

Survival of the Fittest

Process Intensification and Sustainable Chemistry

RSC Symposium

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Abstract

Sulfonation Chemistry – More Sustainable Approaches

Whereas for decades the direction for cheap and simple chemistry was going East, this does not work anymore today. When in former times the solution was, to do the same chemistry at a cheaper place, the cost of waste is increasing everywhere and makes formerly cheap processes more expensive now.

Sulfonation is such an example where cheap reagents perfectly work and lead to cheap overall processes. The only disadvantage: the generation of large amounts of waste. When this became too expensive in Europe the whole production went East – without any changes in the process

Now that waste generation and sustainability are topics of rising importance, smart alternatives are required. There is no lack of ideas, but innovative processes need to be technically viable and - in order to be competitive - as cheap as the traditional ones.

The presentation will highlight innovative sulfonation processes and show examples of significant waste reduction and higher sustainability.

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