**New surfactant risk management research website goes live**

**Research into risk assessment in one of the most important sectors of the European chemical industry has a new home following the launch of a dedicated website**

**Brussels, 27 February 2017 -** For over 25 years, the ERASM research platform has been dedicated to enhancing our understanding of the effects of surfactants, carrying out important work on the risks to the environment and to human health. These substances are found in almost all detergents, as well as many other cleaning products in our homes. They are also widely used in professional cleaning products.

Today, a new ERASM website [www.erasm.org](http://www.erasm.org), showcases the outcome of such research projects, addresses the most relevant issues around surfactants, and provides a rich trove of reports, scientific publications, posters, and technical databases.

ERASM research involves some of Europe’s most prestigious research institutions and more than 30 companies. It is managed and jointly funded by the International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (A.I.S.E.) and the European Committee of Surfactants and their Organic Intermediates (CESIO).

A.I.S.E. Director General **Dr Susanne Zänker** said she was delighted with the new site: “*We want to share ERASM’s world class research and encourage further dialogue to ensure the health and wellbeing of end-users and the environment. Manufacturers of surfactants and detergents are keenly aware of the impact of their products on the environment and human health, which is why CESIO and A.I.S.E. support and manage the ERASM project.”*

**Chantal De Cooman**, CEFIC’s Director of Performance Chemicals Group, echoed Dr Zänker’s remarks: “*The safety and effectiveness of surfactants in detergent products is of tremendous importance to users, regulators and those working in industry. This is why ERASM has been supporting and carrying out this important research for more than 25 years, and this website will help disseminate that knowledge while also encouraging new ideas and collaboration.”*

The [site’s research section](http://www.erasm.org/erasm-research) examines the five key aspects of the surfactant value chain, as well as numerous relevant issues and a host of completed research projects:

* Manufacturing
* Human health
* Wastewater treatment
* Freshwater environment
* Marine environment

**Comments from key research leaders**

*“The quality of surfactants in detergents in term of environmental performance and human health performance has benefited from ERASM activities. ERASM is proactively investing time and expertise in developing good science and understanding on human health and environmental topics (including more recently environmental footprints). Thus, we have contributed to supporting science-based advocacy and developing better legislation. The new website will make the information generated by ERASM even more accessible and transparent than before”.* **Dr Christophe Séné,** Chair of ERASM Steering Committee

Global Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Trade Compliance and Sustainability, STEPAN

*"The new website creates much more visibility of the important work done within ERASM. It shows the common interest of surfactant manufacturers and detergent producers in the safe use of surfactants in everyday products. By sharing our research and seeking dialogue with researchers outside of ERASM, the site will certainly contribute to our efforts to care for consumers and end-users’ health and wellbeing."*

**Dr Olaf Holtkötter,** Chair of the ERASM Human Health Technical Committee, Manager Toxicology, Henkel

*"ERASM is providing science-based information on surfactants and their effects on man and the environment. Therefore, authorities, researchers, as well as experts in the industry will find valuable information on surfactants, a better understanding of the impact of surfactants and guidance on how to reduce that impact. The website will help disseminate that work and encourage new research to improve our understanding."*

**Dr Andreas Willing,** Chair of the ERASM Environment Technical Committee

Senior Manager for Product Safety, Exotoxicology, BASF

If you would like to know more about ERASM, or would like to speak with a researcher or one of the senior figures at ERASM, please contact the ERASM Secretariat: Chantal de Cooman: [erasm@cefic.org](mailto:erasm@cefic.org)

**About ERASM**

1. ERASM is a collaboration between International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products (A.I.S.E. [www.aise.eu](http://www.aise.eu)) and the European Committee of Surfactants and their Organic Intermediates (CESIO [www.cefic.org](http://www.cefic.org)).
2. ERASM research is jointly funded by member companies of A.I.S.E. and CESIO.
3. ERASM research improves the basis for, and the knowledge about, the risk assessment of the impact of detergent-based surfactants on the environment and on human health. The outcome of the ERASM funded research balances the environmental impact of products with consumer needs and socio-economic consequences.
4. The activity of ERASM is restricted to surfactants and related substances, including related precursors and degradation / biotransformation products.
5. ERASM research spans the value chain of surfactants, from raw material sourcing, to the use phase, wastewater treatment, including biodegradation, as well as freshwater and marine exposure.
6. The activities of ERASM encompass projects managed by industry experts and, where appropriate, in collaboration with recognised external research partners. The results of this research are published in relevant scientific literature and communicated to key stakeholders supporting discussion and engagement between the industry, academia and stakeholders, while making the wealth of scientific knowledge developed by ERASM widely available.