



# Attractiveness of France Attractiveness of France Chemicals

Lapped by three seas (the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Channel), equipped with infrastructures that are equally efficient at sourcing and delivering chemicals, France offers chemical manufacturers a quality location unsurpassed in Europe.

In chemicals, France is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest producer worldwide and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest European producer, when taking all specialisms into account. With a total turnover of 93.7 billion euros, the French chemical industry is the country's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest industrial sector and one of the most competitive in the world. As proof of the quality of this industry, almost 60% of its output is destined for export.

### THIS SECTOR IS BUILT ON STRONG FOUNDATIONS:

- Raw materials that are immediately available: founding its activity on oil derivatives, sulfur and phosphates, France's chemical industry has massive refining and supply capacities, well positioned across the whole country (Fos-sur-Mer in the South,

More than 1,100 companies employing more than 20 people

France's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest industrial sector

239,500 direct jobs

2<sup>nd</sup> European producer of chemicals, when taking all specialisms into account

le Havre-Antifer in the West). In addition, thanks to the world leader in industrial gases, Air Liquide, supplies of various industrial gases (hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen) are readily available.  
- Contrary to most other European countries, France still has numerous zones dedicated to Seveso activities, ideal for chemical companies – and at particularly low rents.

### LARGE HIGHLY INTEGRATED BASE CHEMICALS COMPLEXES

Throughout France, the many chemical hubs are already offering excellent location conditions to new entrants; their networked operations remove the need for heavy investments in terms of infrastructure or waste recovery. Four chemical hubs on an international scale: Le Havre- Port Jérôme-Rouen (West), Fos-Lavéra-Berre (South), Lyon- Feyzin-Rhône-Alpes Centre-East) and Lorraine (East) are the locations for countless French and foreign market leaders. Concurrently, France also offers

an effective network of suppliers specialising in chemicals, in sectors as diverse as site maintenance, specialist transport, the storage of hazardous or delicate chemicals or even waste reprocessing. France's chemical industry also has the means to boost its competitiveness even further: research and innovation employs 30,000 people or 12% of the sector's overall workforce.

### AN ATTRACTIVENESS CONFIRMED BY THE PRESENCE OF NUMBERS OF FOREIGN COMPANIES

France is home to numbers of foreign companies: in fact, 109 of around 180 groups established in France's base chemicals industry.

**Success Story:** GIP at Chemparc, an example of how all public and private participants in the chemi-

cals industry can work successfully together. Located near Pau, in the South of France, the Chemparc sites offer chemical professionals a range of high quality services. One of the main advantages of the site: shared processing and disposal of gas, liquid and solid wastes.

Many international companies have located in this dedicated chemicals centre: Air Liquide, Sanofi-Aventis, Finorga and SBS from the Novasep group, Hydra (Norway), American Acetex and Lubrizol, Japanese Calliope (Arista group) and Soficar (Toray group), L'Oréal group's chemical arm (Chimes).

Another example: American chemicals group Rohm and Haas equipped its factory at Chauny, in the Aisne region, with a pharmaceutical laboratory, (an investment of some 4.1 million euros), in readiness for tomorrow's pharmaceutical markets.

**"This is an exceptional geographic site for us: because it's Atlantic-facing, we have easy access to the USA and UK."**

Public Affairs Manager, ExxonMobil, Normandy.

