

Asian Petrochemicalscan

Volume 37 / Issue 30 / July 28, 2023

Aromatics (\$/mt)

	FOB Korea	CFR Taiwan	CFR SE Asia	CFR India	CFR China	China Domestic [^]
Benzene	872.33-873.33*	882.83-884.83*	841.75-842.75 FOB*		894.50-895.50	
H1 Aug	869.50-871.50		-30			
H2 Aug	869.50-871.50		-30		894.00-896.00	
H1 Sep	873.00-875.00		-30		894.00-896.00	
H2 Sep	873.00-875.00				894.00-896.00	
H1 Oct	876.50-878.50				889.00-891.00	
East China Domestic Marker						7328-7348
East China prompt						7335-7355
East China Bal-M1						7335-7355
East China M2						7315-7335
Sinopec Listed Price						7200
Benzene Paper Swaps:						
Bal month Jul	NA-NA					
Aug	883.00-885.00					
Sep	881.00-883.00					
Oct	879.00-881.00					
Nov	877.00-879.00					
Dec	876.00-878.00					
Jan	875.50-877.50					
Toluene	974.00-976.00 FOB*		1034.00-1036.00**	1116.00-1118.00++	939.50-940.50++	7789-7791**
H1 Aug	974.00-976.00		1004.00-1006.00 FOB*		939.00-941.00++	
H2 Aug	974.00-976.00				939.00-941.00++	
H1 Sep	974.00-976.00				939.00-941.00++	
H2 Sep	974.00-976.00				939.00-941.00++	
H1 Oct	974.00-976.00				939.00-941.00++	
Cash Differentials				142.00~		
Sol-MX	954.00-956.00**	-	1019.00-1021.00 CFR**	1069.00-1071.00++	950.00-952.00++	
Iso-MX	999.50-1000.50#	1018.50-1019.50***			1000.00++	
H1 Aug	1003.00-1005.00	1022.00-1024.00			1004.00	
H2 Aug	1003.00-1005.00	1022.00-1024.00			1004.00	
H1 Sep	995.00-997.00	1014.00-1016.00			996.00	
H2 Sep	995.00-997.00	1014.00-1016.00			996.00	
OX	1084.00-1086.00**		1106.00-1108.00 CFR**		1079.00-1081.00**	
PX	1073.42-1075.42*		1094.00-1096.00+		-	
H1 Aug	1084.75-1086.75					
H2 Aug	1084.75-1086.75					
H1 Sep	1077.75-1079.75					
H2 Sep	1077.75-1079.75					
H1 Oct	1064.75-1066.75					
East China prompt						9107-9127**
PX derivatives						
Aug		1085.00				
Sep		1072.00				
Oct		1063.00				
Nov		1053.00				
Dec		1042.00				
Jan		1038.75				
Styrene	1014.50-1015.50 *	1029.00-1031.00	1044.50-1045.50 CFR**	1094.50-1095.50++	1009.50-1010.50++	
H1 Aug	1020.00-1022.00				1015.00-1017.00	
H2 Aug	1020.00-1022.00				1015.00-1017.00	
H1 Sep	1008.00-1010.00				1003.00-1005.00	
H2 Sep	1008.00-1010.00				1003.00-1005.00	
H1 Oct	999.00-1001.00				994.00-996.00	
East China prompt						8360-8380
East China Bal-M1						8365-8385
East China M2						8355-8375
CPL FL			1539.00-1541.00			
			1539.00-1541.00 CFR FE Asia			

*LC at sight, **LC 0-30 days, ***0-30 days for Asia origin cargoes and 0-60 days for deep-sea origin cargoes. +LC 30-45, #LC 30 days, ++LC 90 days. ~Cash differentials calculated using CFR India outright against FOB Korea marker. Note: Paraxylene CFR and derivatives assessments are basis CFR Taiwan/China. Styrene CFR assessments are basis CFR Taiwan/China. Credit differentials calculated using 1 month LIBOR +1.5%. No balance-month assessments from 16th of each month. PTA CFR China assessments reflect Friday's MOC assessment. ^In Yuan/mt. ##Methanol CFR India (Netback) Wkly price is a calculation based on the CFR China methanol assessment from which a netback to FOB Middle East is derived, using the Middle East-China freight assessment. A net forward to CFR India is then produced, using the Middle East-India freight assessment.

Aromatics (\$/mt) (continued)

	FOB Korea	CFR Taiwan	CFR SE Asia	CFR India	CFR China	China Domestic^
Methanol	283.50–285.50 CFR	275.00–277.00	284.00–286.00	256.50	261.00–263.00**	2269–2271*
Methanol CP CFR Asia (AUG)	315.00			233.00–235.00(Netback)##		
				India Domestic Ex-tank		
Methanol Domestic India (INR/kg)				22.450		
Methanol Domestic India (\$/mt)				273.970		
Methanol Derivatives Aug					262.00	
Methanol Derivatives Sep					265.00	
Methanol Derivatives Oct					268.00	
Methanol Derivatives Nov					271.00	
Methanol Derivatives Dec					274.00	
Methanol Derivatives Jan					277.00	
eMethanol cost	2224.62 FOB Shanghai					
MTBE	962.01–964.01 FOB Singapore		MTBE factor: 1.130			

PX CFR Taiwan/China LC 30-45 days						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Average
Marker	1041.67	1062.67	1061.67	1069.67	1097.42	1066.62
H1 Aug	1053.00	1074.00	1073.00	1081.00	1108.75	1077.95
H2 Aug	1053.00	1074.00	1073.00	1081.00	1108.75	1077.95
H1 Sep	1046.00	1067.00	1066.00	1074.00	1101.75	1070.95
H2 Sep	1046.00	1067.00	1066.00	1074.00	1101.75	1070.95
H1 Oct	1033.00	1054.00	1053.00	1061.00	1088.75	1057.95

Asia/open spread						
Sep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	
Oct	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Styrene Monomer FOB China						
Marker	1026.00					
H1 Aug	1026.00					
H2 Aug	1026.00					

Toluene FOB China						
Marker	985.000					
H2 Aug	985.000					
H1 Sep	985.000					

Weekly Averages						
Benzene	861.66–862.66	FOB Korea	SM	1010.00–1012.00	CFR Taiwan	
Benzene	877.30–878.30	CFR China	SM	990.50–991.50	CFR China	
Benzene	831.00–832.00	FOB SEA	SM	1004.60	FOB China	
Benzene East China	7140–7160	China Domestic^	SM	8221–8241**	East China prompt^	
Toluene	964.60–966.60	FOB Korea	SM	8229–8249**	East China Bal-M1^	
Toluene	942.50–943.50++	CFR China	SM	8199–8219**	East China M2^	
Toluene	7821–7823**	China Domestic^	Methanol	257.60–259.60	CFR China	
Toluene	1105.00–1107.00	CFR India	Methanol	289.40–291.40	CFR SE Asia	
Toluene	976.000	FOB China	Methanol	2240.20–2242.20	China Domestic^	
PX	1042.62–1044.62	FOB Korea	Methanol	256.000	CFR India	
PX	1065.62–1067.62	CFR Taiwan/China	Methanol Domestic India (INR/kg)	22.700	India Domestic Ex-tank	
PX	8855–8875	East China prompt	Methanol Domestic India (\$/mt)	277.030	India Domestic Ex-tank	
Iso-MX	977.40–978.40	FOB Korea	eMethanol cost	2233.320	FOB Shanghai	
Iso-MX	996.40–997.40	CFR Taiwan	MTBE	962.37–964.37	FOB Singapore	
Iso-MX	977.90	CFR China	MTBE factor	1.143		
SM	994.50–995.50	FOB Korea	Naphtha (Jul 28)	638.25–639.25	CFR Japan	

Olefins (\$/mt)

	FOB Korea	CFR Taiwan	CFR SE Asia	FOB Japan	CFR China	CFR NE Asia
Ethylene**	749–751		769–771			769–771
Propylene**	744–746	794–796	774–776	779–781	794–796	
Butadiene**	679–681	699–701	639–641		729–731	699.00–701.00

Weekly Averages						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Average
Ethylene CFR NE Asia	769–771	769–771	769–771	769–771	769–771	769.00–771.00
Ethylene CFR SE Asia	744–746	744–746	769–771	769–771	769–771	759.00–761.00
Propylene CFR Korea	734–736	734–736	734–736	739–741	744–746	737.00–739.00
Propylene CFR China	779–781	784–786	784–786	789–791	794–796	786.00–788.00
Butadiene CFR China	719–721	719–721	719–721	719–721	729–731	721.00–723.00
Butadiene FOB China	660.00	660.00	660.00	660.00	670.00	662.00
Butadiene FOB Korea	669–671	669–671	669–671	669–671	679–681	671.00–673.00
Butadiene CFR NE Asia	679–681	679–681	679–681	679–681	699–701	683.00–685.00

**LC 0–30 days, +LC 30–45, #LC 30 days, ++LC 90 days. Credit differentials calculated using 1 month LIBOR +1.5%.

Methanol bunker Singapore (\$/mt)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Average
Methanol Bunker Fuel	348.500	348.500	345.000	345.000	340.000	345.400
Methanol Bunker Fuel (oil equivalent)	664.581	664.581	657.907	657.907	648.372	658.670
Methanol Bunker Fuel (LNG equivalent)	842.884	842.884	834.419	834.419	822.326	835.386

Fiber Intermediates (\$/mt)

PTA	CFR SE Asia	CFR India	FOB China	CFR China	China Domestic^
MEG++	818–820	867–869	809	808–810	6100–6120
	492–494			484–486	

Weekly Averages

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Average
PTA FOB China	785	797	800	799	809	798.000
PTA CFR China	784–786	796–798	799–801	798–800	808–810	797.00–799.00
PTA CFR India	843–845	855–857	858–860	857–859	867–869	856.00–858.00
PTA China Domestic^	5830–5850	5890–5910	5900–5920	5914–5934	6100–6120	5926.80–5946.80
MEG CFR China	469–471	474–476	479–481	479–481	484–486	477.00–479.00
MEG China Domestic^	4010–4030	4040–4060	4100–4120	4100–4120	4130–4150	4076.00–4096.00

^In Yuan/mt.

Recycled Polymers (\$/mt)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekly Average*
Recycled PET						
Clear Flakes FOB SE Asia	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00	780.00
Clear Flakes Premium Grade FOB SE Asia	845.00	845.00	845.00	845.00	845.00	845.00
Clear Flakes Premium Grade FOB India	801.00	801.00	801.00	801.00	801.00	801.000

Recycled Polyolefins

R-HDPE Black Blow Moulding Pellets FOB SE Asia	660.00	660.00	660.00	660.00	700.00	660.00
R-HDPE Clear Film Pellets FOB SE Asia	800.00	800.00	800.00	800.00	850.00	798.00
R-LDPE Natural Film Pellets FOB SE Asia	770.00	770.00	770.00	750.00	800.00	770.00

NEW *The weekly average represents the average of Thursday last week through Wednesday of the current week.

Polymers (\$/mt)

	CFR Far East	CFR SE Asia	CFR S Asia
PVC SUSP	809–811	819–821	839–841
PVC Ethylene (FOB China)*	785.00		
PVC Carbide (FOB China)*	770.00		
LDPE G–P	949–951	959–961	980
LLDPE Butene	939–941	969–971	989–991
LLDPE Metallocene C6	1029–1031	1049–1051	1084–1086
HDPE YARN	939–941	959–961	
HDPE INJ	899–901	929–931	969–971
HDPE BLMDG	909–911	939–941	1044–1046
HDPE FILM	959–961	979–981	1029–1031
PP RAFFIA	829–831	884–886	949–951
PP INJECTION	829–831	884–886	949–951
IPP FILM	834–836	904–906	974–976
BOPP	834–836	909–911	969–971
BLOCK COPOL	849–851	924–926	989–991
PS G–P	1099–1101	1109–1111	
HIPS	1159–1161	1179–1181	
ABS INJ	1269–1271	1299–1301	
MMA	1500.00	1635.00	
PMMA	1875.00	2095.00	

For PVC, C6 mLLDPE, PS, ABS, MMA and PMMA, FE Asia refers to China. For PVC, South Asia refers to India. All polymer assessments are basis L/C 0-30 days except for MMA. Credit differentials calculated using 1 month LIBOR + 1.5%. *PVC Ethylene (FOB China) and PVC Carbide (FOB China) are showing the latest price i.e. Friday price.

Benzene

Asia Benzene: Prices rise amid stronger domestic China market

- Sep-Oct physical spread widens
 - Paper curve moves up with physical market
- Asian benzene markets ended stronger on the day July 28, gaining support from a stronger domestic China market.
- The domestic east China marker rose Yuan 175/mt on the day to Yuan 7,338/mt.
- Amid bullishness in downstream styrene monomer markets, benzene markets also received some support.

