

US\$15 billion market for treatment chemicals

A report published by the Mcilvaine Company, based in the United States, says that worldwide sales of treatment chemicals for water and wastewater would exceed US\$15 billion. Construction of new water and wastewater facilities and power plants are the key growth factors. It is predicted that China will experience the greatest growth; 40 per cent of China's population will reside in urban areas by the end of the decade. Most cities will need to increase water delivery and wastewater treatment facilities by 50-70 per cent.

Corrosion inhibitors are in the top selling category. More than US\$3.7 billion will be spent to protect pipes, boiler tubes and process equipment with these additives. Sales of organic flocculants will reach US\$2.6 billion. Power plants would be the largest purchasers (US\$5.4 billion) followed by municipal water and wastewater facilities.