FAST FACTS

LOCATION
Sasol Lake Charles West Plant
Westlake, Louisiana, USA

COMMISSIONED
2019

NAMEPLATE CAPACITY
1.54 million tons per year

FEEDSTOCK
Ethane (100,000 barrels per day)

TECHNOLOGY
Technip Stone & Webster

PRODUCT FORM
Gas

PROCESS
Ethane is delivered in liquid form via pipeline and then is heated to around 1,500°F (815°C) to “crack,” or break apart ethane molecules. They then reform into ethylene, a building block of the petrochemical industry.

USES
About 90 percent of the cracker’s ethylene output will be consumed internally in other processing units to produce high-value derivatives that Sasol’s customers use as ingredients in detergents, fragrances, paint, film, food packaging and personal care products.

The remaining 10 percent of the ethylene will be sold on the merchant market and supply Sasol’s 50-percent share of its high density polyethylene (HDPE) joint venture with INEOS in Texas.