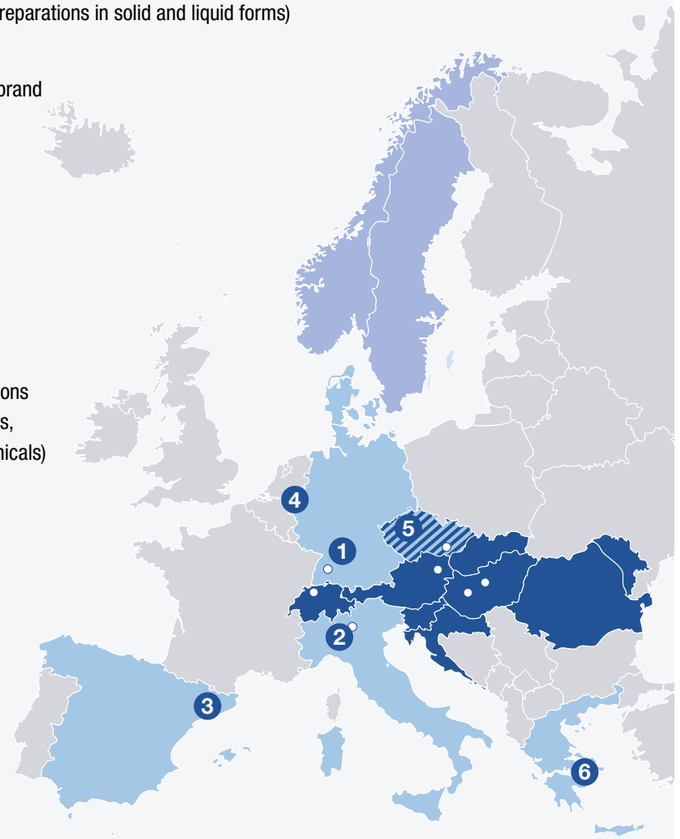
ACAT draws on a network of specialist, high-performing suppliers. In Central Europe, ACAT distributes high-quality speciality additives from MÜNZING – ranging from defoamers and dispersants to rheology additives and waxes. Since its foundation in 1830, the family-run company MÜNZING has been a guarantee of continuous innovation in additive chemistry. ACAT's portfolio also includes high-performance silica from Silysiamont, which improves the properties of surfaces and materials. Under the ColourStar® brand, ACAT offers pigments, dyes, and colour preparations in solid and liquid forms for various industrial applications. ACAT's partner is the Spanish pigment specialist, FREDCOLOR S.L. Mineral fibres of the Lapinus brand are supplied by Rockwool. These are used in heat-resistant coatings and friction linings (e.g. clutch linings).

Graphene is a highly innovative product with particular strengths in areas such as corrosion protection. In this field, ACAT is the exclusive distributor of products from GraphenUP, a Czech company and one of the few manufacturers worldwide capable of offering a commercial graphene product. A new supplier is the Greek polymer manufacturer Acro-Pol, and ACAT has been offering its UNIPOL product range in the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Croatia since the beginning of this year. UNIPOL offers high-quality polymer dispersions and binders for use in coatings, paints, and construction chemicals. "Over the years, we have built up a strong network of excellent partners with whom we collaborate on a long-term basis. This results in solutions that are technically and economically suitable for our customers," emphasises Alexander Frank. ●

Top partners

ACAT's suppliers at a glance

1. **MÜNZING CHEMIE, DE**
   High-quality specialty additives
   (ranging from defoamers and dispersants to rheology additives and waxes)
2. **Silysiamont, IT**
   High-performance silica
   (improves surface and material properties)
3. **ColourStar®, ES**
   by Fredcolor S.I.
   (pigments, dyes, and colour preparations in solid and liquid forms)
4. **Rockwool, DK**
   Mineral fibres of the Lapinus brand
   (for heat-resistant coatings
   and friction linings)
5. **GraphenUP, CZ**
   Few-Layer Graphene GUP®
   (improves the performance
   of paints and coatings)
6. **Acro-Pol, GR**
   UNIPOL product line
   (high-quality polymer dispersions
   and binders for use in coatings,
   paints, and construction chemicals)



Innovation, efficiency and sustainability go hand in hand at MÜNZING and ACAT.

MÜNZING and ACAT are strong partners in Central Europe

Authors: Jürgen Bauer and Alexander Frank

The requirements for coatings, printing inks, construction products and adhesives are constantly increasing. Alongside traditional performance parameters such as surface quality, stability and processability, aspects such as resource efficiency, environmental compatibility and regulatory compliance are becoming increasingly important. MÜNZING and ACAT supply the right additives for these needs: innovative, efficient and sustainable.

Formulators are faced with the challenge of developing increasingly complex systems that meet both technical and sustainability-related requirements. Additives play a crucial role in this context: when used strategically, they can significantly improve a product's properties, stabilise processes, and optimise the overall performance of systems. As a manufacturer of specialty additives, MÜNZING supports its customers worldwide by providing innovative solutions in close collaboration with experienced sales partners such as ACAT.