China Domestic (Yuan/mt ex-works)

LDPE	8780–8820
LLDPE	8280–8320
HDPE FILM	8580–8620
PP RAFFIA	7255–7295
PVC ethylene-based	6090–6110
PVC carbide-based	5890–5910

Weekly averages (CFR FE Asia)

HDPE	957.00–959.00
LDPE	947.00–949.00
LLDPE	937.00–939.00
PP RAFFIA	825.00–827.00
PP INJECTION	825.00–827.00

Weekly averages (CFR S Asia)

LDPE	977.00
------	--------

Weekly averages (FOB Middle East)

HDPE	948.00–950.00
LDPE	938.00–940.00
LLDPE	928.00–930.00
PP RAFFIA	816.00–818.00
PP INJECTION	816.00–818.00

Note: Weekly polymer assessments are made each Wednesday for Far East Asia, SE Asia, W Asia and South Asia. In addition, weekly averages of the daily PE South Asia and Far East Asia assessments and PP Far East assessments are published each Friday and represent the average of the assessments from previous Thursday through Wednesday.

“Everyone is trying to take advantage of the current uptick in price,” a producer in Southeast Asia said.

A buyer in Taiwan said, “we are not buying currently, but buying ideas are slightly stronger this week on the back of stronger styrene prices.”

The September-October physical timespread saw a widening to \$3.50/mt contango as offers for the physical spread fell to minus \$3/mt at their lowest.

Compared to physical markets, paper markets saw stronger

increases as the September contract was bid up at \$881/mt at its highest, increasing \$13/mt on the day.

In related markets, downstream styrene markets rose \$15/mt on the session at \$1,010/mt CFR China. The September ICE Brent Crude Futures were up \$0.53/b on the day at \$84.08/b , .

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Benzene Daily Rationale & Exclusions

Platts assessed Asian benzene up \$6/mt day on day at \$872.83/mt FOB Korea July 28. The marker took the average of the third-, fourth- and fifth-half month laycans — H2 August, H1 September and H2 September, respectively.

There were no transparent bids or offers during Platts Market on Close assessment process.

The September laycans were each assessed at \$874/mt, above the best bid heard at \$873/mt received at 4:21:50 pm Singapore time.

The September-October physical spread was assessed at minus \$3.5/mt, below an offer at minus \$3/mt received at 4:19:11pm Singapore time, resulting in the October laycans being assessed at \$877.50/mt.

Maintaining the H2 August-September intraday physical spread at minus \$3.5/mt, the H2 August laycan was assessed at \$870.5/mt.

The CFR China marker was assessed \$15/mt stronger at \$895/mt, considering the intraday movements in the FOB Korea market and east China market.

The September laycans were assessed at \$895/mt CFR China, up \$5/mt from intraday levels and keeping the H2 August-September physical spread at parity and the September-October spread at plus \$5/mt.

Platts assessed the domestic east China marker up Yuan 175/mt day on day, at Yuan 7,338/mt, equating to \$892.48/mt on an import-parity basis.

Exclusions: No MOC market data was excluded from the July 28 assessment.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Benzene Daily MOC Bids, Offers, Trades

Trades: None
Offers: None
Bids: None

Toluene

Asia Toluene: FOB Korea marker rises on week

- Price discussions remain firm across Asia
- Light naphtha feed curtails toluene output
- ICE September Brent crude futures up 51 cents/b on day at \$84.08/b

Asian toluene prices were stable to weaker July 28.
The FOB Korea marker was stable, taking into consideration

PET bottle and Polyester Yarn/Fiber (\$/mt)

	FOB NE Asia	FOB SE Asia	China Domestic^
PET	889–891	939–941	
Polyester POY150D/48F			7605.00
Polyester DTY150D/48F			9105.00
Polyester FDY150D/96F			8175.00
Polyester PSF 1.4D*38mm			7400.00

^In Yuan/mt.

China toluene, MX, styrene inventory levels

Product	Inventory level (mt)	Prior week (mt)	Change on week (%)
East China:			
Toluene	29500	36500	-19.18
Mixed Xylenes	28200	26900	4.83
Styrene	63900	51300	24.56
South China:			
Toluene	6500	9900	-34.34
Mixed Xylenes	900	1500	-40.00
Styrene	4900	9800	-50.00

Asian aromatics shipping routes

Spot freight to/from Korea and USGC			
From: To:	Korea 2-3kt	Korea 5kt	USGC 10-12kt
Korea			78-80 (SM, PX, MX)
Taiwan	32-34 (BTX, SM)	26-28 (PX)	83-85 (PX, MX)
East China	30-32 (BTX, SM)	23-25 (PX)	81-83 (SM, PX, OX)
South China		26-28 (PX)	
India	80-82 (Tol)		
USGC	110-114 (10kt Bz, Tol)		

Spot freight from Southeast Asia			
From: To:	Pasir Gudang 3kt	Map Ta Phut 3kt	Singapore 2-3kt
Singapore	30-32 (Bz)	36-38 (Bz)	
Indonesia			34
WC India			83
East China			53*
Taiwan		45-47 (Tol)	
India		88-90 (OX)	

*5-6kt.

Spot freight from Middle East			
From: To:	Middle East 2-3kt	Middle East 5-7kt	Middle East 10-12kt
Taiwan			71
East China		77	74
India	70-72 (SM, OX)		45
Southeast Asia		69-71 (PX)	62

Spot freight from India			
From: To:	India 3kt	India 5-7kt	India 10kt
Indonesia		66-68 (PX)	
East China	81-83 (OX)	75-77 (PX)	70-72 (PX)
South China/Taiwan			66-68 (PX)
Pakistan		52-54 (PX)	
Middle East		46-48 (Bz)	

Unless otherwise specified, Platts liquid petrochemical assessments refer to assessed freight rates for Benzene, Toluene, Xylenes, styrene monomer, methanol, MTBE and MEG. Please refer to the methodology guide for details on port locations.

the weaker domestic China market and the gains in adjacent downstream markets. There were no transparent bids or offers during the Platts Market on Close assessment process.

“Due to low operation rates and light feed of naphtha and also from LPG cracking, [there is] less toluene and xylenes produced ... and gasoline blending is good so there is no pygas we can buy in the market, which we can load up our aromatic unit as well,” a South Korean producer said.

The ex-tanks supplies market in China was thinly discussed as participants shied away from trading on the last day of the rollover month, sources said.

Inventories at Chinese ports rose week on week, sources said July 28. Inventory in East China was at 36,500 mt July 21, up from 31,000 mt July 14, industry sources said. Stocks in South China were also up this week at 9,900 mt from 6,600 mt July 14.

Discussions in India domestic market were softer, ranged around Rupee 97-99/kg, equivalent to around \$1,160-1,180/mt on an import-parity basis, according to S&P Global data. A sudden jump in ex-tank levels over the previous week, heated price discussions in India and traders saw higher profit margins. There were thin discussions on CFR west coast India basis amid lack of spot availability for August loadings. A buying idea was heard at FOB Korea plus \$130/mt for a zero-duty cargo, but sellers were mostly quiet. “No more cargo [left],” a seller said. Discussions were yet to start for September-loading cargoes, sources said.

However, there was a bid heard on CFR East Coast India basis for 2,000-5,000 mt, H1 August loading cargo at July average Platts FOB Korea toluene marker plus \$170/mt. An FOB West Coast India basis bid was also heard at July Platts FOB Korea marker plus \$145/mt which was later revised to FOB Korea plus \$150/mt. The bid was for a 3,000-mt prompt, H1 August-loading cargo.

CFR Southeast Asia was up \$60/mt to \$1,035/mt and FOB Southeast Asia was up \$60/mt to \$1,005/mt, widening the spread to the FOB Korea marker amid tight spot supplies in Southeast Asia. Sellers were heard indicating CFR Southeast Asia 1,000-2,000 mt tradable indications above FOB Korea plus \$100/mt, letter of credit 90 days. The FOB Korea marker rose \$55/mt week on week.

The ICE September Brent crude oil futures contract was up 51 cents/b day on day at \$84.08/b at the Asian close July 28.

In the upstream market, Platts assessed the benchmark Asian C+F Japan naphtha up \$12.50/mt day on day at \$638.75/mt July 28.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Toluene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asia toluene stable day on day at \$975/mt FOB Korea, lower \$15/mt at \$940/mt CFR China and stable at \$985/mt FOB China July 28.

Platts assessed both the H2 August and H1 September half-months at \$975/mt FOB Korea, at the intraday values. The marker took into consideration the weaker domestic China market and the slight gains in adjacent downstream markets. There were no transparent bids or offers during the Platts Market on Close

Asian aromatics demurrage rate (\$/day)

PX demurrage China 20kt 23000.00

Foreign exchange rates (PCA page 107)

AUD/USD	AAWFT00	0.6638
EUR/USD	AAWFU00	1.0955
USD/JPY	AAWFJ00	139.940
USD/HKD	AAWFY00	7.7987
USD/MYR	AAWGA00	4.5560
USD/SGD	AAWFZ00	1.3338
USD/INR	AAFGW00	82.2690
USD/CNY*	AAFW00	7.1338

*Source: Bank of China

Contract Prices (\$/mt)

Paraxylene

PX average CP settlements (Jul)	NA	CFR Asia
ExxonMobil	NA	CFR Asia
Idemitsu	NA	CFR Asia
ENEOS Corporation	NA	CFR Asia
S-Oil	NA	CFR Asia
SKGC	NA	CFR Asia
Reliance	NA	CFR Asia
PX producer CP nominations (July)		
ExxonMobil	NA	CFR Asia
Idemitsu	NA	CFR Asia
ENEOS Corporation	NA	CFR Asia
S-Oil	NA	CFR Asia
SKGC	NA	CFR Asia
Reliance	NA	CFR Asia
Sinopec CP nomination (August):	1070	
Sinopec CP settlement (July):	1035	
Sinopec CP nomination (August):	Yuan 8800	
Sinopec CP settlement (July):	Yuan 8525	

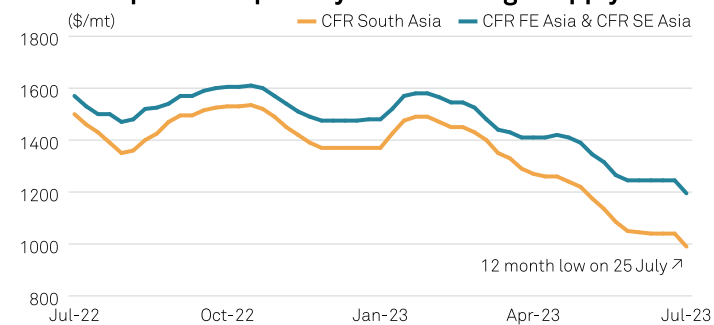
Benzene

ENEOS Corporation nomination (July):	790
ENEOS Corporation settlement (July):	775

MEG

Producer CP nominations (August)		
MEGlobal	810	CFR Asia
Sabir	880	CFR Asia
Shell	830	CFR Asia

Asia ACN prices drop to 1-year low on high supply



assessment process.

FOB China H2 August and H1 September laycans were each assessed at \$985/mt, taking into consideration the rangebound crude futures and weaker domestic market.

Platts assessed the CFR China marker at \$940/mt, tracking the lower prices in the domestic market.

Platts assessed east China domestic prompt ex-tank supplies down Yuan 100/mt on the day at Yuan 7,790/mt, equating to about \$943.88/mt on an import-parity basis.

Platts assessed Southeast Asia markers higher week on week, in line with other toluene markets in Asia. CFR Southeast Asia was up \$60/mt to \$1,035/mt and FOB Southeast Asia was up \$60/mt to \$1,005/mt, widening the spread to the FOB Korea marker amid tight spot supplies in Southeast Asia. Sellers were heard indicating CFR SE Asia 1,000-2,000 mt tradable indications above FOB Korea \$100/mt, letter of credit 90 days. The FOB Korea marker rose \$55/mt week on week.

The CFR India toluene cash differential was assessed at \$142/mt, stable on the day amid thin market discussions, above a buying idea heard at FOB Korea plus \$130/mt through a buyer for an August shipment cargo. The assessment partially took into account high import parity levels, no spot offers heard and strong demand. No market indications were heard for July shipment cargoes. CFR India outright price was assessed at \$1,117/mt, stable on the day based on the FOB Korea marker.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Solvent - MX

Asian Solvent-MX: Markets trade stable to firmer on week

- CPC, JG Summit sell tenders offer some reprieve
- Adjacent markets jump over \$50/mt on week

Asian solvent-MX prices were stable to firmer week on week July 28, considering the adjacent isomer-MX and toluene markets.

Platts assessed the FOB Korea marker at \$955/mt, considering tight supplies and stronger crude futures week on week. Meanwhile, the premiums on CFR SE Asia and CFR India rose on stronger demand and higher tradable and buy indications heard this week.

There were mixed moves in inventory stocks take this week, sources said. East China MX stocks rose 1,300 mt on the week to 28,200 mt July 28, up from 26,900 mt July 21. South China stocks dropped 600 mt to 900 mt July 28, down from 1,500 mt July 14, sources added.

