

Chemicals in the Lower Elbe region.

The petroleum industry is the leading sector in the manufacturing trade in the Lower Elbe region. The largest employers in Hamburg are Deutsche Shell, ExxonMobil Central Europe, SasolWax and the Holborn Europa Refinery.

Thanks to the availability of essential raw materials, such as rock salt, the outstanding infrastructure and transport facilities for the starting products as well as the basic chemical industries and basic material production are all key contributors to the chemical industry in the region, especially in Brunsbüttel, Hamburg-Harburg and Stade. Two of the most important locations for the basic chemical industry in Germany are Stade and Brunsbüttel, both of which have been intentionally located in an area with direct access to international sea routes. After the construction of a 54-kilometer ethylene pipeline from Brunsbüttel to Stade, these sites were connected to the German pipeline network, allowing them to tap into the raw materials network of northern Germany's petrochemical sites. Dow Deutschland Anlagengesellschaft mbH operates a plant in Stade where specialized chemicals are produced for the processing industry. Located between Elbe and the Kiel Canal, Brunsbüttel has developed into a strategically advantageous location for chemical basic materials. It is there where companies, such as Sasol Germany GmbH, Yara and Covestro (Bayer's plastics division) produce chemical precursors, such as fatty alcohols, fertilizers or primary products for the plastics industry. There are additional companies that produce petrochemical products, paints and varnishes. The Pinneberg district is home to the Deutsche Pentosin-Werke GmbH, a leading manufacturer for 80 years of quality lubricants and specialty products which are in very high demand in the automobile industry.

In and around Hamburg a multitude of consumer products are produced and distributed. The best-known brands are Nivea, Schwarzkopf and Dove.

Apart from the big industry players, the chemical sector in the North is above all characterized by its multitude of small and medium-sized enterprises. Their product range covers everything from packaging films, varnish, paint, disinfectants, veterinary medicinal products down to brake pads and food supplements, such as vitamins and magnesium. Another important production segment which has developed as a result from the proximity to the shipyards in the area is the manufacture of anti-fouling paint. The industry is enhanced by another important sector, the carriage of petroleum products.

The CFK-Valley Stade e. V. and the CFK Nord research center do research in the material and plastics development.

Associations like the German chemical industry association (VCI) (*Verband der chemischen Industrie e. V.*), the regional association *Landesverband Nord* or the Northern Germany chemical locations initiative "ChemCoast e.V." offer outstanding cooperation opportunities while representing the interests of the industry. ChemCoast,



followed by the regional business development agencies, offer their support to companies that plan to locate on the premises of a chemical company in finding the appropriate location to fit their particular requirements.