

Archroma Marks a Century of Innovation in Sulfur Dye at its Castellbisbal Facility



Logo of Archroma Castellbisbal's 100th year celebration.

Archroma, a frontrunner in the realm of specialty chemicals with a strong leaning towards sustainable practices, celebrated a momentous century of sulfur dye innovation at its industrial and research center located in Castellbisbal, just outside the vibrant city of Barcelona, Spain.

The commemoration of this monumental milestone took place on-site and was graced by the presence of over 250 distinguished guests. The attendees included high-ranking officials from the Catalan government, eminent leaders of Archroma from both Spain and abroad, former and present staff members, as well as key customers, suppliers, and other vital stakeholders.



Minister of Economy and Finance, Catalan Government.



Divisional President and CEO for Paper Packaging & Coatings (PP&C), Archroma Group.

Mark Garrett, the CEO of Archroma Group, shared his insights, stating, “Archroma Castellbisbal has consistently delivered exceptional product quality and pioneering breakthroughs that have significantly influenced the development of sulfur dyes. With a century’s worth of heritage in excellence, the proficient team here is set to spearhead the next frontier of advancements in the textile domain. Our aim is to augment the effectiveness and environmental sustainability of sulfur dyes and their associated dyeing processes.” He added, “Archroma stands firm in its commitment to upholding the high standards of Castellbisbal and continues to invest in both our people and facilities located here.”

Dating back to its inception in 1921 by Joan Cardoner Vidal, the Castellbisbal site has undergone various transformations, changing hands from Sandoz to Clariant, and eventually to SK Capital, resulting in the creation of Archroma. This journey has seen sulfur dyeing technology become integral in the production of denim, casual wear, and workwear fabrics over the last century, thanks to its exceptional color fastness and cost-effectiveness.

Renowned for housing a leading-edge research center, Castellbisbal is especially noted for its development of the DIRESUL® RDT range in the 1980s, marking the

introduction of the first low sulfide pre-reduced sulfur dyes to the market. In more recent times, Archroma has introduced the groundbreaking DIRESUL® EVOLUTION BLACK, bringing about a significant reduction in dye synthesis impact and enabling the creation of innovative black denim styles.

Notable patented technologies originating from the Castellbisbal research team include the DIRESUL® EarthColors and FiberColors dyes, utilizing waste from the food and textile sectors as raw materials. These avant-garde innovations, produced at Castellbisbal, play a pivotal role in propelling circularity within the textile industry. Moreover, the Castellbisbal facility leads the pack in stringent quality control measures, actively contributing to the local community through partnerships with food banks, social service organizations, and collaborations with academic institutions specializing in chemistry. The site also produces dyes for the paper market, including DIRESUL® NATURAL BROWN P and DIRESUL® BLACK PFT, further showcasing its versatility and commitment to innovation.