

ARTLANT, AN INVESTEE COMPANY OF LA SEDA DE BARCELONA, STARTS SUPPLYING PTA TO ITS CUSTOMERS

- *The PTA production plant had an initial investment of 400 million Euros.*
- *Business volume is foreseen to surpass 600 million Euros.*
- *Trading opportunities in new markets such as Middle East, India and Brazil.*

El Prat de Llobregat, 30 March 2012. By mid-March **ARTLANT PTA**, an investee company of La Seda de Barcelona (LSB) with an initial outlay of more than 400 million Euros, took up production of PTA (purified terephthalic acid), one of the raw materials used in the polyester industry as well as in manufacturing PET and which is 100% recyclable, thus initiating its commercial operations worldwide.

The building of the **ARTLANT** (previously Artenius Sines) PTA plant was started in March 2008. The factory is located in the petrochemical industrial area of Sines (Portugal) and has an installed capacity of 700.000 tonnes of PTA. It is emerging as one of the major strategic production plants worldwide and will become the second European PTA manufacturer with an estimated market share of 17%.

The business expects to exceed 600 million Euros and due to the strategic location of the plant, which facilitates the product flow throughout the world in a fast and economic way, it is estimated that 95% of the PTA production will be allocated to international exports, thus covering markets such as Brazil, Middle East and India among others.

ARTLANT PTA is conceived as a competitive global production plant, provided with a state-of-the-art PTA technology equipment which allows to optimise energy consumption by reducing its energetic costs by approx. 25%, thus having its effect on the principle of energetic efficiency and positioning **ARTLANT** as a technologic benchmark in its sector.

The PTA plant built in Sines produces raw material for manufacturing polyester polymers, which are mainly used in the food industry and PET packaging sector, as well as in the manufacturing of synthetic fibres. **ARTLANT** will create 400 new jobs, both directly and indirectly. This plant was deemed of national interest for the Portuguese government, as petrochemical infrastructure has always been supported by Portuguese authorities.