Earlier this week, Taiwan's CPC and the Philippines' JG Summit awarded solvent-MX sell tenders. In JG Summit's sell tender, SK Chemical was heard to have bought 2,000 mt solvent-MX at FOB Korea plus \$15/mt for loading from Batangas Aug. 10-12. In CPC's solvent-MX tender, Itochu was the winner of 3,000 mt material at \$950/mt FOB Korea, industry sources said, but details could not

be confirmed.

Ex-tank prices at Mumbai and Kandla ports were around Rupees 91/kg, up Rupees 4/kg from a week ago. The premium for CFR India was assessed higher on the week at \$115/mt over FOB Korea, considering higher tradable levels at \$115-\$120/mt.

"Isomer-MX should be higher than solvent-MX, solvent-MX only can use for solvents, no other uses," a Southeast Asia-based trader said. "CFR SEA prices are fair value."

Adjacent markets isomer-MX prices were \$51.50/mt higher week on week at \$1,000/mt FOB Korea July 28 while toluene was \$55/mt higher week on week at \$975/mt.

Platts Asian Solvent MX Weekly rationale

Platts assessed Asian solvent-mixed xylenes up \$5/mt week on week at \$955/mt FOB Korea, up \$10/mt at \$1,020/mt CFR Southeast Asia, stable at \$951/mt CFR China and up \$10/mt at \$1,070/mt CFR India July 28.

The FOB Korea marker was assessed at \$955/mt, taking into consideration the rangebound crude futures and adjacent markets.

There were no transparent bids or offers during the Platts Market on Close assessment process.

The spread of the CFR Southeast Asia marker to FOB Korea was \$5/mt wider at plus \$65/mt and assessed at \$1,020/mt amid tight supplies. Tradable levels were heard at around FOB Korea plus \$90/mt from a seller.

Platts assessed CFR China at \$951/mt considering the prompt ex-tank supplies in east China and higher solvent-mx prices across Asia. Prompt ex-tank supplies were heard at around Yuan 7,950-8,000/mt.

Platts assessed CFR India solvent-MX at \$1,070/mt, widening from the FOB Korea marker, with tradable indications heard at FOB Korea plus \$115-\$120/mt amid tight supplies.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Paraxylene

Asian Paraxylene: Rises \$27.75/mt amid strong outlook

- Q4 prospects good for PX
- Supplies tight in Southeast Asia

Prices for Asian Paraxylene surged on the day as sentiment for the months ahead continued to remain firm.

Platts assessed Asian paraxylene up \$27.75/mt on the day at \$1,097.42/mt July 28.

In the remaining months of the year, sentiment for PX prices is unlikely to be dented too much, sources said.

Currently, the PX-Naphtha spread has remained firm above \$400/mt, providing ample incentive to producers, a trader in Singapore said. This trend is likely to continue in the last quarter of the year as well, the trader said, adding that "next year [is] bullish and Q4 is good," referring to PX prices and demand.

Supplies of PX in Southeast Asia are tight currently, traders said.

"The supply is tight," a producer in the region said, adding that "feedstock is expensive [and] plants like to sell feedstock rather than produce PX."

The Platts Asian paraxylene Market on Close assessment process July 27 saw several bids for September and October delivery Asia-origin cargoes.

There was an offer each for September delivery open-origin and Asia-origin cargoes.

Two trades were reported in the MOC process.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Paraxylene Daily Rationale & Exclusions

Platts assessed Asian paraxylene up \$27.75/mt on the day at \$1,097.42/mt CFR Taiwan/China and \$1,074.42/mt FOB Korea July 28.

The marker takes the average of first-half and second-half September laycans and H1 October laycan.

The H1 and H2 September laycans were assessed at \$1,101.75/mt, in line with a trade between GS Caltex and Total for an Asia-origin cargo at \$1,103/mt which was normalized due to restrictions in origin.

The H1 October laycan was assessed at \$1,088.75/mt, in line with the intermonth spread between September and October at \$13/mt.

Asian-origin cargoes were at parity with open-origin cargoes for October, as previously demonstrated.

The CFR Southeast Asia assessment was up \$50/mt on the week at \$1,095/mt, keeping a narrow spread to the CFR Taiwan/China assessment on the back of tighter supplies in the region, according to a producer.

Exclusions: No data was excluded from the July 28 Market on Close assessment process.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

(Daily price can be found on PC214, weekly assessments on PC337)

Platts Asian Paraxylene Daily Bids, Offers, Trades

Trades: CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: SEP23: HENGLI SELLS TO GS CALTEX* 5KMT AT \$1100.00 (08:26:55)

CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: SEP23: TOTAL SELLS TO GS CALTEX* 5KMT AT \$1103.00 (08:29:58)

Offers: CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX: SEP23: OQ OFFERS 5KMT AT \$1110.00; 'NON-USA ORIGIN'

CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: SEP23: HENGLI OFFERS 5KMT AT \$1111.00

Bids: CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: SEP23: SK BIDS 5KMT AT \$1096.00

CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: SEP23: YI SHENG DA HUA BIDS 5KMT AT \$1082.00

CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: SEP23: TOTAL BIDS 5KMT AT \$1079.00

CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: OCT23: GS CALTEX BIDS 5KMT AT \$1078.00

CFR TW-CN: PLATTS PX ASIA ORIGIN: OCT23: YI SHENG DA HUA BIDS 5KMT AT \$1069.00

Isomer - MX

Asian Iso-MX: Rises \$51.50/mt on week amid renewed arbitrage interest

- August loading FOB Korea cargoes heard booked for US
- FOB Korea jumps \$15/mt day on day

Asian isomer-grade mixed xylene rose \$51.50/mt week on week to \$1,000/mt FOB Korea, at \$1,019/mt CFR Taiwan and at \$1,000/mt CFR China on July 28 amid renewed demand for MX from the US as well as firmer upstream and downstream prices.

With the \$15/mt rise day on day the FOB Korea marker hit its highest level since April 20, when it was assessed at \$1,011/mt FOB Korea, data from S&P Global Commodity Insights showed.

In the US, MX and other aromatics prices were rising firmly over the course of the week with both US Gulf Coast spot nitration-grade toluene and MX both assessed 10 cents higher on the day July 27, reaching the highest levels since November 2022, S&P Global reported earlier. MX FOB US Gulf was assessed at 419 cents/gallon on July 27, or about \$1,272/mt, up about \$106/mt from a week earlier, S&P Global data showed.

Trade sources said August loading isomer-MX cargoes were being prepared to ship to the US, with the volume estimated to be around 30,000-40,000 mt in August. One trader said recent refinery issues in the US as well as the coming hurricane-season in the US Gulf were factors likely to support spot prices for some time.

Meanwhile, toluene, a feedstock for isomer-MX, also continued to rise \$55/mt on the week to \$975/mt FOB Korea, leaving no profitable margin between the two products, with a spread of only \$25/mt. Some TDP producers have recently confirmed keeping their units shut due to the negative spread between toluene and benzene and the very narrow spread between toluene and isomer-MX, which also kept the supply of isomer-MX tighter at the moment, according to sources.

Platts Asian Iso-MX Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asian isomer-MX up \$15/mt day on day at \$1,000/mt FOB Korea, at \$1,019/mt CFR Taiwan and at \$1,000/mt CFR China on July 28.

The marker considers the third and fourth half-month laycans, currently H2 August and H1 September.

There were no transparent bids, offers or trades during the Platts Market on Close assessment process from S&P Global Commodity Insights.

During the MOC, September was last heard bid at \$995/mt FOB Korea. September was assessed at \$996/mt FOB Korea, above the bid.

The backwardation between H2 August and September was assessed unchanged at \$8/mt, resulting in H2 August being assessed at \$1,004/mt FOB Korea.

CFR Taiwan was assessed up in line with FOB Korea, with no disproving information heard.

The CFR China marker was also assessed up in line with FOB Korea, considering bullish fundamentals in the international market.

Platts is part of S&P Global.

The above rationales applies to the following market data codes: PHAUV00 for FOB Korea, PHAUT00 for CFR Taiwan, and MXICA00 for CFR China.

Orthoxylene

Asian Orthoxylene: Rises \$45/mt on week on stronger energy complex

- Sinopec listed price rises to Yuan 8,600/mt
- Isomer MX, PX prices rise strongly on week

The Asian orthoxylene market was overwhelmingly bullish on July 28 despite low demand for cargoes, said Asian sources, because of a stronger energy complex, low supplies of OX in Asia and a rise of Yuan 300/mt in Sinopec's listed price to Yuan 8,600/mt on the day.

Asia-based sources, including some buyers, said that the rising costs of isomer-MX and higher paraxylene prices week on week also strengthened the OX market. One source said that he had stopped getting offers from producers since July 26 as sellers were watching energy prices rise.

Isomer-MX prices in Asia have been rising fast this week, with the average levels rising \$46.90/mt week on week. Platts assessed FOB Korea isomer-MX at \$1,000/mt at the Asian close July 28. On average, Asian PX prices rose \$36.69/mt week on week with the CFR Taiwan/China marker closing at \$1,097.42/mt July 28.

China-based sources expected Sinopec to raise OX prices next week, but by afternoon on July 28 the Sinopec listed price for East China domestic OX had risen Yuan 300/mt to Yuan 8,600/mt. Phthalic anhydride prices have also been rising during the previous and the current week, said sources, given the strength in the energy complex.

On July 27, OX-based PA was trading around Yuan 8,300/mt in the East China domestic market, said a source, adding that he expected PA prices to rise further with the rise in the Sinopec-listed OX price. The Chinese domestic market could accept PA prices up to Yuan 8,900-9,000/mt, the source added.

Meanwhile, turnarounds at producers like Thailand's PTT and South Korea's Lotte were also adding to some supply tightness within Asia, while other China-based sources said that the supply of OX within the China market was also tight.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Orthoxylene Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed orthoxylene prices up \$45/mt week on week at \$1,085/mt FOB Korea, at 1,080/mt CFR China and at \$1,107/mt CFR SEA on July 28.

CFR China was assessed up on the week at \$1,080/mt with tradable values heard around \$1,070-\$1,080/mt CFR China as well around \$1,100/mt CFR China. This uptick was supported by the rise in Sinopec's listed price for OX by Yuan 300/mt at Yuan 8,600/mt and substantial rises in adjacent markets like isomer MX and paraxylene week on week.

The FOB Korea price was also assessed higher week on week at \$1,085/mt FOB Korea, reflecting reduced supply of spot cargoes for August and September and gains in the energy complex.

CFR Southeast Asia was assessed up \$45/mt at \$1,107/mt on the week, reflecting the strength in the energy complex and no disproving information heard.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Styrene

Asian Styrene: Rises \$19/mt on back of stronger crude prices

- High prices keep demand in India weak: source
- September ICE Brent crude futures at \$84.08/b

Platts assessed Asian styrene monomer \$19/mt higher from the previous session at \$1,015/mt FOB Korea and \$1,010/mt CFR China July 28 on the back of stronger crude prices.

While prices continued to rise, a source based in China said that this was due to speculative demand and that actual demand was still low. Several sources from India suggested that the market demand remained sluggish on the back of high prices. A source based in Southeast Asia said that prices were mirroring global trends, and that demand had also begun improving.

The CFR India marker was assessed at a spread of plus \$85/mt to CFR China, considering stronger tradeable indications, and the CFR Southeast Asia marker was assessed stronger on the week at a spread of plus \$35/mt to CFR China, considering market feedback that the demand was slightly better and prices were higher.

The September ICE Brent crude futures were assessed at \$84.08/b, up \$0.53/b on the day. Crude futures looked on pace to finish the week with strong gains as a combination of improving macroeconomic sentiment and tight fundamentals offered support.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Styrene Monomer Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asian styrene monomer \$19/mt higher from the previous session at \$1,015/mt FOB Korea and \$1,010/mt CFR China July 28.

No transparent bids or offers were heard during the Platts

Market on Close assessment process.

The CFR China marker took the average of the second-half August and first-half September laycans.

The H2 August laycan was assessed \$19/mt higher at \$1,016/mt on stronger indications from the domestic China market. The H1 September laycans were also assessed \$19/mt higher at \$1,004/mt, maintaining the intermonth spread to the H2 August laycan at a \$12/mt backwardation with no disproving information heard, while indications from the domestic China market proved the same.

The FOB Korea marker was assessed stronger, in line with CFR China. The marker was up \$19/mt from the previous session at \$1,015/mt, maintaining the spread to CFR China at plus \$5/mt.

The domestic China prompt marker rose Yuan 160/mt to Yuan 8,370/mt on an ex-tank basis, which was around \$1,017.95/mt on an import-parity basis, also taking into consideration a slightly weaker Yuan to the dollar.

The FOB China marker was assessed stronger at \$1,026/mt, maintaining the spread to first-half and second-half August for CFR China at plus \$10/mt.

