# Specialty Chemicals in the Gulf 2020



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### Specialty chemicals is a very fragmented field

### Global chemicals<sup>1</sup> market 2008

Percent



1 Excluding pharmaceuticals and soaps/detergents

### Specialty chemicals are subject to a life cycle



### Degree of commoditization

# Increasing Asian competition increases commoditization pressure

#### **Revenue at risk for Western players**

Percentage



1 Portion of global market where Western players cannot earn a positive ROS

### Incumbent specialty players need to have true competitive advantage

		Examples	
1	Distinctive technology	S MERCK	Liquid crystal technology
		novozymes	Specialty enzymes and microorganisms
2	Superior customer-oriented innovation	MONSANTO	Roundup Ready seeds
		3M	Post-it notes (and quite some others)
3	Value-added service	ECOLAB	Comprehensive full-service offering
		MALCO	Water treatment services
4	Regulatory advantage	Rhodia	Oil field biocides
		DSM ()	Arachidonic acid
5	Recognized product brand (by end consumer)	Teilor	"Carefree Cooking"
		GORE	"Guaranteed to Keep You Dry"

# For the first time in living memory, specialties were clearly outperformed by commodities in 2007/08

Total returns to shareholders (TRS), January 1, 1990 - August 1, 2009 Index<sup>1</sup> (100 =1990)



1 Indices based on 46 specialty chemical companies and 31 commodity chemical companies

#### Attraction of specialties for the Middle East – high labor intensity

#### Property, plants, and equipment (net) per employee<sup>1</sup> USD thousands



1 Based on samples of 10 major specialty chemical and 10 major commodity chemical companies







#### High labor costs

#### Limited local markets



# Challenging access to technology

Most production and application technology for specialty chemicals is only available via licensing or acquisition of incumbent companies



High labor costs

Limited local markets



Challenging access to technology



Raw material base (naphtha cracking)

### 3 thoughts



# Focus on products with local advantage

Leverage energy/feedstock cost advantage (e.g., graphite products) and build on existing value chains (e.g., for plastic additives)



# Alliances with Western companies

Seize opportunities in current economic climate to enter in partnerships or to make strategic acquisitions



### Focus on productivity

Extend feedstock advantage through integration with bulk petrochemicals and aim at reaching world-class productivity levels

# Colocation of specialties and commodities may improve profitability but is factually a cross-subsidy

# Integrated site – portfolio investment case example (end products of value chains only)



Differences in productivity between specialty players are enormous and potentially big enough to help compensate high local labor costs



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