



PRESS RELEASE

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

Balan, 10 November 2017

Kem One and Arkema further improve fire-fighting resources at Balan

The Balan industrial hub meets the most stringent recommendations in terms of fire safety. Kem One and Arkema have invested €400,000 to modernize their fire-fighting resources.

At the end of October, the Kem One-Arkema industrial hub at Balan introduced new fire-fighting resources. Following 6 months of work, on 10 November the hub's management team were able to present this new safety measure to local authorities.

Kem One and Arkema have built a 3500 m³ water tank - the equivalent of seven public swimming pools. The tank is supplied by groundwater and the level is maintained by automatic means. An independent pumping unit, with a flow rate of 900 cubic metres per hour, now supplies the site's permanent sprinklers and fire hydrants. The system can be controlled manually or remotely by the intervention teams, required on a full-time basis at the site. The two previous units will serve as a back-up.

The main purpose of the equipment is to protect flammable liquids stored at the site. It will mean an effective response can be made to even the most critical accidents, as independent operation is guaranteed for 4 hours.

An improvement plan for the hub

Besides strengthening fire safety, the industrial hub is investing **to reorganise the access to the site**. The project aims at making movement around the site easier and improving facilities and safety for both workers and visitors: new car-park layout, with a special parking area for delivery vehicles; special entrance for HGVs with own parking area; control room to be extended.
Work planned from November 2017 to summer 2018.

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KEM ONE is the second-largest European producer of PVC, with a diversified range combining convenience and speciality products. Also a producer of caustic soda and chlorine products, it has a turnover of €800 million, almost 80% of which comes from outside France. Its production activities are mainly located in France (Saint-Fons, Balan, Saint-Auban, Berre, Lavéra, Fos-sur-Mer and Vauvert) and Spain (Hernani). The company has almost 1,350 employees at its various production sites, R&D laboratories, sales offices in Europe and its head office in Lyon.