MÜNZING and ACAT: A partnership with added value

Since its foundation in 1830, the family-run company MÜNZING has been synonymous with continuous innovation in additive chemistry. With its headquarters in Germany and strategically located production and research sites across Europe, America and Asia, the company employs over 650 people worldwide.

A key factor in its success is its close collaboration with strong regional partners. MÜNZING and ACAT have enjoyed an established and trusting partnership since 1988.

As a sales partner, ACAT handles the distribution of selected additive solutions in Austria, Switzerland, and other Central European countries. These include the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. In doing so, the company contributes not only a dense sales network but also comprehensive technical expertise and a close relationship with customers.

"Our long-standing and trusting partnership with MÜNZING enables us to offer our customers high-quality additive solutions. By combining our technical expertise with our regional presence, we work together to find the optimal solution for every application," explains Alexander Frank of ACAT.

“By combining our technical expertise with our regional presence, we work together to find the optimal solution for every application.”

Alexander Frank
(ACAT Vienna, Division Manager ACAT chemtech)

For MÜNZING, too, close collaboration with ACAT is a key factor in its success in Central Europe. Sales Manager Jürgen Bauer adds: “By combining our development expertise with ACAT’s indepth market understanding and customer focus, we can bring innovative additive solutions to market in a targeted and practical manner. In this way, we ensure that our customers not only receive high-performance products, but also comprehensive technical support.”

Additives as key functional components of modern formulations

Additives play a central role in formulations, specifically influencing physicochemical processes to enable the desired product properties to be achieved. The cooperation between MÜNZING and ACAT focuses on four additive classes in particular:

- **Defoamers – AGITAN®**

Foam formation is undesirable in many systems, as entrapped air complicates processing and can lead to surface defects. The defoamers in the AGITAN® range ensure the rapid and effective breakdown of foam, as well as the sustainable deaeration of the system. They therefore support stable production processes and significantly improve surface quality.

- **Dispersants – EDAPLAN® and METOLAT®**

A homogeneous distribution of pigments and fillers is crucial for colour intensity, gloss, stability and mechanical properties. The dispersants in the EDAPLAN® and METOLAT® ranges enable efficient wetting and stabilisation of particles. They prevent agglomeration and ensure a fine, even distribution within the system. The result is optimised optical properties and improved storage stability.

- **Wetting and levelling agents – EDAPLAN® and METOLAT®**

Controlled wetting of substrates and uniform levelling are essential for achieving flawless surfaces. Wetting and levelling agents specifically reduce surface tension and improve wetting behaviour. This minimises effects such as cratering or orange peel and enables uniform, high-quality coatings.

- **Rheology additives – TAFIGEL®**

The flow behaviour of a system affects both processability and storage stability. Rheological additives from the TAFIGEL® range enable the precise adjustment of viscosity and structural composition. They help to prevent sedimentation, optimise application and ensure reproducible results.

A wide range of applications in key industries

These additive solutions are used in a variety of applications, significantly improving the performance of modern products.

In the field of industrial coatings, which range from protective and plastic coatings to coil and powder coatings, additives play a key role in developing modern, high-performance systems. Current trends such as functional and ‘smart’ coatings, for example with improved corrosion protection, barrier or easy-to-clean properties, can be achieved through the targeted use of additives. At the same time, they help to stabilise processing procedures and ensure consistently high surface quality.

In wood coatings, additives significantly improve the quality and durability of surfaces. They promote even wetting and levelling, improve mechanical resistance, and enable high-quality finishes, both indoors and outdoors.

Architectural coatings include applications such as interior wall paints, façade paints, plasters, and clear varnishes. Here, additives ensure stable formulations, safe application and the precise adjustment of rheological properties. Particularly in the field of water-based, low-VOC or VOC-free systems, they make a significant contribution to the development of environmentally friendly coatings and to meeting regulatory requirements.

In printing inks, additives enable precise adjustment of flow properties, colour development and surface quality. Furthermore, they help optimise functional properties such as slip, gloss, matting and scratch resistance, while reducing undesirable effects such as rub-out and blocking.

Construction chemicals have a wide range of applications, including plasters, mortars, tile adhesives and self-levelling floor compounds. Additives ensure improved processing, stable systems and reliable performance – even under demanding construction site conditions. Powder-based additives, in particular, allow modern construction products to be functionalised in a targeted way.

In adhesives and sealants, additives promote the homogeneity and stability of the formulation, as well as safe and efficient processing. Among other things, they improve wetting of challenging substrates, optimise flow behaviour and contribute to deaeration during production and application. At the same time, solutions based on renewable raw materials are also becoming increasingly important in this area.

Thanks to this broad applicability, additives make a decisive contribution to efficiency and quality in a wide range of industries.

Sustainability as an integral part of product development

At MÜNZING, sustainability is not a standalone aspect, but an integral part of the corporate and product strategy. The aim is to combine ecological responsibility with technical performance.