The CFR Taiwan marker was assessed at \$1,030/mt, maintaining the premium of \$20/mt to the CFR China marker.

The CFR India marker was assessed at a spread of plus \$85/mt to CFR China, considering two tradeable indications that suggested the spread was between plus \$80 and plus \$90/mt to CFR China.

The CFR Southeast Asia marker was assessed stronger on the week at a spread of plus \$35/mt to CFR China, considering market feedback that demand was slightly better and prices were higher.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Caprolactam

Asian Caprolactam: Prices improve along with higher feedstock costs

- Offer indications for caprolactam increase broadly
- Domestic East China ex-tank climbs over \$1,500/mt

The Asian caprolactam market saw more positive sentiment for downstream demand in the week to July 27, but overall fundamentals remained weak, according to sources.

Market sources said downstream nylon buyers were more willing to discuss at a higher range, while nylon demand was expected to return slowly. There were “more inquires, but” deals were still few,” a source said.

Nylon-6 chips selling indications were heard starting at \$1,700/mt to an even higher price range for a full container.

A trade indication for caprolactam was heard to be around \$1,540/mt. In China, ex-tank supplies were heard at around Yuan 1,2600/mt, equating to \$1,564.65/mt on an import-parity basis without import tax.

Russian-origin caprolactam offers for Asia-based buyers were

heard to have increased to levels above \$1,500/mt, according to sources, who added that asking prices were lower than that what was turned down.

Meanwhile, Platts assessed both CFR Far East Asia and Southeast Asia caprolactam at \$1,540/mt June 27, each rising \$40/mt week on week.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Caprolactam Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed Asian caprolactam up \$40/mt week on week for CFR Far East Asia at \$1,540/mt July 27, considering contract prices by producers at \$1,540/mt as well as increased producers' retail price.

CFR Southeast Asia was assessed up \$40/mt week on week at \$1,540/mt, considering levels heard in respect to Far East Asia and in absence of indications.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Methanol

Asian Methanol: Prices rise \$9-\$15.50/mt on gains from China

- Sep ZCE up Yuan 80/mt, Brent up \$3.37/b on week
- Chinese spot discussions move higher
- Ample inventory weighs on India trading activity

Asian methanol prices closed the week around \$9/mt to \$15.50/mt higher July 28, led by gains in the Chinese market and underpinned by bullish trading in crude oil and methanol futures.

Chinese methanol futures got a boost on hopes that Beijing would step in with supportive fiscal measures to cushion the slump in property and construction sectors — key drivers of crude and oil products consumption.

China's strong oil demand accounted for over 50% of crude exports out of Malaysia. China imported 1.5 million b/d in July, up from just 785,000 b/d in June, S&P Global Commodities at Sea data showed July 20.

The combination of these factors saw the September methanol futures contract on the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange closing Yuan 80/mt higher week on week at Yuan 2,298/mt July 28.

Front-month ICE Brent crude oil futures were \$3.87/b higher over the same period at \$84.08/b July 28 at 4:30 pm Singapore time (0830 GMT).

Discussions for spot cargoes in China moved higher to \$260-\$265/mt July 28 after a deal was concluded at \$260/mt July 25.

Fundamentals in Southeast Asia appeared to be long with some end-users deferring term cargo commitments to a later date. However, there were a number of deals being privately negotiated between producers and end-users, showing that spot demand was not entirely lackluster, market sources said.

In South Korea, prompt spot demand emerged for the

second half of August. However, the tight time frame meant that few sellers could sell into the delivery period and much of the discussion for spot was seen for deliveries in the first half of September.

Platts assessed CFR China up \$9/mt week on week at \$262/mt, while CFR Southeast Asia was down \$8.50/mt but CFR Korea \$15.50/mt higher week on week at \$284.50/mt July 28.

Trade discussions in India were thin this week with buyers mostly sidelined amid ample cargo arrivals from the Middle East and volatile adjacent markets. With inventories swelling and slow demand seasonally, importers were seen cautiously placed. At least 60,000 mt methanol was to unload at Kandla with an additional close to 20,000 mt at Mumbai port this week, according to data shared by a market source.

A 5,000-mt bid at \$256/mt did not attract selling interest. Sellers were resistant to offer down and expected improvement in market prices, sources said.

"We will wait and watch, expecting market to improve in coming weeks," a producer said.

"We are not interested below \$260/mt [for] H2 August shipment," another seller stated.

Platts assessed CFR India methanol at \$256.50/mt CFR India, stable on the day and up 50 cents/mt on the week July 28.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Methanol Daily Rationale & Exclusions

Platts assessed Asian methanol up \$3/mt on the day and \$9/mt higher week on week at \$262/mt CFR China July 28, within discussions at \$260-\$265/mt and under an offer at \$265/mt CFR China, in line with higher domestic prices.

East China methanol domestic price was assessed up Yuan 32/mt over the same period at Yuan 2,270/mt ex-tank amid discussions at Yuan 2,265-2,275/mt ex-tank.

The CFR Southeast Asia methanol price was assessed down \$5/mt day on day at \$285/mt July 28. Aug. 17-31 was assessed at \$284.50/mt, below an offer at \$285/mt CFR Southeast Asia. Sept. 1-10 was assessed at \$285.50/mt, above a bid at \$285/mt CFR Southeast Asia.

CFR Korea methanol was assessed up \$15.50/mt week on week at \$284.50/mt July 28. Aug. 17-31 was assessed at \$290.50/mt, above a buying indication for H2 August delivery at \$290/mt CFR Korea. Sept. 1-6 was assessed at \$269/mt CFR Korea, based on the assessment the week prior, in the absence of a buying indication for H1 September.

The CFR Taiwan market was assessed \$9/mt higher week on week at \$276/mt, in line with similar gains in the adjacent China market, amid thin spot discussions.

Platts assessed CFR India methanol at \$256.5/mt CFR India July 28, stable on the day at the intraday value, above a bid heard from a buyer and a seller at \$256/mt. No disproving indications were heard from the intraday value. No firm offers were heard during the assessment process.

India's domestic methanol ex-tank Kandla price was assessed at Rupee 22.45/kg, down Rupee 0.15/kg on the day, below offers

heard at around Rupee 22.50-22.75/kg.

Singapore-delivered methanol bunker was assessed at a premium of \$55/mt to CFR Southeast Asia methanol, stable day on day, with no disproving indications heard.

FOB Shanghai renewable methanol was assessed at a premium of \$24/mt to ex-works costs.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Exclusions: No market data was excluded from the July 28 assessment.

The above rationale applies to the following market data codes: <AAWAZ00> for CFR China daily, <AAWBA00> for CFR Southeast Asia daily, <AAWBB00> for domestic China daily, <MLCFI00> for CFR India daily, <PHACH00> for CFR Korea weekly, <PHACI00> for CFR Taiwan weekly, <PHACJ00> for CFR Southeast Asia weekly, <AABAG00> for CFR India Netback, and <AAVAR04> for China domestic.

(Weekly price assessments can be found on PCA348, and daily price assessments are on PCA653)

Platts Asian Methanol Daily Bids, Offers, Trades

Bids: Sep 01-10 arrival, bid at \$285/mt CFR Southeast Asia, Lc45; H2 Aug arrival, 5kt, buying indication at \$290/mt CFR Korea, Lc30; CFR India: H2 Aug. arrival, non-sanctioned, heard bid at \$256/mt, 5 Kt, LC 30; CFR India: 17 Aug.-11 Sep arrival, non-sanctioned, bid at \$256/mt, 5 Kt, LC 30

Offers: August-loading, 5kt, offer at \$265/mt CFR China main port, Lc30; End-August arrival, 3-5kt, offer at \$285/mt CFR Southeast Asia, Lc30 ; H1 Sep arrival, 5kt, selling indication at \$295/mt CFR Korea, Lc30;

Trades: end-August/Sept. arrival, 5-10kt, discussions at \$260-\$265/mt CFR China, Lc30;

MTBE

Asian MTBE: Drops \$17.04/mt on week amid surplus supply

- Limited buying indications in market
- Participants expect more support near future

Platts assessed Asian MTBE down \$17.04/mt on the week at \$963.01/mt July 28 amid surplus supply of the gasoline-blending component in Straits, according to sources.

The MTBE market in Straits ended the week muted July 28 as limited buying indications were heard due to sufficient supply, a trader said.

No offers were heard from China-based sellers July 28 as there are no more available cargoes amid firm domestic gasoline demand, another trader said.

Participants expected the MTBE market to be supported in the following weeks due to the drop in FOB Singapore price, which would then be attractive for buyers to purchase more, a blender said.

The MTBE FOB Singapore factor was at 1.13 July 28, marking its five-month-lowest level before Feb. 27 at 1.127, S&P Global Commodity Insights data showed.

Blending demand in Straits remains stable and along with the strong RON 92-naphtha crack at \$32.51/b July 28, buyers would have interest to buy more MTBE than required, the blender said.

Platts is part of S&P Global.

Platts Asian MTBE Daily Rationale & Exclusions

Platts assessed Asian MTBE FOB Singapore up \$2.61/mt on the day at \$963.01/mt on July 28, and the MTBE factor was unchanged at 1.130.

The marker takes the pricing average of cargoes loading 15-40 days' forward, currently Aug. 12-Sept. 6.

The laycan from Aug. 12-Sept. 6 was assessed unchanged at a backwardation of \$2.25/mt July 28.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This rationale applies to symbol(s) <PHALF11> <AAWIW00>

Exclusions: No data was excluded from the July 28 MOC.

Platts Asian MTBE Daily Bids, Offers, Trades

Trades: none

Offers: FOB STRAITS

PLATTS MTBE 3KT: AUGUST 12-16: SK CHEMICAL OFFERS 3KMT AT \$976.00

PLATTS MTBE 3KT: SEPTEMBER 1-5: SK CHEMICAL OFFERS 3KMT AT \$974.00

Bids: none

Ethylene

Asian Ethylene: Few firm bids and offers

- Some recovering derivative spreads boost selling sentiment
 - Buyers covered for August, wait-and-see for September
- Trade in the Asian ethylene markets was muted in the week ending July 28, with few firm bids and offers.

Selling indications were heard at \$810-\$830/mt CFR Northeast Asia for fixed price cargoes and a \$20-\$30/mt premium over CFR NE Asia for formula cargoes.

Buying indications were heard at \$750-\$770/mt CFR NE Asia in the week. On a formula basis, buying indications were heard at premiums of \$10-\$19/mt over CFR NE Asia.

Buyers remained cautious on the back of uncertain downstream demand despite recovering margins.

The spread between key derivative PE and ethylene was calculated at \$200/mt July 28, above the typical spread of \$150/mt, boosting selling sentiment.

Demand for PVC was also deemed robust as cargoes for September-loading were selling well, according to market sources.

However, production margins for SM remained weak on the

back of strong benzene prices, weighing on ethylene buying interest in the SM sector.

MEG margins were also poor, despite support seen for export sales of polyester POY and FDY grades.

There was a general lack of buying urgency in the week, with majority of buyers covered for August. Negotiations for September cargoes had yet to commence in full swing, as suppliers were also cautious on the back of the eighth consecutive increase in naphtha prices.

Upstream, the benchmark C+F Japan naphtha marker was assessed up \$12.50/mt at \$638.75/mt on the July 28 Asian close.

The ethylene-naphtha spread was calculated at \$131.25/mt, below the typical spread of \$250/mt for integrated producers and \$300-\$350/mt for non-integrated producers, S&P Global Commodity Insights data showed.

Platts Asian Ethylene Daily Rationale

The Platts Ethylene CFR Northeast Asia assessment was kept stable on the day at \$770/mt July 28, reflecting tradable indications from traders and buyers at \$770/mt.

The assessment was flat on the week.

The CFR Southeast Asia assessment was unchanged on the day at \$770/mt, amid few firm discussions.

The assessment was \$25/mt higher on the week.

In the weekly FOB Korea markets, prices were assessed stable at \$750/mt, as activity was limited.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

(Daily price assessments are found on PCA550, weekly price assessments on PCA302)

MEG

Asia MEG: Rises on restocking demand

- Participants prefer small volume purchases
- Brent rises 51 cents/b on day

Asian monoethylene glycol prices increased on the day July 28 on higher energy futures and restocking demand, sources said.

The ICE September Brent crude oil futures was up 51 cents/b from the previous close at \$84.08/b at the Asian close July 28.

Domestic demand in China was stable, but end-users were afraid to do large purchases due to an uncertain economic outlook, sources said.

While China-based traders were willing to bear some risk to take in US inventory, Southeast Asian buyers were more cautious, preferring to conduct only back-to-back businesses, sources said.

In Southeast Asia, only end-users were willing to bear the long lead time for US-origin cargoes.

Platts Asian MEG Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asia monoethylene glycol at \$485/mt CFR China July 28, up \$5/mt on the day, considering a discussion at the same level.

