

Becoming recognized as a reliable investment in terms of sustainability

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Strategy

- Implementing our general strategy in relation to sustainability through a set of specific policies and management methods.
- Selecting targets and indicators of progress allowing objective monitoring of performance.



The Group has a wide range of Policies, Systems and management tools relating to sustainability (see page 88).

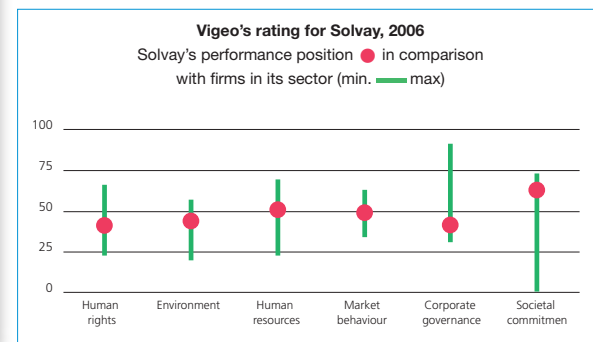
Systematic analysis of the sustainability of our product portfolio forms part of the strategic commitment to sustainable development that received formal endorsement from the Executive Committee in March 2007. The commitment brings together and supplements pre-existing policies in a consistent analysis and action plan. It will be supported by new indicators allowing assessment of how these policies have been applied and enabling them to be included in our communications with the societal and financial rating agencies questioning us on these matters.

The Group has signed the updated Responsible Care® Global Charter of the International Chamber of Chemical Associations (ICCA) and updated its own policy on health, safety and the environment. Measurements and verification of performance are key elements here.

Strict compliance with the Corporate Governance Rules and the Code of Conduct, as revised in 2007 (see "Employees" page 64), provide further indications of the desire to be recognized as a reliable and lasting partner.

Sustainability criteria are also taken into account in all our innovation programs. Evidence of this is provided in particular by the Future Businesses activities and the prizewinning projects in the Sustainable Development category of the Solvay Innovation Trophy.

Solvay is included in the FT4Good Europe and FT4Good Global indices ■



Targets for 2012

- Having projects economizing on natural resources reach at least 20% of the proposals competing for the Innovation Trophies.
- Developing our projects regarding eco-efficient products, particularly those in fuel cells and in organic electronics. (*)
- Progressively incorporating economic, social and environmental data in our activity reports.
- Strengthening the dialogue with investors and analysts on economic, environmental and societal responsibilities.

(*) see page 21

Our leadership strategy

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Strategy

- Pursuing a long-term leadership position in both our "essential" products and specialties.
- Ensuring that the Group has a clear view in relation to the sustainability of products and markets, including in strongly growing countries.



For vehicle fuel systems, the Inergy Automotive Systems joint venture has developed multi-layer tanks with remarkably improved performance in terms of being fuel-tight and leakproof. This limits the evaporation of volatile organic compounds (VOC) from the fuel through the tank wall, ensuring compliance with the most stringent regulations.

Our leadership strategy requires to continuously improve the sustainability of our main product lines, throughout their lifecycles : vinyl products, soda ash and its derivatives, peroxides, vehicle fuel systems, special polymers, electrochemistry products and derived specialties.

In the pharmaceutical field, we put the emphasis on therapeutic added value. This factor, more than ever, will guide future commercial success in this area, under the combined effects of the growth in medical costs, health economics in general and reimbursement rates for medicinal products. There is also a shift in the choice of drugs towards patient influence (particularly resulting from the Internet) and away from that of practitioners.

Our recognized expertise in chemical engineering is allowing us to introduce technologies that are better-performing and more economical in terms of raw materials, resulting in reduced production of emissions and by-products, together with increasing environmental efficiency and safety ■

Main products – world positions

Pharmaceuticals	Fibrates, antiemetics and anti-nausea drugs, pancreatic enzymes, antispasmodics / irritable bowel syndrome, male hormone treatment	1
	Female hormone treatment	2
Chemicals	Soda ash, sodium bicarbonate	1
	Hydrogen peroxide, sodium percarbonate / perborate	1
	Caustic soda	3
Plastics	Precipitated calcium carbonate	Amongst the world leaders
	Fluorinated polymers, vinyls	3
	Other specialty polymers	Amongst the world leaders
	Fuel systems (Inergy Automotive Systems)	1
	Tubes and fittings (PipeLife)	Leader in our markets

Targets for 2012

- Applying our sustainability approach in new developments, as an integral part of our leadership strategy : vinyl products (in Russia, Thailand and Brazil), hydrogen peroxide (in Belgium, and another planned in Thailand for 2010), vehicle fuel systems (Inergy Automotive Systems), and epichlorohydrin, using the EPICEROL® process (in France and Thailand).
- Making progress in strongly growing countries (China, India, South Korea, etc.) especially in specialty activities: special polymers, pharmaceutical products and fluorinated specialties.