A key focus is developing additives that help reduce emissions, such as coatings with lower VOC content. Furthermore, MÜNZING is continuously working to replace traditional formulations with those based on renewable raw materials, thereby reducing reliance on fossil resources.

Targeted measures are also being implemented in production:

- **Switching to energy from renewable sources such as solar and wind power**
- **Optimising processes to reduce energy consumption**
- **Promoting a circular economy through the efficient use of resources and the use of sustainable raw materials**

These activities form part of a comprehensive sustainability strategy that combines environmental, social and corporate aspects. MÜNZING regularly prepares sustainability reports in accordance with current regulatory requirements, and holds certifications for quality, environmental and energy management systems in line with international ISO standards.

Working together to create high-performance, sustainable solutions

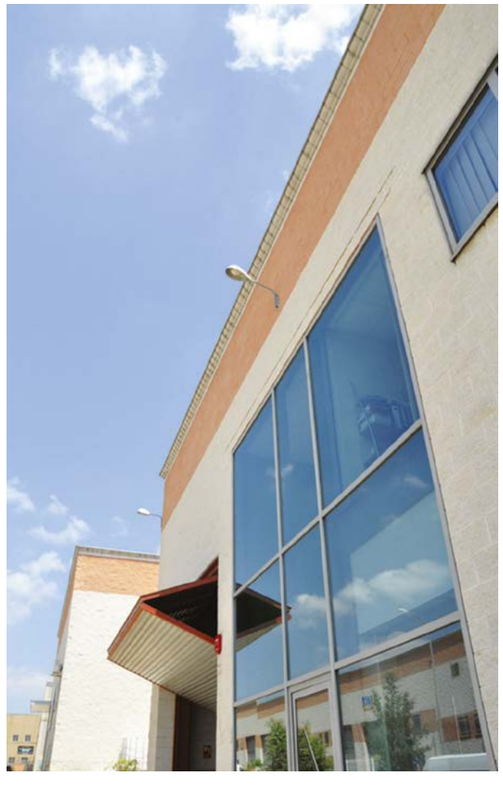
The combination of innovative additive development and regional market proximity forms the basis for the joint success of MÜNZING and ACAT.

While MÜNZING continuously develops new technologies and translates global trends into marketable solutions, ACAT ensures these innovations reach customers quickly and effectively. Close technical collaboration between the two partners enables them to understand individual requirements and deliver bespoke solutions. For customers, this means reliable access to high-performance additives, expert technical advice, and a partnership that considers both current and future requirements. ●

Strong colours, strong partnership

Authors: Alexander Frank and Ramon Guivernau Jacobs

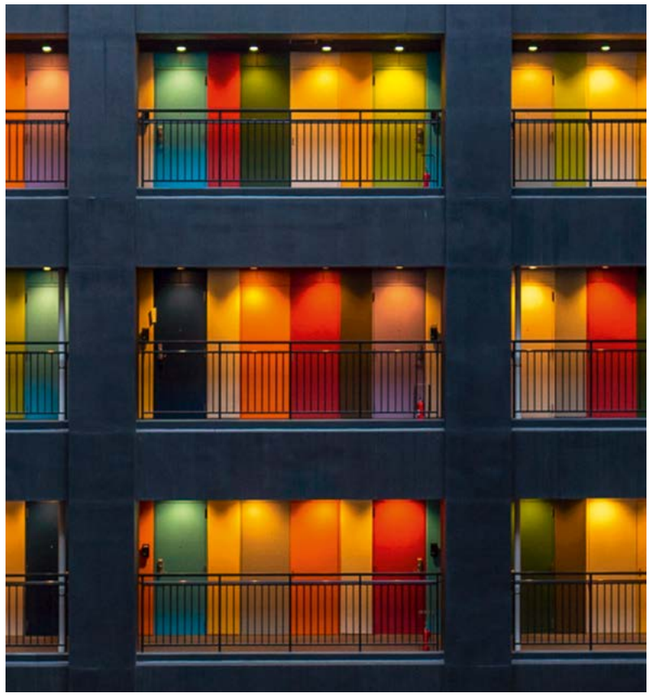
Under the ColourStar® brand, ACAT sells pigments, dyes, and colour preparations in solid and liquid forms for a variety of industrial applications. A key factor in the success of the ColourStar® brand is its close partnership with the Spanish pigment specialist, FREDCOLOR S.L.



The family-run company, based in Castellar del Vallès near Barcelona, has decades of experience in the manufacture of pigment dispersions, pigment blends and masterbatches. These products are used worldwide in various industries where colour accuracy, consistency and performance are crucial. “Our family-run corporate ethos enables us to work with great agility and responsiveness, ensuring personalised support and bespoke solutions for every product”, says Ramon Guivernau Jacobs of FREDCOLOR S.L.

Working closely with ACAT, we develop products that are precisely tailored to our customers’ requirements, from development and laboratory work right through to quality assurance. The applications are diverse: ColourStar® can be used to colour plastics, paints and coatings, as well as products in the agricultural, construction, food and feed industries, and in the writing and arts sectors. High technical standards and extensive development work are particularly required in sensitive areas, such as food packaging or plant protection products.

