

## **Fluorinated blowing / insulating agent**

Solvay Fluor, a major supplier of fluorine chemicals, is offering Solkane<sup>®</sup> 365mfc, a new ozone-friendly hydrofluorocarbon. It is an insulating and blowing agent for polyurethane foams widely used as insulation in residential and industrial buildings and cold stores. It also has immense potential as a component in high-performing solvent formulations. The company plans to build a plant in France for the large-scale production of the chemical. The 15 t/y plant is expected to become operational by the end of 2002.

Solvay Fluor is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Solvay S.A., with installations in Europe, NAFTA and Namibia. In March 2000, the company was the first to market this new type of product from a pilot plant with a capacity of several hundred tonnes per year. The industrialization decision was taken following intensive trials together with potential customers and on the basis of the results of two life cycle assessments supervised and checked by outside experts. These proved that in several applications Solkane 365mfc is more eco-efficient than alternative solutions tested.

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