Platts assessed domestic Chinese MEG up Yuan 30/mt on the day at Yuan 4,140/mt ex-tank, considering a discussion at the same level from a producer.

Southeast Asia was assessed at \$493/mt CFR, up \$5/mt day on day, while the premium of \$8/mt over China was stable.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Propylene

Asian Propylene: Rises \$5/mt on stronger crude

■ Shandong propylene rises Yuan 95/mt

■ LCY Chemical restarts Kaohsiung PP line

The CFR China propylene marker continued to receive support July 28 from stronger crude oil prices.

Industry sources said that the recent gain in upstream prices was pushing up the price for domestic and propylene import prices.

The September ICE Brent crude oil futures contract was up \$0.51/b from the previous Asian close at \$84.08/b at 0830 GMT, and this lent firmer support for the propylene market.

The Shandong domestic price was assessed up Yuan 50/mt on the day at Yuan 6,530/mt ex-works and this came in at \$802/mt after taking into account taxes and the exchange rate.

Selling indications were heard at \$820-\$830/mt CFR China, while buying indications were heard around \$790/mt CFR China.

In plant news, Taiwan's LCY Chemical restarted its 250,000 mt/year Kaohsiung polypropylene line July 28 after it was shut July 20 due to a technical issue, a company source said.

The shutdown of the 250,000 mt/year capacity line was earlier scheduled July 24 due to poor demand for polypropylene, but was preponed to July 20 due to a technical issue, S&P Global Commodity Insights reported earlier.

According to sources, the next shutdown for this line will be

in August.

The company had restarted its 150,000 mt/year PP plant at Kaohsiung July 21 as scheduled earlier, after it was shut in early July amid weak downstream demand.

LCY Chemical imports propylene feedstock but also buys on a term basis from CPC, the source added.

Platts assessed CFR China propylene at \$795/mt July 28, up \$5/mt on the day, while the Asian polypropylene-propylene spread stood at \$35/mt, well below the typical breakeven spread of \$150/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Propylene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed propylene CFR China up \$5/mt on the day at \$795/mt July 28, above buying indication heard at \$790/mt CFR China by a buyer, lower than a selling indication heard at \$820-\$830/mt CFR China from two sellers

Platts assessed propylene FOB Korea up \$5/mt on the day at \$745/mt, below a selling indication heard at \$780-\$800/mt by two South Korean producers, above a buying indication heard at \$740/mt from one buyer.

East China domestic price was assessed unchanged on the day at Yuan 6,475/mt ex-works based on price discussion heard at the same level. Shandong's domestic price was assessed up Yuan 95/mt at Yuan 6,625/mt, based on price discussion heard at the same level.

Platts assessed CFR Taiwan up \$15/mt on the week at \$795/mt, above buying tradeable indications heard at \$790/mt from buyers.

FOB Japan prices were assessed up \$10/mt on the week at \$780/mt, on a stronger adjacent market, above a buying indication heard at \$770/mt FOB Japan by an end-user.

The CFR Southeast Asia marker was assessed up \$20/mt on the week at \$775/mt on a stronger adjacent market in line with tradable indication heard in the range of \$770-\$800/mt CFR SEA.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts

S&P Global
Commodity Insights

Asian Petrochemicalscan

ISSN: 1931-177X

Contact Client Services:

E-mail: ci.support@spglobal.com; Americas: +1-800-752-8878; Europe & Middle East: +44-20-7176-6111; Asia Pacific: +65-6530-6430

© 2023 by S&P Global Inc. All rights reserved.

S&P Global, the S&P Global logo, S&P Global Commodity Insights, and Platts are trademarks of S&P Global Inc. Permission for any commercial use of these trademarks must be obtained in writing from S&P Global Inc.

You may view or otherwise use the information, prices, indices, assessments and other related information, graphs, tables and images ("Data") in this publication only for your personal use or, if you or your company has a license for the Data from S&P Global Commodity Insights and you are an authorized user, for your company's internal business use only. You may not publish, reproduce, extract, distribute, retransmit, resell, create any derivative work from and/or otherwise provide access to the Data or any portion thereof to any person (either within or outside your company, including as part of or via any internal electronic system or intranet), firm or entity, including any subsidiary, parent, or other entity that is affiliated with your company, without S&P Global Commodity Insights' prior written consent or as otherwise authorized under license from S&P Global

Commodity Insights. Any use or distribution of the Data beyond the express uses authorized in this paragraph above is subject to the payment of additional fees to S&P Global Commodity Insights.

S&P Global Commodity Insights, its affiliates and all of their third-party licensors disclaim any and all warranties, express or implied, including, but not limited to, any warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose or use as to the Data, or the results obtained by its use or as to the performance thereof. Data in this publication includes independent and verifiable data collected from actual market participants. Any user of the Data should not rely on any information and/or assessment contained therein in making any investment, trading, risk management or other decision. S&P Global Commodity Insights, its affiliates and their third-party licensors do not guarantee the adequacy, accuracy, timeliness and/or completeness of the Data or any component thereof or any communications (whether written, oral, electronic or in other format), and shall not be subject to any damages or liability, including but not limited to any indirect, special, incidental, punitive or consequential damages (including but not limited to, loss of profits, trading losses and loss of goodwill).

ICE index data and NYMEX futures data used herein are provided under S&P Global Commodity Insights' commercial licensing agreements with ICE and with NYMEX. You acknowledge that the ICE index data and NYMEX futures data herein are confidential and are proprietary trade secrets and data of ICE and NYMEX or its licensors/suppliers, and you shall use best efforts to prevent the unauthorized publication, disclosure or copying of the ICE index data and/or NYMEX futures data.

Permission is granted for those registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) to copy material herein for internal reference or personal use only, provided that appropriate payment is made to the CCC, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, phone +1-978-750-8400. Reproduction in any other form, or for any other purpose, is forbidden without the express prior permission of S&P Global Inc. For article reprints contact: The YGS Group, phone +1-717-505-9701 x105 (800-501-9571 from the U.S.).

For all other queries or requests pursuant to this notice, please contact S&P Global Inc. via email at ci.support@spglobal.com.

Butadiene

Asian Butadiene: Rising naphtha, limited downstream uptick keep market cautious

- Selling indications bullish on increasing feedstock
- Buying indications unchanged on limited derivative improvements

Sentiment was mixed in the Asian butadiene markets in the week ended July 28.

Selling indications were high on the back of rising naphtha prices. Some selling indications were heard at \$750-\$800/mt CFR NE Asia in the week.

Suppliers cited concerns on narrow butadiene-naphtha spreads, with several saying margins were unhealthy and could result in cracker operating rate cuts if margins do not improve.

Buying indications were heard at \$700-\$730/mt CFR NE Asia, with several buyers citing sluggish downstream demand.

Demand for derivatives such as BDO, SBR, and BR saw limited uptick in the week, keeping most butadiene buyers cautious. Futures prices rose, but the near-term outlook remained uncertain as newly announced stimulus packages by the Chinese government had yet to result in clear improvements in the finished goods sectors, market sources said. With several buyers already covered for August butadiene, buying interest was limited. Most were still on a wait-and-watch mode for September cargoes.

In the Chinese domestic markets, discussion levels widened in the week. Early-week discussions were heard at Yuan 6,900-7,200/mt ex-tank, which widened to Yuan 6,800-7,300/mt ex-tank by the late-week.

Upstream, the eighth consecutive rise in naphtha prices weighed on selling sentiment, with several sellers refraining from offering amid feedstock volatility.

The benchmark C+F Japan naphtha marker was assessed up by \$12.50/mt at \$638.75/mt on July 28 Asian close.

The butadiene-naphtha spread was calculated at \$91.25/mt, below the typical spread of \$300/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Butadiene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed the CFR China butadiene \$10/mt higher on the day at \$730/mt July 28, reflecting a tradable indication from a producer and traders at \$730/mt.

CFR Northeast Asia was \$10/mt higher on the day at \$680/mt, tracking increases in the CFR China markets as there were limited discussions.

The FOB Korea assessment was \$10/mt higher on the day at \$680/mt, while the FOB China assessment rose \$10/mt to \$670/mt in view of increases in adjacent markets on limited activity.

In the Chinese domestic markets, prices were kept stable at Yuan 6,900/mt, reflecting discussions from a producer at Yuan 6,800-7,300/mt.

In the weekly markets, CFR Taiwan prices were flat at \$700/mt, reflecting tradable indications from buyers at \$700/mt.

CFR Southeast Asia prices were \$10/mt higher at \$640/mt, amid increases in adjacent markets on limited talks.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

PVC

Asian PVC: Rises as supply constraint pinches, global demand strengthens

- Supply tightens ahead of maintenance work by major plants
- Enquiries from India increase

Asian polyvinyl chloride rose \$10-\$20/mt week on week July 26, after producers increased offers for August shipment.

Platts assessed CFR China PVC \$10/mt higher week on week at \$810/mt July 26, while CFR India PVC was assessed \$20/mt higher at \$840/mt during the same period.

The price increase reflected tight supplies for August following maintenance work at Formosa Plastics Corp and PT Asahimas Chemicals plants.

Global demand for PVC is quite strong due to supply constraints in the US, sources said.

Availability was seen tightening because in addition to Formosa's upcoming shutdowns, Shintech's 1.45 million mt/year PVC unit in Freeport, Texas — the world's largest — was running at reduced rates on a lack of upstream vinyl chloride monomer feedstock.

Olin, which supplies 50% of the VCM needed to run Shintech's Freeport unit at normal rates, shut the 835,000 mt/year VCM plant July 12, citing equipment failures, according to filings in Shintech's federal lawsuit against Olin centered on a supply contract dispute. Olin had shut the VCM unit in March for a turnaround that lasted seven weeks longer than planned and did not reach normal rates after restarting in mid-June.

"GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council countries), Africa and Latin America are also trying to buy all volume they can get from Asia this week because of Shintech problem," a trader in Far East Asia said.

Gains in crude oil futures also supported the uptick in prices. Local China PVC prices rose Yuan 100/mt week on week at Yuan 6,100/mt for ethylene-based PVC and Yuan 5,900/mt for carbide-based PVC July 26, S&P Global data showed.

A Southeast Asian producer said enquiries from India have increased.

However, the local PVC demand in India has been impacted due to the ongoing monsoon season as consumption reduces during the rainy season in the country.

In the domestic market in India, PVC resin was at Rupee 75/kg ex-Mundra, up Rupee 1/kg from Rupee 74/kg a week ago.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian PVC Daily Rationale

In daily market, Platts assessed ethylene-based PVC price \$15/mt higher day on day at \$785/mt FOB China July 28, above a buy idea heard at \$780/mt and below offers heard between \$790-\$800/mt.

Platts assessed carbide-based PVC price \$15/mt higher day on day at \$770/mt FOB China July 28, above a buy idea heard at \$760/mt and below an offer heard at \$790/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

LDPE

Asia LDPE: Rises on improved buying interest, higher crude futures

- Sep ICE Brent crude rises \$3.22/b on week
- PTT to shut LDPE unit for maintenance in Sep

The Asian low-density polyethylene market rose on the week July 26 on the back of improved buying interest and higher crude futures.

At the Asia close July 26, the September ICE Brent crude oil futures contract was up \$3.22/b on the week to \$83.12/b.

Platts assessed Asian low-density polyethylene CFR South Asia marker up \$5/mt day on day at \$975/mt July 26.

Festival demand is expected to pick up in the second half of August, an official with a leading producer in India said.

"Whatever people would be booking today would come by end-August or mid-September, so they would use it to plan inventory for festival season be it Diwali or Christmas," a source in India said.

On the import front, India's polyethylene imports so far in July were estimated at 220,000-230,000 mt, down from 250,000 mt in June, industry sources said.

Sources added that inventory is under control now because whatever is being produced is getting lifted, as import consignments are a bit delayed this month.

In plant news, Thailand's PTT Global Chemical will shut its 300,000 mt/year LDPE plant in Map Ta Phut for 24 days of maintenance in September, S&P Global Commodity Insights reported earlier, citing a company source.

The scheduled maintenance was not likely to have an impact on regional supply, market sources said.

Platts Asian LDPE Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed Asian low-density polyethylene with a melt flow index of 0.3-4, but typically between 1 and 2, up \$20/mt week on week at \$950/mt CFR Far East Asia July 26, considering a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts assessed the CFR Southeast Asia marker up \$20/mt week on week at \$960/mt, considering a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts assessed South Asian general-purpose, low-density grade polyethylene \$5/mt higher from the previous day at \$975/mt CFR South Asia on June 26, below offers heard at \$980/mt and \$1,020/mt CFR.

Platts assessed domestic Chinese cargoes up Yuan 100/mt week on week at Yuan 8,800/mt ex-tank, considering a discussion at the same level.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Recycled LDPE

Asia recycled LDPE: Prices stable on thin trade

- Weak demand may persist through H2 2023
- Waste plastic feedstock imports limited in Southeast Asia

The Asian recycled low density polyethylene market was stable in the week to July 26 on thin trade.

