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BASF's Gebeng integrated chemical complex one of largest in region

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BASF Petronas Chemicals' integrated chemical complex in Gebeng industrial area, to be officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today, will be one of the largest such sites in Southeast Asia when it is fully completed.

Eventually, as Asia develops with greater demand for consumer goods, BASF Petronas Chemicals sees demand for its chemical applications to increase concurrently, in tandem with each country's domestic growth.

BASF Chemicals is a 60:40 joint venture company between BASF Aktiengesellschaft of Germany and Petronas.

The shareholder agreement was signed on Aug 8, 1997.

The company is principally involved in the production of essential raw materials comprising acrylic monomers, oxo products and betanediol products for final application in wide range of consumer-end products.

These include plastics, adhesives, paints, lacquers, paper, diapers, automobile and industrial coatings, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, textiles and personal care materials.

More than 80 per cent of raw materials requirement are supplied by Petronas.

BASF Petronas facility in Gebeng, located on a 150ha site, is based on the "verbund" concept.

Translated from German, this means integration, whereby all plants are connected to other plants by at least one product or process stage.

By-products and waste are utilised within the integrated system.

This approach to integrated production gives the company a unique competitive advantage as it makes optimal use of energy and materials in chemical processes.

Over 80 per cent of BASF Petronas Chemicals' products are for export market. Countries from Pakistan to Australia and China to Japan use the applications for downstream chemical activities.

The company currently employs 770 workers.