Thanks to its state-of-the-art production facilities, Fredcolor can produce both small development batches and industrial serial production runs. This flexibility makes it possible to react quickly to specific customer requirements and deliver solutions that are precisely tailored to the respective application. Depending on the type of pigment, formulation and intended use, the Spanish company employs various grinding and dispersion technologies to ensure optimum dispersion quality and product performance.



Quality control as a cornerstone

FREDCOLOR S.L. has its own quality control department, which applies validated testing and approval procedures. In addition, customer-specific quality control procedures or equivalent testing methods can be integrated into the internal approval process. This ensures that products comply with internal quality standards, as well as the technical specifications and performance requirements of our customers.

To bring out the best in colours, highly effective products such as ColourStar® are needed.

FREDCOLOR S.L. is certified to ISO 9001:2008, demonstrating the company’s commitment to quality, traceability and continuous improvement. All developed formulations comply with customer specifications and applicable industry regulations. ●

“This partnership offers clear added value for ACAT customers: with ColourStar®, they receive highly effective products from a strong brand, backed by FREDCOLOR’s technical expertise and development capabilities.”

Jan Oliva (ACAT chemtech)

SYLYSIA® –

high-performance silica for a wide range of applications

Author: Alexander Frank

Amorphous silica plays a crucial role in many industrial applications, whether in coatings, printing inks, plastic films, or even food and cosmetics. With SYLYSIA®, the Italian company Silysiamont offers a high-quality, micronized silicon dioxide that impresses with its controlled porosity, defined particle sizes and high transparency. ACAT distributes these versatile products, providing manufacturers with numerous opportunities to optimise the properties of surfaces and materials in a targeted way.

Silysiamont S.p.A. is an Italian-based company founded in 2000 by the Japanese firm Fuji Silysia Chemical Ltd., specialising in the manufacture of amorphous silicon dioxide. Silysiamont S.p.A. manufactures micronized amorphous silica with varying pore volumes and particle sizes under the brand name SYLYSIA®.

Silysiamont is certified to ISO 9001, ISO 45001 and ISO 14001 for quality, safety and environmental management, respectively. The chemical structure of SYLYSIA® is based on silicon dioxide (SiO_2). With a refractive index of 1.46, SYLYSIA® offers high transparency similar to that of many polymer materials.

Properties of SYLYSIA®

- **Porosity: SYLYSIA® has a sponge-like structure with varying porosity, ranging from low (0.4 ml/g) to high pore volume (1.8 ml/g). Types with low pore volume have reduced liquid absorption capacity and therefore only a limited effect on viscosity. Types with a high pore volume are characterised by a higher matting efficiency thanks to their greater volume (i.e. the number of particles per weight unit).**

- **Surface treatment: SYLYSIA® grades offer a high specific surface area of 300 to 700 m^2/g. The product can undergo additional surface treatment to improve its performance in a range of applications.**

- **Particle size: Each SYLYSIA® grade has a specific and controlled particle size distribution. The particle size has a direct influence on the matting efficiency, smoothness and transparency of the applied paint film. In most applications, the selection of a suitable SYLYSIA® grade depends on the thickness of the applied film.**

- **Quality and mechanical properties of the applied film: SYLYSIA® ensures smooth paint film surfaces with high transparency and consistent quality. SYLYSIA® silica with an organic surface treatment can also improve the surface smoothness and mechanical properties of the film.**

- **Dispersibility: SYLYSIA® disperses very well, even under demanding conditions, and can be added at any stage of the production cycle.**

- **Rheology: The special production process used for SYLYSIA® results in silica with minimal and easily controllable rheological effects. This enables higher matting efficiency to be achieved while maintaining optimal rheological behaviour.**

Examples of use

- **Matting agent for coatings**

Silica is available in a wide range of grades, which vary in terms of pore volume, particle size, oil absorption and surface treatment. This makes SYLYSIA® particularly well suited as a matting agent for:

- Water-based and solvent-based paints and varnishes
- Leather coatings
- Wood coatings
- Do-it-yourself (DIY)
- Coil coating
- UV systems
- Can coatings

- **Printing inks**

In overprint varnishes (OPV), SYLYSIA® delivers excellent matting efficiency, combined with high transparency and improved block resistance.

Anti-blocking

Adding SYLYSIA® to the resin prevents the sticking that can occur when rolling or laminating plastic films. Thanks to its refractive index of 1.46, it can be used with most plastic resins without compromising the transparency of the film.

Specialised fields

SYLYSIA® is a synthetic silica with a large internal surface area and high porosity. By carefully controlling these properties, the silicon dioxide can also be used in other applications, such as in adhesives, as a catalyst support, or in ceramics.

ACAT distributes UNIPOL products from Acro-Pol

Author: Alexander Frank

ACAT chemtech is expanding its portfolio: The company is now distributing the UNIPOL product range from Acro-Pol, a Greek polymer manufacturer, in the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Croatia. ACAT is thus bringing high-quality polymer dispersions and binders to the market, which play a key role in coatings, paints and construction chemicals.

