



PLENARY SPEAKER

ABSTRACT

Thursday, October 5TH. 10:00 – 11:00 - Main Auditorium

Title: Process Research in the Chemical Industry



Dr. Peter Schuhmacher, President, Process Research & Chemical Engineering, BASF.

A growing need for food, clean water and energy, limited resources and a booming world population – reconciling all these factors is the greatest challenge of our time. Innovations based on chemistry play a key role here, as they contribute decisively to new solutions. Effective and efficient research and development are a prerequisite for innovations as well as an important growth engine for BASF. We work in interdisciplinary teams on innovative processes and products for a sustainable future.

The chemical industry has always driven innovation: Synthetic dyes, ammonia as basis for fertilizers, polymers as e.g. raw material for insulation foams and packaging, synthetically produced vitamins, blockbuster fungicides and plant biotechnology. Over the years, however, the focus has shifted towards more advanced materials, system solutions and sustainable processes.

These materials, solutions and processes can only be achieved by finding new ways to combine expertise in various disciplines such as chemistry, biology, physics, materials science and engineering. That means that innovations are based less on the development of new chemicals and more on the combined strength of our scientific know-how.

Digitalization in BASF becomes an important enabler for these innovations and will now be integrated in everyday life of R&D. Data science, fast access to integrated clean data and acceleration of modeling & simulation with supercomputing are the key factors of digitalization.