

RSC Speciality Chemicals Symposium 2009: Catalysts for Change

Some Illustrations of the Paramount Importance of Catalysis for Rhodia's Sustainable Development

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For many years, Rhodia has been strongly committed to sustainable development in its processes and product development, and has worked on every possible skill or technology that can help within this respect. Going downstream to technologies while following the twelve principles of Anastas and Warner, catalysis is definitely a key technology for the chemical industry, as 90% of transformations are using catalysts, especially for intermediates manufacture.

In the past years, the strong perturbation on raw materials and energy prices is enhancing this trend as new raw materials could soon compete to the traditional fossil ones, and new (catalytic) routes could be activated or reactivated.

In the presentation, we will focus on some Rhodia industrial catalytic stories illustrating the importance of catalysis as a differentiating technology for sustainability.

In a second part, we will go back to R&D upstream developments illustrating new ways to approach catalyst research.

Some guidelines will be proposed as potential routes for developments.