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TASKS OF EAST GERMAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY  
DURING SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN

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W. Winkler

The main task of the First Five-Year Plan was to rebuild the plants of the basic chemical industry in Central Germany, which had been greatly affected by the war and which constituted about 40 percent of the total German potential in 1943, and to adapt production to domestic raw materials. The production program, especially that of pharmaceuticals, plastics, synthetic fibers, etc., had to be developed and supplemented and the quality of these products had to be brought to a level which would make it possible to compete in international trade. Furthermore, the research and developmental laboratories of the chemical industry had to be rebuilt and be made so productive as to achieve the goals of the First Five-Year Plan.

During the First Five-Year Plan, gross production within the province of the Ministry of Chemical Industry increased to 192.7 percent [compared to 1951]. Labor productivity per production worker increased to 157.6 percent during the same period, accumulation increased to 150 percent, and producer's costs were reduced 7.56 percent.

Compared to West Germany, East German per capita production of the key products indicated was as follows in 1954:

<u>Item</u>	<u>West Germany</u> <u>(in %)</u>	<u>East Germany</u> <u>(in %)</u>
Soda	18.7	20.6
Caustic soda	9.7	12.6
Ammonia	14.1	17.5
Nitrogen fertilizer	13.0	15.3
Calcium carbide	16.1	39.9

A crucial prerequisite for the further growth of total industrial production is uninterrupted technical progress. A higher technical level must be attained by mechanization and automatization of production and by essential improvement of the quality of the individual products. Existing [raw material] reserves remain to be uncovered and to be supplied to production. The discussions for the 1956 Enterprise Collective Agreement (Betriebskollektivvertrag) pointed to these reserves and included them in the plans for technical organizational progress and in the plans for rationalization measures. The preliminary plans, which are to be worked out by the Office for Inventions, and the emphasized tasks to be performed, are to be discussed in production conferences and in work areas.

To raise production to 165 percent [compared to 1951], which is the goal of the Second Five-Year Plan, labor productivity per production worker will have to be increased to 144.5 percent, compared to 1955, by further reducing manual work. During the same period, producer's costs are to be reduced 16.5 percent, and accumulation is to be increased to 265 percent.

The main tasks in the development of production in the chemical industry, based upon the Second Five-Year Plan of the Economic Commission of the Socialist Unity Party which were submitted to the enterprises, administrations, and scientific institutions for discussion, consist of a further production increase in basic chemicals. Thus, for example, the production of sulfuric acid is to

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be raised to 152 percent, compared to 1955; that of soda, to 153 percent; of caustic soda, to 139 percent; of nitrogen fertilizers, to 114.5 percent; of phosphorus fertilizers, to 247 percent; and of synthetic rubber to 170 percent.

A new plant for the extraction of sulfuric acid from gypsum is to be constructed in Coswig during the Second Five-Year Plan; two new phosphorus fertilizer plants are to be built in Bezirk Halle; and a compost plant is to be erected in Piesteritz. The production of "Stikaphos" [trade name] and urea-based fertilizer is to be resumed. Another plant for soda production is being constructed on the basis of carbon dioxide from the Leuna Plant and lime from the Buna Plant. Moreover, plants for synthetic rubber production are to be considerably enlarged.

By 1960, aluminum production is to be increased to 252 percent [terms of reference not given], and during the Second Five-Year Plan, magnesium production is to be resumed, so that it will already have attained an appreciable amount by 1960. During the same period, processes for titanium and zirconium production are to be developed further and the production of these metals is to be taken up. A series of developmental tasks, for example, alumina must be extracted from clay, from siliceous bauxite, and from brown coal ashes, to increase aluminum production.

A significant expansion of synthetic gasoline production is required to increase production of fuel, ammonia, and methanol. During the Second Five-Year Plan, a catalytic cracking plant and a platforming plant are to be constructed in the VEB (people-owned enterprise) "Walter Ulbricht" Plant at Leuna.