Over the past few decades, Acro-Pol has established itself as an innovative partner for industrial polymer solutions, and is one of the fastest-growing chemical companies in South-Eastern Europe. Acro-Pol develops and manufactures water-based dispersions and speciality polymers for a wide range of applications – from façade paints and roof coatings to adhesives and sealants.

A key part of the portfolio is the UNIPOL product family. These are modern polymer binders based on acrylates and styrene–acrylate copolymers. They ensure that pigments, fillers and additives are reliably bonded together, resulting in stable coatings. At the same time, they influence key properties such as adhesion, elasticity, weather resistance, and abrasion resistance.

Accordingly, the range of applications is broad: UNIPOL binders are used, among other things, in interior and façade paints, textured coatings, plasters, as well as roof and protective coatings. They also ensure reliable performance in adhesive and sealant systems. Further advantages include high weather and UV resistance, good adhesion to mineral substrates, and stable film formation. Many variants also enable elastic coatings with low water absorption – important properties for façades or roof surfaces, for example. “From now on, customers will benefit from direct access to Acro-Pol’s polymer solutions - combined with advice, technical support, and fast delivery routes,” says Jan Oliva from ACAT chemtech about the benefits of the new partnership.

ACAT chemtech on tour across Europe

Direct interaction with customers, partner companies, and suppliers is a top priority for the chemtech division. In 2026/27, the chemtech team will therefore be attending several trade fairs: from the European Technical Coatings Congress in Prague, to HungaroCoat in Budapest, and the European Coatings Show in Nuremberg. Another key event is the Technology Day in Switzerland.

- **European Technical Coatings Congress (ETCC)**

The series kicks off with the European Technical Coatings Congress (ETCC) in Prague, from 30 June to 2 July 2026. The congress will focus on current developments in coating technology – in particular, sustainable materials, new raw materials and additives, digital production processes, and innovative applications and testing methods.

- **Technology Day**

On October 21, 2026, the Technology Day of the Swiss Association of Paint and Colour Chemists in Suhr is on the agenda. The SVLCF sees itself as a forum for Swiss paint and varnish technicians, with the aim of maintaining, developing and applying technology within the industry and related fields at a high and competitive standard.

- **HungaroCoat**

From November 24 to 25, 2026, ACAT chemtech will be represented at the HungaroCoat international trade fair in Budapest. The event is one of the key gatherings for the European paint and coatings industry, bringing together manufacturers, suppliers, and research institutions. The focus will be on the latest developments in raw materials, additives, production processes, and sustainable solutions for the coatings sector.

- **European Coatings Show**

When the entire coatings industry gathers once again at the Nuremberg Exhibition Centre from 27 to 29 April 2027, ACAT chemtech will of course be there, too. The European Coatings Show offers a central platform for innovations, new raw materials, technologies and trends – from sustainable coating systems to new applications for additives and pigments. For ACAT chemtech, this makes it an important opportunity to showcase developments, meet decision-makers, and cultivate international networks.

New screw pumps for the Tyrolean wastewater treatment plant

Author: Dietmar Strecker

Getting a first-hand look on site: Johann Kitzbichler, Technical Manager at ARAB (right), and Dietmar Strecker from ACAT (left)

ARAB-Abwasserreinigungsanlagen Betreiber GmbH is a joint venture between the wastewater associations of Wörgl-Kirchbichl and Brixlegg and their respective surrounding areas. ACAT has supplied and installed two new compact trough screw pumps from Spaans Babcock for the Söcking pumping station at Wörgl Stormwater Overflow Tank II. The key advantages of these pumps are their long service life, high efficiency and ease of maintenance.

ARAB-Abwasserreinigungsanlagen Betreiber GmbH treats almost 15,000 m^3 of wastewater every day at its Kirchbichl site. For many years, the company has relied on screw pumps from Spaans Babcock, distributed in Austria by ACAT. In 2024, ARAB approached ACAT for a quote on a screw pump for the Stormwater Overflow Tank II at the Söcking pumping station. A Purator pump had previously been installed there. During the inspection of the plant, it also became apparent that the existing pump, which was built in 1987, was in poor condition in terms of both the trough and the screw body.

Cost-effective solution

Refurbishment was initially considered, but following close consultation with the experts at ACAT, it was decided to purchase two new compact trough screw pumps, as refurbishment would not have been significantly cheaper than buying new pumps. “At the end of February 2025, we were awarded the contract to install and commission the two pumps, each with a diameter of 1200 mm and a flow rate of 265 litres per second,” explains Dietmar Strecker of ACAT watertech. When planning the new pumping system, the necessary VEXAT measures also had to be taken into account to ensure safe operation in potentially explosive atmospheres.

“This project underlines our commitment to working with our customers to deliver the best solution for every challenge.”

Dietmar Strecker (ACAT watertech)

ARAB treats around

15,000

cubic metres of wastewater daily in Kirchbichl.

