

**Technical  
Absorbents**  
The Absorbent Solutions Provider

**30**  
*years*

**1993 / 2023**



## An Absorbing Story of Success



In 1993, Technical Absorbents Limited (TAL) was incorporated as a UK business. We were established as a collaboration between Allied Colloids and Courtaulds - the former being a manufacturer of superabsorbents and the latter being an expert in spinning - the net result was the successful development, manufacture and launch of a fibre that was inherently superabsorbent.

Superabsorbent Fibre - or SAF™ as it is known within the industry today - is still manufactured at our original site in Grimsby, on the banks of the Humber Estuary on the East Coast of England.

Currently we employ a diverse and dynamic team of circa 50 people, operate a 24/7 manufacturing facility and boast a loyal and expanding global customer base. In fact, some of our technology's original founders are still involved with the day-to-day running of the business.

To mark of our 30th anniversary, we are delighted to share some of our achievements over the past three decades, in terms of product innovation, development and growth, and also provide you with a snapshot of our local area - a community we are proud to be a part of.



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## Roots on the Humber

The initial innovation and early development trials of SAF™ were conducted at the facilities of Courtaulds and Allied Colloids in Coventry and Bradford respectively. However, it wasn't long before our technology found its forever home on Moody Lane (today known as Energy Park Way) in Grimsby - a relatively unpopulated area of the town that boasts a plethora of world-class manufacturing facilities. With an excellent local infrastructure, the area provides easy access for a network of hauliers who collect loads daily - 99% of which are exported globally.

Although we are surrounded by a rich industrial landscape, Grimsby is perhaps best known for its historic fishing industry. At its peak, the town had the world's largest and busiest fishing port with the local economy dependent on the trade. However, the mid twentiethcentury Cod Wars had a detrimental effect on the economy of the large northern fishing ports and the number of trawlers in Grimsby reduced dramatically. As a result, thousands of skilled fishermen and people in related trades suddenly found themselves unemployed.

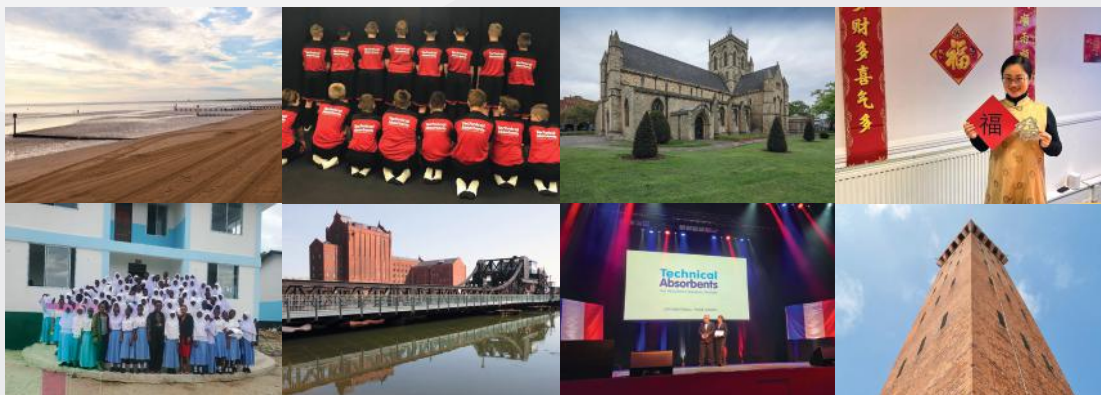
Today the town still relies heavily on its enviable coastal position. \*Grimsby now has one of the UK's leading automotive ports and is a major hub for the offshore wind industry. It also continues to handle a range of other cargoes, while retaining strong links to the fishing and food industries. Together with ABP's other Humber ports, Immingham, Hull, and Goole, it provides an unparalleled gateway for the trade connecting businesses across the UK, Europe, and beyond.

\*Copyright, Associated British Ports (ABP)





## Proudly Supporting Our People & Community



Our people are central to our continued success and growth. We are proud to promote and deliver a safe, sustainable and rewarding working environment, where everyone's individual contributions to the wider business objectives are understood, welcomed and valued.

We also encourage our people to support local and global communities and we are an active sponsor of various initiatives. Over the years, we have been involved in a range of funding/ sponsorship projects and have also worked with local education providers and universities to provide them with access to collaboration opportunities.

- We work closely with a local grassroots football team, providing much-needed sponsorship.
- We support our local Business Awards on an annual basis with sponsorship of the Award for International Trade.
- Our team raises money throughout the year for a number of charities, including McMillan Cancer Support, The Mental Health Foundation, Comic Relief & Mind.
- Significant donations are made on an ad-hoc basis to support global causes/initiatives.
- Most recently we have started supporting a UK charity that funds menstrual hygiene workshops - as part of a wider outreach project -for groups of young girls in Tanzania. This includes providing much needed sponsorship to facilitate more sessions, the supply of superabsorbent fabric for use as the core in reusable period products and buying sewing machines to help simplify and speed up the production process.

Follow our social media platforms for all the latest updates.





Follow Our  
Sustainability  
Journey



# Soaking up the years!

1993 / 2023

We have been leading the way in the development of Superabsorbent Fibre, Fabrics and Yarns for three decades and during that time have engineered a wide range of specialist products all designed to absorb aqueous fluids. Our dedicated team of Product Developers continue to find new solutions to meet customer's absorbent requirements.