The Second Five-Year Plan also provides for an essential increase in calcium carbide production. For this reason, among others, the present ovens in the VEB Buna Chemical Works are being converted and enlarged to handle a greater load in order to attain the planned production increase.

To provide dependent industries with the necessary prerequisites for introducing new technology, industries producing plastics and synthetic fibers will increase their production quantitatively and qualitatively by enlarging their assortment. Thus, the plan calls for an increase in the production of PVC to 172 percent, compared to 1955, and of Perlon, to 184 percent. The emphasis in synthetic fiber production is on Wolycron and Lanon (Terylen). The plant for producing Wolycron in Wolfen is being enlarged considerably. The construction of a plant for the production of Lanon is also planned.

During the next 5 years, tire production is to be increased to 188 percent and the life of a tire is to be lengthened at least 50 percent, compared to 1955. The tire plants in Fuerstenwalde and Riesa are being enlarged to fulfill this goal and each will soon have an automatic assembly line. Parallel to the expansion of production in the tire industry, the production of viscose cord at Wolfen and Pirna is being expanded and automatized.

Through intensive research and development, the program for plastics which are already in large-scale production, (phenolic resins, amino resins, polyamides, polymethacrylates, polyvinyl ethers and esters), as well as for those whose production is now starting (polyethyls, epoxy resins, polyurethanes, silicones, fluorocarbons, etc.), is being considerably expanded, and the quality of these products is being constantly improved to maintain their world market level and to occupy a leading position in world trade. These products are to be adjusted to the special technical requirements of the individual consumers.

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To create the conditions necessary to increase production, the best, most modern, and most economic production processes are being developed for intermediate products.

Great tasks have been presented to the chemical industry in the production of special dyestuffs having a high degree of color fastness. The expansion of bright dye production for textile dyestuffs is being carried out. A new factory for cupramine dyestuffs (benzo-fast copper dyestuffs) which resist light, water, perspiration, and heat from ironing, is being built in Wolfen. A new factory for inorganic pigments is also planned. Construction of an amine and ester production plant, which has already been designed, will also be undertaken.

The most far-reaching mechanization and automatization of present plants, the construction of plants which are to be equipped according to the most modern points of view, the outfitting of chemical industrial enterprises with the most modern measuring and regulating equipment, and the mechanization of the transportation of raw materials, intermediate products, and finished products will guarantee the highest level of labor productivity and the production of high-grade products. Some of the working processes are being converted to be continuous operation.

For example, the production of sulfuric acid, superphosphates, synthetic fibers, tires, and detergents is to be partially automatized, as is the production of caustic soda, aluminum, films, and lacquers.

To be able to carry out the investments provided for in the Second Five-Year Plan, the VEB KIB [Konstruktions-und Ingenieursbuero, Designing and Engineering Office] for Chemistry and all construction, designing, and organizational offices of large enterprises, as well as designing offices in machine-building enterprises, are to be strengthened. However, this is possible only by the planned direction of graduates from advanced and technical schools. Representatives of construction, designing, and organizational offices must therefore be consulted in all matters pertaining to advanced and technical school graduates. Only then will the necessary manpower gradually become available.

Moreover, managers must employ their rights which have been granted to them to a greater extent, even in decisions of plans and designs for projects valued up to 75,000 DM (as stipulated in Gesetzblatt, special edition of 10 February 1956).

Suitable specialization and cooperation in designing work must be undertaken in the KIB and in plant technical offices. The KIB is to follow the expansion goals of the chemical industry more than ever in an advisory capacity and is to be supported by the Central Work Circle for Research and Technology which is soon to be created to deal with the technology of chemical operations and the development of chemistry.

To meet the requirements of increased production, the education of the coming generation for the chemical industry and research is a problem of utmost importance which has to be solved. The Advanced Technical School in Halle-Merseburg is increasing its capacity of 200 students in 1955 to 2,000 students by 1960. Also, the technical schools for chemistry will enlarge their capacities considerably. By 1960, some 2,700 graduates from these schools will be incorporated into the labor force. Sixty million DM are provided for the enlargement of advanced and technical schools.