Although there was an overwhelming demand for post-consumer recycled compared with post-industrial recycled from the end-users, sources said PCR material was expensive to produce given high labor costs.

It was possible to manufacture PCR material without certification, but without it, many end-buyers would not pay a high price for the material, sources said.

Waste feedstock plastic imports were strictly limited in Southeast Asia as imports either require limited licensing, had complete bans, or needed to fulfil contamination thresholds. In the US, various states are aiming to have different minimum post-consumer recycled content in finished plastic goods from 25% to 50% by 2030. Asian traders were hoping to sell to US customers, but they said the take-up rate has been slow due to cheap prime resin.

Global market sources are expecting weak demand to persist through the second half of 2023.

The cause of the weak demand — bearish economic outlook — is expected to continue unabated.

Traders said many users have given up on market recovery in the second half of 2023, leading Asian end-users to substitute virgin resin if they are not constrained by mandates regarding post-consumer content.

Such poor economics have prompted production cuts, sources pointed out, adding that some consolidation of the recycling market has been taking place.

Asian Recycled LDPE Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asian recycled low-density polyethylene natural film pellets up \$50/mt on the day at \$800/mt FOB Southeast Asia July 28 in line with a tradable indication at the same level.

The intraday value was uncontested.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This rationale applies to symbol <ARNFA00>.

LLDPE

Asia LLDPE: Rises on crude gains, increased demand

- Sep ICE Brent crude rises \$3.22/b on week
- South Korea's Hanwha to shut 2 LLDPE lines from Oct for works

Platts assessed Asia LLDPE stable to slightly higher in the week to July 26 amid restocking activities and stronger crude oil futures.

At the Asia close July 26, the September ICE Brent crude oil futures contract was up \$3.22/b on the week to \$83.12/b.

Demand in China was seen picking up due to the upcoming agricultural season, with a source in India saying that "There is a bit of stability coming in China, so that is helping Asia sentiment, but I don't see a sharp increase" "If you see monomer and polymer prices, it is not very conducive for non-integrated players."

Sources said major international suppliers are diverting their allocation from India to China, as buying has gathered pace.

In India, buyers were seen purchasing because of positive bias in pricing, with a trader based in the country saying that "Market outlook is stable-to-positive after a very long time for LLDPE ... momentum should be up for August." However, demand was moderate.

Market participants expected August shipment offers to rise by \$20-\$40/mt from July.

On the inventory front, stocks with end-users, meanwhile, were on the lower side.

In plants news, Thailand's PTT Global Chemical plans to halt its 400,000 mt/year No. 2 linear low-density polyethylene line at Map Ta Phut in November for 20 days of maintenance, a company source said.

The No. 1 LLDPE unit, also with a 400,000 mt/year capacity, was previously shut in April for 30 days of maintenance work, the source said.

The scheduled maintenance is unlikely to influence regional supply, market sources said.

South Korea's Hanwha Solutions will also shut two units out of three of its 425,000 mt/year linear low-density polyethylene plant in Daesan for maintenance, it said.

One LLDPE unit with a capacity of 163,000 mt/year will be shut for 10 days in October, while the other LLDPE unit with a capacity of 150,000 mt/year will shut for seven days in November.

The scheduled maintenance was not likely to have an impact on regional supply, market sources said.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian LLDPE Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed Asian butene-grade linear low-density polyethylene with a melt flow index of 1-2 up \$20/mt on the week at \$940/mt CFR Far East Asia July 26, on a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts assessed Southeast Asian LLDPE up \$10/mt on the week at \$960/mt CFR, on a tradable indication at the same level.

The CFR South Asia linear low density polyethylene was assessed stable from the previous week at \$990/mt, below offers heard at \$1,000-\$1,020/mt.

Platts assessed dutiable C6 metallocene LLDPE up \$20/mt on the week at \$1,050/mt CFR Far East Asia, on a tradable indication at the same level.

Metallocene LLDPE Southeast Asia was assessed up \$30/mt on the week at \$1,080/mt CFR, on a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts assessed metallocene LLDPE CFR South Asia \$10/mt higher from the previous week at \$1,085/mt, after tradable indication was reported at \$1,080-\$1,100/mt.

Platts assessed domestic China LLDPE cargoes up Yuan 100/mt on the week at the discussed price level of Yuan 8,300/mt ex-works east China.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

HDPE

Asia HDPE: Rises tracking gains in crude oil, supply shortage

- Crude rises \$3.22/b on day
- South Korea's Hanwha Total restarts PE units after maintenance

The Asian HDPE market was higher in some regions in the week to July 26 on some restocking demand and higher crude oil, sources said.

The September ICE Brent crude oil futures contract up \$3.22/b on the week at \$83.12/b at the Asian close July 26.

South Korea's Hanwha Total restarted its polyethylene units in Daesan in July after maintenance, a report on the company's website showed.

The 150,000 mt/year low density polyethylene plant was shut for 38 days over April-June, while the 120,000 mt/year high density polyethylene plant was shut for 46 days. Its 123,000 mt/year LLDPE line was shut for 36 days and its 400,000 mt/year HDPE/LLDPE swing plant was shut for 46 days during the second quarter of 2023, the report said.

The scheduled maintenance did not impact regional supply given prevailing weak demand, market sources said.

A company source could not be contacted for comment on the matter.

Sources said there will be more US supply coming to Asia as more plants in the region starts up, leading to oversupply in the region.

Platts assessed film-grade high density polyethylene \$10/mt higher week on week at \$1,030/mt CFR South Asia.

Prices of HDPE blow molding rose amid supply shortage. Domestic producers with dedicated HDPE line are focusing on HDPE pipe production as they are required to fulfill their

commitments, sources said.

Demand for HDPE pipe has shot up due to government schemes and impetus provided.

"HDPE blow molding prices are usually \$50/mt higher than HDPE pipe in India, but it is no longer the case... Even international suppliers are not readily supplying blow material," a trader in India said.

"HDPE grades are fast moving, there are pipe orders still coming in despite rains... Everyone is asking for material."

On the inventory front, stocks with domestic producers are now at moderate levels as ONGC Petro Additions Ltd. is facing issues in restarting their cracker post maintenance work.

"Inventory level is normalizing now because of shutdown of co-producers," an official with a leading producer in India said.

The company shut operations at its dual-feed cracker in Dahej, Gujarat, for maintenance from June 22 to July 9, following technical glitches, company sources said.

Sources said the cracker may take another 10 days to restart operations.

OPAL's cracker unit in Dahej has a capacity to produce 1.1 million mt/year of ethylene and 400,000 mt of propylene. The plant has the capacity to produce 1.1 million mt/year of polyethylene and 340,000 mt of polypropylene.

"OPAL has still not started that is creating demand... We are seeing very good order flows," a source in India said.

On the other hand, demand for HDPE injection is slow and it is selling at a discount of 4 rupees per/kg in India.

In plant news, Thailand's Bangkok Polyethylene, a subsidiary of PTT Global Chemical, plans to halt its three HDPE lines totaling 850,000 mt/year at Map Ta Phut in October for 2-3 weeks of maintenance, a company source said.

Platts Asian HDPE Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed dutiable unimodal film-grade high density polyethylene with a melt flow index of 0.07-0.18 up \$10/mt week on week at \$960/mt CFR Far East Asia, on a tradable indication at the same level July 26.

Platts assessed CFR Southeast Asia HDPE up \$10/mt on the week at \$980/mt, on a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts assessed CFR South Asia HDPE film grade \$10/mt higher on the week at \$1,030/mt on July 26, below offers heard in the range \$1,050-\$1,070/mt. Tradable values reported at \$1,030-\$1,040/mt CFR South Asia (India) were also considered in the assessment.

Platts assessed yarn-grade HDPE up \$10/mt week on week at \$940/mt CFR Far East Asia, at the intraday value that was uncontested and on a tradable idea at the same level.

Platts assessed yarn-grade PE stable at \$960/mt CFR Southeast Asia, at the intraday value that was uncontested.

Platts assessed injection-grade HDPE stable on the week at \$900/mt CFR Far East Asia, on a tradable indication at the same level. It was assessed up \$10/mt at \$930/mt CFR Southeast Asia on a tradable idea. Platts assessed Injection grade HDPE \$10/mt higher from the previous week at \$970/mt CFR South Asia, at the

intraday value, which was uncontested.

Platts assessed blowmolding-grade HDPE at \$910/mt CFR Far East Asia, up \$10/mt on the week on a tradable idea. Southeast Asia was assessed stable week on the week at \$940/mt CFR Southeast Asia for the blowmolding grade at the intraday value and on a tradable indication at the same level. Blowmolding grade HDPE was assessed at \$1,045/mt CFR South Asia, \$25/mt higher week on week, after tradable values were reported at \$1,030-\$1,070/mt. Offers heard at \$1,050/mt CFR South Asia (India) and \$1,090/mt, respectively, were also considered in the assessment.

Platts assessed Chinese domestic HDPE up Yuan 500/mt week on week at Yuan 8,600/mt ex-works east China, on discussions at the same level.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Recycled HDPE

Asia recycled HDPE: Markets stay stable, arbitrage opens

- Arbitrage opens on paper between SE Asia, Europe-US
- Few export opportunities to the West

Platts assessed Asian recycled high density polyethylene prices stable in the week to July 26 amid thin trading.

The arbitrage between Southeast Asia and Europe-US has been theoretically possible, although summer demand in the West is slow. Southeast Asia to Europe freight was heard in the \$1,300-\$1,500/FEU range or around \$50/mt, according to market sources. Southeast Asia to Western US freight was heard at \$1,500/TEU or \$60/mt and Eastern US at \$3,000/FEU or \$120/mt, traders said.

Food-grade pellets were priced more expensive than the ones in Asia, sources said. Bale prices were also rising due to higher demand amid stable collection rates, particularly in Thailand and Indonesia, sources said. Traders said they were free to trade pellets, but feedstock bale trade was tricky as it could be regarded as plastic waste and rejected by customs authorities.

Some Asian converters had been compounding recycled into a prime mix to sell to UK-based businesses, where 30% recycled content is the requirement for all plastic packaging since April 2022 and a 25% recycled content in PET bottles is needed by 2025 and 30% in all plastic bottles by 2030, according to European recycling legislations. Around 55% of packaging needs to be recycled by 2025 and a 77% collection rate of plastic bottles by 2025, according to the regulations.

Recycled resins in Asia were showing general weakness due to cheap prime resin, traders said. In Asia, recycling PE adoption continues to be a mainly economic consideration in the absence of minimum content legislation, sources said.

The uptick failed to materialize in Western markets due to a poor economic outlook, hence leading to low export opportunities.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian Recycled HDPE Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asian recycled high-density polyethylene natural film pellets up \$50/mt on the day at \$800/mt FOB Southeast Asia July 28, in line with a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts assessed Asian recycled HDPE black blowmolding pellets up \$40/mt on the day at \$700/mt FOB Southeast Asia, in line with a tradable indication at the same level.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This rationale applies to symbol(s) <PHALH00>

PP

Asian PP: Rises on upstream gains, higher offer levels

- Southeast Asia offers increase on week
- Indian buyers report stable demand

Asian polypropylene prices rose in the week to July 26, tracking higher offer levels for CFR cargoes, according to sources.

In Southeast Asia, prices were supported by a week-on-week increase in offer levels, with major sellers citing above the \$900/mt level due to a combination of upstream price gains and a dearth of low-priced offers.

Deals remained fairly thin, however, with limited replenishment being done early in the week as converters still lacked buying confidence, market sources said. Although some local sellers in a major importer region like Vietnam noted that converter PP inventories remained well-stocked, strength in other import markets such as South Asia meant that import offers were no longer expected to dip.

"Customers are still looking around at lower prices but eventually they will have to accept [higher prices]," one source said.

In China, meanwhile, PP domestic prices remained largely stable to slightly higher ahead of the seasonal peak, which typically ranges from August to October. Trade volumes were heard to be low amid market expectations of further global interest rate hikes following the ongoing Federal Open Market Committee meeting. Additionally, China's politburo meeting also stopped short of announcing direct measures for boosting household consumption.

"Investors turned conservative after futures prices rose to Yuan 7,350-7,400/mt levels as spot prices cannot keep up," another source said.

As a result, prices are expected to remain supported due to higher upstream crude and naphtha prices, as the country's overall operation rates have seen a slight week-on-week reduction.

Market sources noted that an expected pickup in demand amid the seasonal peak will have to be balanced with increases in Chinese PP supply, particularly through the country's propane

dehydrogenation plants.

Average operation rates in China remain at around 80%-83%, according to market sources. The country's PDH plant operation rates remain at around 74% for propylene, and 90% for polypropylene, according to some market sources.

In South Asia, Indian buyers reported a stable demand with not much of an uptick as end-product demand was not picking up. Considering the festive season in India starting from September, some buyers were seen mulling over stocking up their inventory levels amid an anticipated uptick in demand during the season, a PP buyer said.

