

DANTES **Demonstrate and Assess Tools for Environmental Sustainability**

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In order to make sound environmental decisions, it is important to consider many different environmental aspects, such as increased demand on inherent properties of chemicals in the EU “Strategy for the future chemicals policy” and goals on the reduction of CO₂ emissions in the Kyoto protocol. The problem is that today there is no existing tool that covers e.g. both of these issues. There is also the problematic aspect of economic costs and yields in relation to enhanced environmental performance.

Akzo Nobel Surface Chemistry will therefore together with their partners ABB, Stora Enso and Chalmers University of Technology run the EU LIFE project DANTES with the intention to integrate existing tools into a new method that step-by-step covers environmental aspects. The purpose is to test, evaluate and demonstrate the method for several different kinds of products.

The project will assess and demonstrate tools such as Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Risk Assessment and Life Cycle Cost (LCC). LCA and LCC are tools to assess the environmental impact and the costs arising from a product throughout its entire life cycle. Risk Assessment is an evaluation of the risk posed to human health and/or the environment by the presence or use of chemical substances. By demonstrating the applicability of existing tools on different kinds of products systematically, the DANTES project will deliver a completely new state of the art method for estimating the environmental load from products. The tool integration will not result in one combined tool but will provide a method describing under what circumstances and in what order different tools should be applied to evaluate the eco-efficiency of a product. Tools, potential tool integration, case study results, evaluations and other findings will be disseminated through a public website and through several informative activities during the project period so that authorities and companies of all sizes will be able to use them and accelerate their work towards sustainability.

In the long term perspective, DANTES will lead to more sustainable products through a more holistic approach where economical and local as well as global environmental aspects are considered.

The project will run for 3 years and started in September 2002. For questions or inquiries about DANTES, please go to www.dantes.info or contact Klas Hallberg, project manager.

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