

Brussels, June 22, 2009

## Saudi Aramco and Total award construction contract for paraxylene plant in their refinery project in Jubail, Saudi Arabia

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Saudi Aramco and Total have awarded the main contract for the construction of a new worldscale paraxylene plant at their future Jubail refinery. The partners have chosen Samsung Engineering for the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract. The new plant, scheduled to come on stream in 2013, at the same time than the refinery, will have a capacity of 700 kta of paraxylene. The main applications of paraxylene are polyester and food packaging (PET\* bottles), two buoyant markets in Asia.

Total and Saudi Aramco are in charge of marketing the paraxylene which, together with 200 kta of propylene and 150 kta of benzene, will create new opportunities for petrochemical developments in the Jubail area and for the export market.

This project is part of the agreement signed by Saudi Aramco and Total in 2008 for the construction and operation of a refinery in Jubail. Recently, the project took a major step by the awarding of the EPC contracts for thirteen different process packages of the joint-venture.

*« This proposed paraxylene plant illustrates our policy to maximize refining and petrochemicals synergies in world scale sites. It is supporting our international expansions of petrochemicals, geared towards satisfying the Asian market »* explains Graeme Burnett, Total Petrochemical's Vice President Asia and Middle East.

*\*PET : polyethylene terephthalate*



Total Petrochemicals encompasses petrochemicals activities of Total, one of the world's major oil and gas groups. Its business includes base chemicals from steam crackers and certain refinery processing plants – olefins (ethylene, propylene), C4 fractions and aromatics (benzene, toluene, xylenes and styrene) –, as well as the polymers they derived from (polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene). Total Petrochemicals employs 6,250 persons in Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Asia. Its products are used in many consumer and industrial markets, including Packaging, Construction and Automotive.