An Indian seller told S&P Global Commodity Insights that finally buyers are starting to stock up on inventory as they believe prices may shoot with the festive season approaching. Even during monsoon, we have not seen any significant dip in demand, raffia bags demand has taken some hit, which is usual for the monsoon season, but the rest of the sectors are gearing up for the festive season, the seller added.

In export news, China's polypropylene homopolymer June exports fell 33.5% on the year and 0.7% on the month to 103,601 mt, according to data from the China Customs Statistical Information Center.

In plant news, Thailand's Siam Cement Group is expected to shut its 160,000mt/year polypropylene line 2 in Thailand for a planned maintenance starting end-July, S&P Global reported July 25. The turnaround is expected to last approximately 15 days, with the plant expected to resume operations in August. The line is part of a plant located at Map Ta Phut, which has a total PP production capacity of 720,000 mt/year.

Platts is part of S&P Global.

Platts Asian PP Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed CFR FE Asia raffia/injection grade PP \$5/mt higher day on day at \$830/mt July 26, in line with tradable indications heard between \$830-\$840/mt and below offers heard between \$840-\$850/mt. The assessment was \$5/mt higher on the week.

Platts assessed Chinese domestic raffia grade PP prices unchanged on the day at Yuan 7,275/mt amid tradable indications heard between Yuan 7,250-7,300/mt. The assessment was also stable on the week.

Platts assessed CFR FE Asia IPP film grade prices \$5/mt higher on the week at \$835/mt, in line with a tradable indication heard between \$830-\$835/mt.

Platts assessed CFR FE Asia BOPP grade prices unchanged week on week at \$835/mt, in line with a tradable indication heard at \$830-\$835/mt and a tradable indication heard at \$5-\$10/mt above Raffia grade.

Platts assessed CFR FE Asia block COPOL \$10/mt higher week on week at \$850/mt, amid a tradable indication heard between \$850-\$860/mt and below a selling indication heard at \$860-\$880/mt.

Platts assessed CFR SE Asia PP raffia/injection grade \$25/mt higher week on week at \$885/mt amid tradable indications heard

between \$870-\$900/mt and below offers heard between \$900-\$1,010/mt. The assessment was also above a buy indication heard at \$870/mt

Platts assessed CFR SE Asia IPP film grade \$25/mt higher on the week at \$905/mt in line with changes in Raffia grade.

Platts assessed CFR SE Asia BOPP grade \$25/mt higher on the week at \$910/mt, below offers heard between \$920-\$950/mt and tracking price changes in Raffia grade.

Platts assessed CFR SE Asia BLOCK COPOL grade \$25/mt higher on the week at \$925/mt, below offers heard between \$975-\$980/mt and tracking price changes in Raffia grade.

CFR South Asia Raffia/Injection grade PP was assessed \$21/mt higher week on week at \$950/mt, below the offers heard at \$960-\$980/mt and following tradable indication heard at \$950/mt from a buyer and a seller. Deals heard at \$970/mt and \$980/mt were not considered as the laycan fell outside Platts methodology specifications. Another deal heard at \$970/mt was not considered as the quantity fell outside Platts methodology specifications. A deal heard at \$975/mt done earlier in the week was not considered as it was not deemed representative of the broader market by market participants.

Tradable indication for raffia/injection grades in Pakistan were heard to be at \$940-\$950/mt, while the buying indication was heard at \$970-\$980/mt

CFR South Asia IPP Film was assessed \$26/mt higher week on week at \$975/mt, in line with tradable indications heard at \$20/mt-\$30/mt above Raffia grade.

CFR South Asia BOPP was assessed \$26/mt higher week on week at \$970/mt, in line with tradable indications heard between flat to \$30/mt above Raffia grade and below an offer heard at \$995/mt.

CFR South Asia BLOCK COPOL was assessed \$21/mt higher week on week at \$990/mt, in line with price movements in Raffia grade.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

PS

Asian PS: Prices stable to higher on rising feedstock costs, soft demand

- GPPS, HIPS rise \$10/mt
- EPS stable on week

Asia polystyrene markets were stable to stronger in the week to July 26 as producers faced increased cost pressures from a stronger styrene market.

Traders in China were heard continuing to look for demand outlets overseas as domestic demand remained weak. A 300 mt cargo of general purpose polystyrene was heard to have closed at \$1,160 CFR Poland for September arrival, said a trader, who added that the netback to FOB China was approximately \$1,100/mt considering container freight at approximately \$60/mt. However, he expected freight to pick up in the next few months as freight

demand strengthens.

Strength in upstream styrene monomer markets continued this week as the Chinese government unveiled stimulus measures for the property sector, sparking optimism of further initiatives for the wider economy, said a source based in China. The styrene CFR China marker rose \$33.50/mt on the week to \$998.50/mt July 26.

Domestic prices in east China for general purpose and high impact polystyrene were heard to improve to Yuan 8,500-8,650/mt and Yuan 9,150-9,450/mt, respectively, equivalent to import-parity values of \$991-\$1,008/mt and \$1,066-\$1,100/mt, respectively.

"Producers are anxious over rising feedstock costs but unfortunately demand has not improved much so they are hesitant to raise prices," said a market source.

"Chinese producers are heard to adjust operating rates down in the current environment," said a source that estimated around 110,000 mt of lost production in China in July.

Market participants maintained a bearish view for expandable polystyrene as price ideas remained unchanged this week amid stable demand.

Platts Asian PS Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed GPPS CFR China \$10/mt higher on the week to July 26 at \$1,100/mt, considering rising domestic China markets and the uptrend in upstream styrene monomer.

Platts assessed GPPS CFR Southeast Asia \$10/mt higher on the week at \$1,110/mt, tracking the change in CFR China.

Platts assessed HIPS CFR China \$10/mt higher on the week to July 26 at \$1,160/mt, considering a tradable indication from a producer at \$1,170/mt and the uptrend in upstream styrene monomer.

Platts assessed HIPS CFR Southeast Asia \$10/mt higher on the week to July 26 at \$1,170/mt, tracking the change in CFR China.

Platts assessed EPS general grade stable on the week at \$1,151/mt FOB Northeast Asia, considering a tradable indication heard at \$1,150/mt.

The fire-retardant grade of EPS was assessed stable on the week at \$1,251/mt FOB Northeast Asia, tracking the change in the general grade and also considering indications of a stable spread to the general grade at \$100/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

ABS

Asian ABS: Prices inch up on stronger feedstock markets

- Feedstock cost increases approximately \$8/mt
- Tradeable indications remain stable

The Asian acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene market inched up in the week to July 26 amid increased pressure from higher

feedstock costs.

According to data from S&P Global Commodity Insights, feedstock costs are estimated to have gone up by \$8/mt for ABS producers. A weaker acrylonitrile market had partially offset the strength in styrene monomer markets.

Platts assessed the acrylonitrile CFR Far East Asia at \$1,195/mt July 25, down \$50/mt on the week, styrene CFR China marker up \$33.50/mt at \$998.50/mt and butadiene CFR China marker stable at \$720/mt.

The East China domestic price levels were heard to continue to be around Yuan 9,900-10,500/mt, equivalent to \$1,154-\$1,224/mt on an import parity basis.

Market players cited little improvement in demand this week in general. Although a trader in China spoke of seasonal improvement in demand in the summer months, others said that any improvement in demand is marginal.

Tradeable indications remain little changed on the week at \$1,250-1,300/mt amongst market participants.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian ABS Weekly rationale

Platts assessed the Asian acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) CFR China marker \$5/mt stronger week on week July 26 at \$1,270/mt, considering a tradeable indication heard at \$1,270/mt and also higher feedstock costs.

Platts assessed the CFR Southeast Asia marker \$5/mt higher week on week July 26 at \$1,300/mt, considering tradeable indications heard around \$1,280-\$1,310/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

PTA

Asia PTA: Margins remain pressured amid strong upstream

- Limited incentive for producers
 - India polyester operating rates rise amid relief in PTA supplies
- China purified terephthalic acid prices rose \$17/mt week on week to \$809/mt July 28, amid stronger upstream prices.

Margins for producers of PTA will remain depressed, providing little incentive to produce more, sources said.

Currently, the margins for most producers have shown little improvement despite strong downstream demand in China, traders said.

While some producers with integrated refineries may be able to stay afloat, the stand-alone PTA plants will be grappling with low margins, a trader in Singapore said.

"I think it can't go up when PTA guys are struggling," the trader in Singapore said referring to the PTA-PX spread.

Meanwhile, downstream activity in China remains high while prices for PX also continue to rise, traders said.

PX prices have surged over the past few days as supplies

remain tight while polyester plants in China also maintain healthy operating rates.

Indian sources estimated polyester operating rates to be over 80%, rising in the week ending July 28.

Sources explained that in addition to the decision of extension on polyester grades which further squeezed the margins, Indian polyester producers dropped operating rates due to the shortage in PTA supply arising from the BIS implementation on PTA in the week ending July 21.

In the week starting July 24, operating rates for polyester in India were heard to be up compared to the previous week, as buyers were reported to find some support from the domestic PTA suppliers in addition to slight ease in PTA availability, an Indian PTA buyer said.

An Indian PTA seller said that they have been operating at full capacity to meet the demand as much they can, but overall situation of supply shortage continues to plague the market.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian PTA Weekly Rationale

The PTA FOB China assessment was higher \$10/mt on the day at \$809/mt July 28, below an offer at \$810/mt by a producer.

Another offer of \$800/mt by a producer was not considered as it was not deemed to be representative of value.

The CFR China assessment was higher \$10/mt on the day at \$809/mt, in line with the PTA FOB China assessment.

In the Chinese domestic market, prices were assessed Yuan 186/mt higher at Yuan 6,110/mt, in line with a bid at TA2309 plus Yuan 10/mt and offers at TA2309 plus Yuan 15-20/mt.

PTA CFR India was assessed \$10/mt higher at \$868/mt, maintaining the spread with CFR China and CFR India at \$59/mt, following the tradable indication heard at \$35/mt-\$70/mt amid limited spot discussions.

The CFR SE Asia assessment was up \$17/mt on the week at \$819/mt, keeping the spread with CFR China stable at \$10/mt given freight costs from NE Asia to SE Asia at \$10/mt from a producer.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

PET

Asian PET: Offers largely rangebound on upstream support

- Sellers reluctant to reduce prices on high feedstock prices
- Support seen from export POY and FDY grades on BIS extension

Offers in the Asian PET markets saw limited changes in the week ending July 26, as sellers remained cautious on increasing feedstock prices.

The wane of the peak season resulted in a fall in the demand

week on week, with some producers in China opting to reduce operating rates to manage inventory levels on the back of narrowing production margins.

Operating rates at PET bottle chip facilities in China fell to an estimated 84.7% in the week, compared to an average of 92% earlier in July, market sources said.

Some traders said they faced difficulties in booking export sales volumes, as orders from key buyers in the US and Europe had slowed.

"Now that both domestic Chinese and export orders are slowing down, the decrease in operating rates could help manage inventory levels and keep prices stable as margins have been narrowing," a trader in China said.

In the polyester fiber and yarn markets, offers were supported by increases in upstream PTA and MEG prices.

Demand was deemed stable week on week, with support seen for POY and FDY grades as bookings from India continued following the extension on polyester fiber imports without the mandatory BIS certifications until Oct. 5.

India has granted an extension to polyester fiber imports without the mandatory Bureau of Indian Standards certification until Oct. 5, even as domestic producers struggle to compete against cheaper imports, Platts reported July 20.

Polyester partially oriented yarn (POY), fully drawn yarn (FDY) and spun grey and white yarn can be imported, according to a quality control order issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.

BIS import certification norms were initially slated to set in from July 3, sources said, adding that further extensions after Oct. 5 seemed unlikely for now amid concerns on competitiveness within the local polyester makers in India.

Operating rates at polyester plants in China were estimated at 93% in the week, 1% down from 94% in the week ending July 19.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian PET Weekly Rationale

The Platts FOB Northeast Asia PET assessment was stable on the week at \$890/mt July 26, reflecting tradable values from traders at \$890/mt.

FOB Southeast Asia PET was assessed \$10/mt lower at \$940/mt, below an offer at \$950/mt from a producer.

China prompt domestic POY150D/48F was assessed Yuan 35/mt higher on the week at Yuan 7,605/mt ex-works, reflecting deals heard at Yuan 7,605/mt.

China prompt domestic DTY150D/48F increased Yuan 50/mt on the week to Yuan 9,105/mt ex-works, reflecting deals heard at Yuan 9,105/mt.

China prompt domestic FDY150D/96F rose Yuan 20/mt to Yuan 8,175/mt ex-works, reflecting deals heard at Yuan 8,175/mt.