Two new compact trough screw pumps, each with a

265

-litre/second capacity, have been installed.

Rapid implementation

Just a few months later – at the end of September – work began on dismantling the existing pumps and installing the new systems. The new pumps were handed over and commissioned at the end of October. “The system has been running flawlessly from the very first minute, to the customer’s complete satisfaction,” Dietmar Strecker concludes.

The company also commissioned ACAT to carry out maintenance and servicing on the existing screw pumps in the wastewater treatment plant, specifically two inlet screw pumps, three screw pumps in the intermediate pumping station and two return sludge screw pumps with diameters of 1300 mm and 1100 mm respectively. “We were able to successfully complete all maintenance work in 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wastewater association and ARAB for their excellent cooperation, in particular the mayor of Kirchbichl, Herbert Rieder, ARAB’s managing director Kurt Dornhofer and technical manager Johann Kitzbichler,” says Dietmar Strecker. “This project underlines our commitment to working with our customers to deliver the best solution for every challenge.”

ARAB also views the outcome positively: “We would like to thank Dietmar Strecker of ACAT for his excellent cooperation and dedication. This enabled the project to be successfully implemented and completed,” emphasises ARAB's managing director Kurt Dornhofer.

“We sell screw pumps because they are currently the best product on the market for pumping wastewater and return sludge.”

Dietmar Strecker (ACAT watertech)

A strong partnership

With more than 35,000 installed screw pumps, the Dutch company Spaans Babcock is the world’s largest manufacturer of screw pumps. Every second system comes from the company, which was founded in 1897. Since 2010, ACAT has been the authorised representative in Austria and is therefore the first point of contact for this efficient and robust technology. Particularly advantageous for operators: ACAT not only sells brand new systems, but also takes care of the maintenance and servicing of existing systems.

ACAT's product range includes wastewater pumps, return sludge pumping stations, rainwater pumping systems and industrial wastewater systems. Screw pumps are available in three configurations: in a traditional concrete trough, with a steel trough or in a prefabricated compact unit for immediate installation. “Screw pumps can be used economically within a flow rate range of 15 l/s to 12 m³/s,” explains Dietmar Strecker. Generally, screw pumps are made of mild steel with a special epoxy coating. The required coating is selected for each application. Optionally, the screw pumps can be made of stainless steel.

Long service life and easy maintenance

As Dietmar Strecker explains, screw pumps have many advantages: “A key selling point is their long service life of between 20 and 40 years. Added to this are their high operational reliability, efficiency and low wear.” A screw pump can run dry without damage and does not require a pump sump. Coarse materials such as plastic, wood, and stones do not affect the conveying process or efficiency. This distinguishes them from axial-flow or centrifugal pumps. At the same time, biological substances such as sludge flocs are handled particularly gently, for example in return sludge. The simple maintenance of screw pumps also makes them an economically and technically compelling solution for long-term operation.

ACAT has made a conscious decision to focus on this technology. “We sell screw pumps because they are currently the best product on the market for pumping wastewater and return sludge. In Spaans Babcock, we also have an experienced and internationally leading partner with whom we have been working very successfully for many years.” ●

Expert advice is the foundation for a successful solution.

Eyes on the goal

Author: Susanne Durst

Engaging conversations, valuable contacts: At the IFAT 2026 in Munich, ACAT provided first-hand insights into innovative and efficient solutions ranging from wastewater treatment to odour control. Meanwhile, our traditional table football tournament was all about having fun.

Networks. We were delighted to welcome so many familiar faces to the ACAT stand at the IFAT in Munich. Our long-standing customers, who have been working with us for many years, are not only the backbone of our company, but also play a key role in helping us improve day by day. The ACAT team, led by CEO Per O. Bjöörn (centre of the picture, middle photo), ACAT Austria Managing Director Alexander Frank (left of the picture, right-hand photo), and Manfred Zabl (Senior Executive, right of the picture, right-hand photo), also established valuable new connections.

Shaping the future together. The IFAT continues to be an inspiring opportunity to look ahead and shape the future together. Topics attracting a great deal of interest this year included PFAS elimination technologies, fourth-stage treatment processes, and the optimisation of sludge dewatering with regard to sewage sludge incineration. The ACAT team and our customers exchanged ideas on various industrial applications, including those in the food and recycling sectors.

A packed house. The ACAT stand was particularly busy on Tuesday and Wednesday. One of the main topics of discussion was solutions for municipal and industrial wastewater treatment – one of our core areas of expertise. Another topic that is becoming increasingly important to us is odour control for industrial facilities. Here, too, we offer highly effective products and systems, which attracted considerable interest from IFAT visitors.

A sporting highlight. The traditional table football tournament with our customers once again brought fun and excitement to the ACAT stand at this year's IFAT. A total of 23 teams competed on four table football tables. Tobias Fadinger and Michael Schneider (PCM) played their way to victory. Second place went to Oliver McDaid (ACAT) and Niko Görlich (St. Andrä-Wördern Municipal Wastewater Association), while Dietmar Strecker (ACAT) and Bernhard Schmidle (11er Nahrungsmittel) took third place.

