Sasol has announced plans to build a world-scale ethane cracker and derivatives complex at its existing site near Westlake, Louisiana, that will roughly triple the company’s chemical production capacity in the United States and enable it to build on its strong positions in robust and growing global chemicals markets.

At the heart of the project is an ethane cracker that will produce 1.5 million tons of ethylene annually, benefitting from significant economies of scale. The complex also includes six chemical manufacturing plants. Approximately 90 percent of the cracker’s ethylene output will be converted into a diverse slate of commodity and high-margin specialty chemicals for markets in which Sasol has a strong position underpinned by collaborative customer relationships.

Ethane cracking is the process of breaking down molecules of ethane contained in natural gas to create ethylene, one of the building blocks of the petrochemical industry.

**Key facts and figures**
- Capacity: 1.5 million tons of ethylene and other downstream derivatives per year
- Contractors:
  - Fluor Technip Integrated: Primary engineering, procurement, construction management contractor
  - WorleyParsons: Project management
- Anticipated employment
  - More than 5,000 construction jobs at peak construction
  - More than 500 full-time positions
  - Thousands of indirect jobs across Louisiana

**Key dates**
- Commenced front-end engineering and design phase: December 2012
- Reached final investment decision: October 2014
- Commenced construction: November 2014
- Anticipated beneficial operation: 2018
Products

**Ethylene oxide/ethylene glycol:** Virtually all of the ethylene oxide produced is used as an intermediate to produce other useful chemicals, particularly ethylene glycol. Ethylene glycol is used for the manufacture of polyester fiber for clothes, upholstery, carpet, and pillows and the blending of automotive engine antifreeze and coolant. Ethylene glycol is also used to manufacture fiberglass.

**Ethoxylates:** Used in products such as detergents, paints, inks, coatings and adhesives

**Ziegler alcohol** and **Guerbet alcohol:** Used in products such as laundry detergent, hand lotions, fragrances and glass cleaners

**Linear low density polyethylene** and **low density polyethylene:** Used in products such as films, plastics bags and food packaging

**About Sasol**
Sasol is an international integrated energy and chemicals company that employs more than 31,000 people in 37 countries. We build and operate large-scale petrochemical facilities using proprietary and licensed technologies to produce a range of products, including liquid fuels, chemicals and electricity.

Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sasol is listed on the New York and Johannesburg stock exchanges. Sasol’s U.S. headquarters are located in Houston, Texas, and its current U.S. operations are located in Arizona, California, Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Texas, where it produces a range of chemical products.

February 2016