China prompt domestic PSF 1.4D was up Yuan 80/mt at Yuan 7,400/mt ex-works, reflecting deals heard at Yuan 7,400/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

(Price assessments are found on PCA625)

Recycled PET

Asian Recycled PET: Prices stable despite crude gains

- Export prospects dim amid wide buy-sell price gap
- Indian R-PET sellers hit with weak demand

Asian recycled polyethylene terephthalate market was stable in the week to July 26, with prices firming in the upstream crude oil markets failing to spur any upside in it, according to sources.

At the Asia close July 26, the September ICE Brent crude oil futures contract was up \$3.22/b on the week to \$83.12/b, but Southeast Asian suppliers continued to see poor buying levels amid weak related markets.

Platts assessed the FOB SE Asia PET bottle grade down \$10/mt on the week at \$940/mt July 26, with a recycler saying that "Virgin PET prices are too low... and downstream demand is weak."

Export prospects also remained dim amid wide price gaps between buyers and sellers. Platts assessed the FD Northwest Europe R-PET flake marker stable on the week at Eur850/mt July 25, S&P Global Commodity Insights data showed.

"There are some queries in Europe but the market's not active, buyers are looking to accept around \$750-\$800/mt for flakes," one trade source said.

However, there were some bright spots in the North American markets, with buyers in the US noting high labor costs and thin production margins.

"There isn't enough quality supply of bales in the US right now, a lot of it gets funneled into lower-end applications," one source said.

In the feedstock market, bale prices were heard stable to slightly lower in the Indonesian market at around \$525-\$550/mt, but in Malaysia were heard in a wide range of around \$330-\$420/mt, depending on the quality. Feedstock prices in Malaysia are often more affordable than those in neighboring countries due to a poorer sorting of bottles, trade sources said.

In India, an R-PET seller told S&P Global that the weak demand situation remains consistent, with the market seeming to be at a standstill from the last few months. The US and Europe, which are major export destinations for Indian RPET sellers, have remained silent amid recessionary sentiments, the seller added.

Although sellers were aggressive with their offers, buyers restrained from buying, as they were not able to sell it further down the chain, an Indian source said. We are told by the buyers that they would not be able to place any fresh orders until the end-product demand picks up and the inventory with them eases, the source added.

Platts is part of S&P Global.

Platts Asian Recycled PET Daily Rationale

Platts assessed Asian recycled polyethylene terephthalate clear flakes with PVC content of 50-100 ppm stable on the

day at \$780/mt FOB Southeast Asia July 28, amid thin trade discussions.

Platts assessed premium R-PET clear flakes with PVC content of less than 30 ppm stable on the day at \$845/mt FOB SE Asia July 28, above a buy indication heard at \$750-\$800/mt and below a tradable indication heard at \$850/mt from a seller.

Platts assessed premium R-PET clear flakes with PVC content of less than 30 ppm unchanged at \$801/mt FOB India, above a buying indication heard at \$750-\$780/mt, amid thin trading activity heard.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This rationale applies to symbol(s) <RPTSE00>, <RPTSF00> and <ARINA00>

MMA, PMMA

Asian MMA/PMMA: MMA stable; PMMA slips on weak demand

- Selling interest directed at India's MMA market
- China's sluggish electronics sale weigh on PMMA prices

Platts assessed methyl methacrylate (MMA) CFR China marker unchanged on the week at \$1,500/mt on July 26, on limited spot discussions and slow demand.

Fundamentals in China were heard to be bearish due to sluggish demand and slow-moving MMA inventory, sources said.

The CFR Southeast Asia MMA marker did not budge from \$1,600/mt week on week as market sources deemed tradable levels at \$1,600-\$1650/mt July 26.

There were, however, some selling interest for the Indian market.

A zero-duty cargo of 1,000 mt for August shipment was heard offered at \$1,770/mt CFR India, while a full duty cargo of a similar-size was offered at \$1,630/mt CFR India, a trader said. No deal was heard concluded on July 26.

In the downstream PMMA market, Chinese electronic sales were heard to be lackluster, which affected PMMA demand, sources said.

Platts assessed polymethyl methacrylate CFR China marker down \$5/mt on the week at \$1,875/mt July 26, under an offer at \$1,880/mt CFR China.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

Platts Asian MMA Daily Rationale

Platts assessed the Asian methyl methacrylate CFR China marker unchanged on the day at \$1,500/mt on July 28, amid limited new discussions heard.

CFR Southeast Asia was assessed stable over the same period at \$1,635/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This rationale applies to symbol(s) <AMMAC00> <AMMAS00>

Platts Asian PMMA Daily Rationale

Platts assessed the Asian polymethyl methacrylate CFR China marker unchanged on the day at \$1,875/mt July 28, due to no information heard.

CFR Southeast Asia was assessed unchanged over the same period at \$2,095/mt.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

This rationale applies to symbol(s) <PMMAA00>, <PMMAC00>.

Subscriber Notes

Platts launches production cost-based renewable methanol prices

Platts, part of S&P Global Commodity Insights, has launched daily production cost-based renewable methanol prices for North America, Europe and Asia, in response to market feedback and maritime industry's need for price valuations for sustainable methanol, effective June 19, 2023.

A consultation note to the industry seeking feedback was published Feb. 8, 2023 here and a decision note on May 31, 2023 here.

The new assessments are on a FOB Rotterdam, FOB USG and FOB Shanghai basis and appear in the following pages and publications: PCA 242, 346, 347, 348, 447, 653, 541, 872, 1160 and Platts Market Center, Solvents Wire, Asian Petrochemicalscan, Europe & Americas Petrochemicalscan and Platts Dimension Pro.

The symbols for the assessments are as follows:

Symbol	Currency	UOM	Description
FRGME00	EUR	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam Eur/mt
FRGME03	EUR	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam Eur/mt MAvg
FRGME04	EUR	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam Eur/mt WAv
FRGMD00	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam \$/mt
FRGMD03	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam \$/mt MAvg
FRGMD04	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam \$/mt WAv
FGGMD00	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast \$/mt
FGGMD03	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast \$/mt MAvg
FGGMD04	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast \$/mt WAv
FGGMC00	USC	GAL	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast cents/gal
FGGMC03	USC	GAL	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast cents/gal MAvg
FGGMC04	USC	GAL	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast cents/gal WAv
FAGMD00	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Shanghai \$/mt
FAGMD03	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Shanghai \$/mt MAvg
FAGMD04	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Shanghai \$/mt WAv

Product Specification: Product must conform to the International Methanol Producers and Consumers Association (IMPCHA) reference specification with a minimum purity of 99.85%, maximum water content of 0.1% by weight and maximum ethanol content of 50 mg/kg.

Standard Cargo Size: 500-750 mt for FOB USG; 300 to 1,000 mt for FOB Rotterdam; and 500-1,500 mt for FOB Shanghai

Timing: 5-30 days forward

The assessments represent the cost of production, transportation and storage for renewable methanol, underpinned by the Platts daily electricity (IERHM01, IERHP01, AADMN00) and natural gas assessments (IGBAP00, GTFWD00, LJNCG00). The new assessments are aligned with the assumptions of

the Process Economics Program (PEP) formula which provides a calculation of production costs for renewable methanol, produced via electrolysis and direct air-captured carbon dioxide. The PEP report is available for S&P Global Connect subscribers following this link: <https://connect.ihsmarkit.com/>.

As spot activity emerges in these nascent markets, Platts intends to launch spot assessments that reflect that activity and invites feedback on the nature and timing of such assessments.

The variable and fixed inputs including capital and operating assumptions such as energy conversion efficiency and plant capacity will be reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently if required, to ensure they are representative of current market dynamics.

Please send any further feedback to petchems@spglobal.com and pricegroup@spglobal.com. For written comments, please provide a clear indication if comments are not intended for publication by Platts for public viewing.

Platts will consider all comments received and will make comments not marked as confidential available to the public upon request.

S&P Global Commodity Insights launches daily PTA FOB China assessment

Platts, part of S&P Global Commodity Insights, has launched a daily spot assessment for purified terephthalic acid on an FOB China basis, in light of increasing export volumes from China amid growing capacity, effective July 3, 2023.

The assessment is based on the latest information sourced from the market up to the close of the assessment process at 4:30 pm Singapore time (0830 GMT). It is published in \$/mt and follows the Singapore publishing schedule.

The assessment reflects the product with the following parameters:

Cargo size: 1,000-3,000 mt

Quality specifications: Minimum purity of 95%.

Timing: Loading 15-30 days forward from the date of publication

Location basis: FOB China: Dalian, Gulei, Hainan, Lianyungang, Ningbo, Zhangjiagang, Zhapu, Zhuhai

Credit terms: Up to L/C 90 days

Pricing information for material with other specifications and terms may be normalized to the proposed standard.

The assessment is published alongside Platts' existing PTA assessments in Polymerscan and Asian Petrochemicalscan as well as on the Platts real-time petrochemical service, Platts Market Center, Platts Dimensions Pro, and Platts Petrochemicals Alerts on fixed pages 0542, 0179, and 0737.

The symbols for the assessments are as follows:

Symbol	Currency	UOM	Description
PTFCA00	USD	MT	PTA FOB China
PTFCA03	USD	MT	PTA FOB China MAvg
PTFCA04	USD	MT	PTA FOB China WAvg

A decision note was published on June 28, 2023: <https://www.spglobal.com/commodityinsights/en/our-methodology/subscriber-notes/062823-s-p-global-commodity-insights-to-launch-daily-pta-fob-china-assessment>

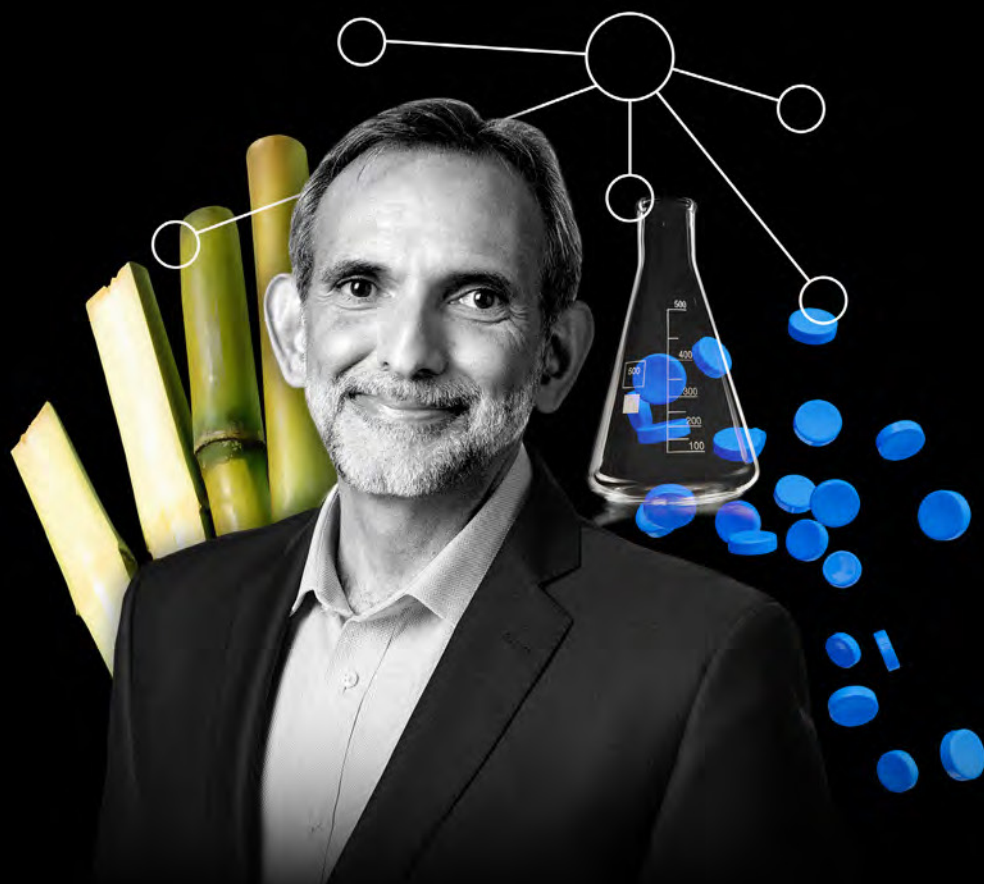
Please send all comments, feedback, and questions to petchems@spglobal.com and pricegroup@spglobal.com. For written comments, please provide a clear indication if comments are not intended for publication by Platts for public viewing.

Platts will consider all comments received and will make comments not marked as confidential available upon request.

Chemicals

S&P Global

Commodity Insights



To succeed in chemicals, you need all the elements.

Major trends and events have led to a complex chemicals market. But with complexity comes opportunity. The industry is uniquely placed to be a key enabler of the energy transition, so businesses need to go beyond the basics if they want to reach net-zero by 2050.

With our Essential Intelligence, you get a connected view of chemical and energy markets, so you can see all the elements at play and how they fit together.

Discover chemicals market insight at www.spglobal.com/ci_chemicals

Seek & Prosper