“One of the most modern and safest wastewater treatment plants in Austria”

Interview: ACAT

ACAT has been supporting the wastewater treatment plant in Gössendorf with efficient sludge dewatering for 25 years. The wastewater treatment plant is currently being expanded. Project managers Edmund Tschaußnig and Gustav Hintz from Holding Graz’s Water Management Department explain exactly what is involved in this expansion in an interview.

Why is it necessary to expand the Graz wastewater treatment plant?

EDMUND TSCHAUSSNIG: The existing wastewater treatment plant in Gössendorf has been operating at virtually full capacity since its last modernisation in 2001. Graz and the surrounding area are growing steadily, and the volume of wastewater is increasing accordingly. The current expansion project was decided upon in order to meet demand and comply with the new legal requirements. By 2028, the plant’s capacity is set to increase by around 40 %.

What are the main components of the extension?

GUSTAV HINTZ: A key element is a new aeration tank, which will increase the treatment capacity. At the same time, the older parts of the plant that operate around the clock are being overhauled or replaced. These changes will enable us to provide safe, modern wastewater treatment that meets the requirements of the coming decades.

One key focus is on sustainability. Could you explain that in more detail?

GUSTAV HINTZ: The plant will become virtually energy self-sufficient thanks to a fourfold increase in gas storage capacity. Sewage gas, produced during wastewater treatment, is converted into electricity in combined heat and power plants. Thanks to the additional storage facilities and the planned use of photovoltaics, we can save around 900 tonnes of CO_2 annually. This is a significant advancement in climate protection and will help us reduce energy costs.

From left to right: Matthias Imrek (ACAT), Edmund Tschaußnig and Gustav Hintz (Water Management, Holding Graz), and Roland Auer (ACAT)

Experts in sludge dewatering

The Gössendorf wastewater treatment plant and ACAT have been working closely together for 25 years. Specifically, ACAT supports sludge dewatering and thickening – one of the greatest challenges for all wastewater treatment plant operators. Thanks to the many years of experience and the consistent focus on quality and innovation, ACAT has the optimum solutions in their portfolio. At Gössendorf, FlocStar® is used both in liquid and solid forms.

What measures are being taken to protect the plant from blackouts?

EDMUND TSCHAUSSNIG: The extension includes comprehensive measures to ensure protection against blackouts. These measures are crucial for preventing a shutdown and avoiding the contamination of the River Mur in the event of a power cut. This significantly increases the security of supply for Graz.

What is the specific timeline for the project?

GUSTAV HINTZ: Construction began in early summer 2025, with completion scheduled for late 2028.

EDMUND TSCHAUSSNIG: This will make Graz home to one of the most modern and safest wastewater treatment plants in Austria. ●

New sales manager for OdoStar®

Author: Per O. Bjöörn

Oliver McDaid is the new sales manager for the industrial odour neutralisation division, responsible for the OdoStar® product range. With OdoStar®, ACAT airtech offers highly effective odour removers. These are based on pure essential plant oils and clear mountain water from Austria. OdoStar® offers an odour-neutral solution for every odour problem.

Oliver McDaid has been with ACAT for many years and knows the company's structures, processes, and values inside out. Thanks to his extensive experience, he has made a significant contribution to the reorientation of the non-woven fabrics sales division. "With his ability to work well in a team, Oliver will quickly integrate into the existing team, and with his determination, strategic thinking and clear vision for customer-focused solutions, he will consistently expand our activities. I wish him all the best and every success on our journey together," says Per O. Bjöörn, CEO of ACAT.

Partners in odour control

With OdoStar®, ACAT airtech has made tackling industrial odours its mission. Industrial plants face this challenge just as much as wastewater treatment plants, refineries, and waste disposal facilities. "There are two very good reasons for effective odour control: firstly, regulations are becoming increasingly stringent – one example is the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED)," explains Oliver McDaid. "Secondly, it is about maintaining good relations with local residents and protecting employees."

Safe for people and the environment

OdoStar® neutralises a wide range of common malodorous chemical substances. These include hydrogen sulphide, ammonia, sulphur dioxide, mercaptans, amines, styrene, and numerous other compounds. The neutralisation of many acidic, alkaline, inorganic and organic gases, or mixtures thereof, is achieved through various chemical reactions with OdoStar®. OdoStar® is non-toxic, biodegradable, does not mask odours, and is safe for the environment, humans and animals. ACAT has developed its own odour control systems for the application of these products. The spectrum ranges from atomisation and evaporation systems to fog washers.

The effect of OdoStar® in detail

Treatment with OdoStar® specifically neutralises unpleasant or offensive odours. This produces harmless by-products, which settle on the ground, where they are rapidly broken down further by microbiological processes and natural climatic influences.
Regardless of whether the gases being treated are acidic, alkaline, or neutral compounds, the basic process of chemical neutralisation generally follows three steps.

Oliver McDaid
(ACAT airtech)

First, the odour molecules are bound – either by adsorption onto a surface, or by absorption into a liquid. This is followed by a chemical reaction with the neutralising agent. In this process, odorous compounds are transformed, for example through oxidation or reduction, or they form stable bonds, such as through pairing or complexation. The process results in stable, odourless compounds which degrade rapidly in the environment, ensuring no long-term impact. ●

The advantages of OdoStar® at a glance:

- **Provides broad-spectrum odour neutralisation**
- **Neutralises odours rather than merely masking them**
- **Is safe to handle and easy to use**
- **Delivers effective odour control where other technologies fail**
- **Provides a cost-effective solution to recurring complaints from local residents**
- **Helps industrial companies to comply with environmental regulations**

Our anniversaries

**THANK YOU for your commitment and achievements –
you've played a leading role in writing the ACAT success story!**

Manfred Zabl
45 years ACAT Vienna

Manfred Zabl joined the group 45 years ago. He recognised the opportunities presented by the increasing use of chemicals in paper production early on. Under his leadership, ACAT grew steadily, entered new markets and established additional business areas. To this day, Manfred continues to play a key role in shaping the company's development. He supports the team, mentors his successors, and shares his experience behind the scenes. Dear Manfred, the entire ACAT team and the Bjöörn family would like to express their appreciation for your commitment, dedication, perseverance, foresight and loyalty. As part of ACAT, you will continue to play a key role in future successes.

Josef Praschl
25 years ACAT Vienna

Josef Praschl joined the company in 2001 and played a pivotal role in setting up the Scheibbs technology centre. Today, he is responsible for managing electrical system concepts, developing control systems across the entire range of plant engineering, and planning control cabinets. His technical expertise, solution-oriented approach and professional demeanour make a significant contribution to the company's excellent reputation. He finds a solution to almost every technical problem. The whole team sincerely thanks you for your dedication and wishes you all the best for the future – with much success, health, and joy in everything you do.

Alexandra Mehring
10 years ACAT Basel

Ten years ago, Alexandra started working as an administrator in the chemicals department. The strategic reorganisation presented an opportunity to support the accounting team in Basel – initially alongside her role in order processing. She has been an integral part of the accounts department for almost five years now. Her responsibilities have grown steadily, ranging from travel expenses, customs, and VAT matters to payments and balance sheet accounting. She also ensures that things run smoothly at reception and assists with various administrative tasks. It's clear that she really enjoys her work and tackles her tasks with enthusiasm. Congratulations on ten years – we look forward to many more.

"We would like to wish all those celebrating their anniversaries all the best for the future."

ACAT at the European Technical Coatings Congress

ETCC 2026
EUROPEAN TECHNICAL COATINGS CONGRESS

The focus is on current developments in coating technology, including sustainable and new materials, digital processes, innovative applications, and testing methods. We will be presenting our latest solutions and look forward to a great exchange of ideas!

WHEN
30 June to 2 July 2026

WHERE
Clarion Congress Hotel Prague

ACAT at the WEFTEC 2026

weftec
the water quality event™

At the WEFTEC 2026, it's all about the future of water quality once again. We'll be there to gather fresh ideas, talk to experts, and expand our network – ensuring we remain at the cutting edge for our customers.

CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
26–30 Sept. 2026

WHERE
Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center

Preview issue 36

The next issue of the Inside ACAT magazine will once again feature exciting insights into how we support our customers with bespoke solutions in practice – from practical case studies to product presentations.

Applied Chemicals
International Group

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Our products guarantee highest quality and effectiveness for every application.

ACAT's additives and specialty chemicals have proven themselves in the paint and coatings industry, as well as in the building materials and plastics industry. We deliver quickly and flexibly, working alongside our customers to develop solutions and help them achieve the best results.
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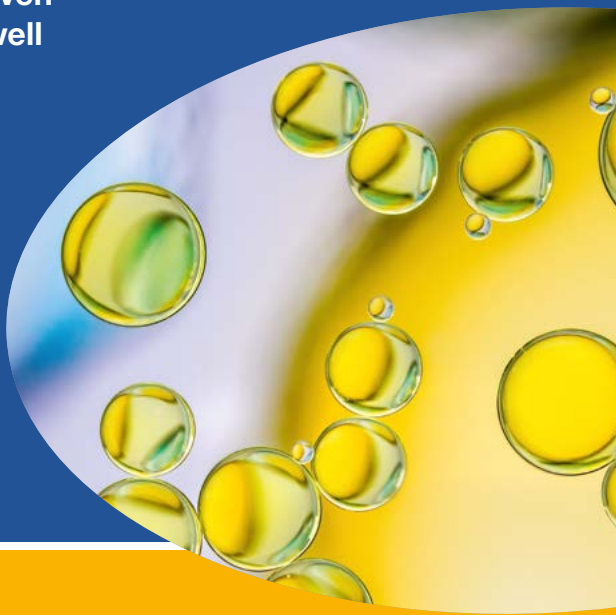

Our technical service is your success