1986



R&D collaboration between Allied Colloids and Courtaulds: the collaboration began with the aim of developing a superabsorbent fibre

1993



Established as 50:50 joint venture company.  
First samples of fibre manufactured on a pilot line

1995



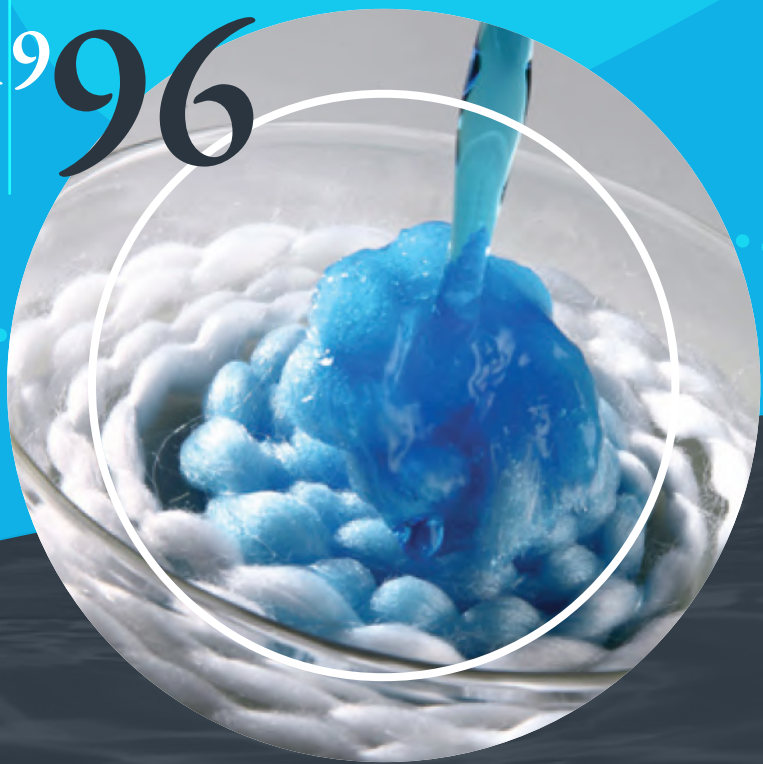
Production plant constructed in Grimsby. Initial capacity of ~800tpa  
Short and Long staple fibre product mix developed





30 years

1996



1999



Winner of the  
Queens  
Award for  
Export



Initial Short and  
Long-staple  
SAF™ product



1 X BALE  
= ~250kg

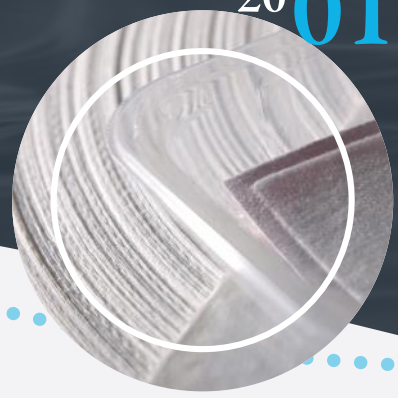
SAF™ selected as a  
“Millenium Product”  
by UK Design Council

30  
years

2000



2001



SAF™ capacity  
increased to  
~1200tpa

That's **6x**  
the weight of  
a Grimsby  
Trawler



SAF™ approved  
for use as an  
absorbent in food  
packaging by U.S.  
Food and Drug  
Administration  
(FDA)



SAF™ capacity  
increased to  
~2400tpa

That's **enough to fill**  
**Grimsby Town**  
**FC's Blundell Park**  
**1½ times!**

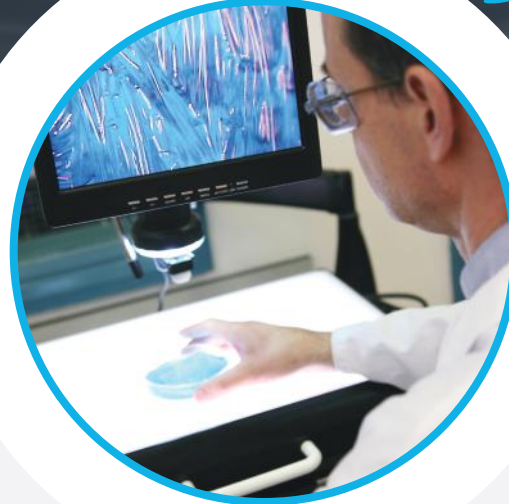
20**03**



Manufacture of  
our first **SAF™** fabrics  
via network of global toll  
converters

Polymer Capacity Doubled

20**05**



Technical Absorbents becomes part of China National Bluestar (Group) Corporation, which is in-turn owned by China National Chemical Corporation Ltd.

2007



2011



2012



Creation of SAF™ fabric-focused Product Development team



SAF™ approved for use as an absorbent in food packaging by European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

2013



This is equivalent to the weight of circa 1500 giraffes.



SAF™ capacity increased to ~3000tpa

2015



Strategic investment in needlefelt nonwoven line

2016



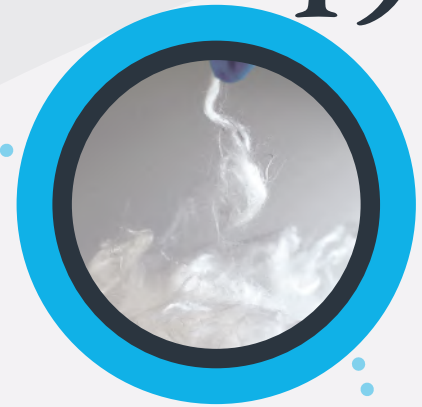
Development of SAF™ thermo-carded fabric range



**SAF™**

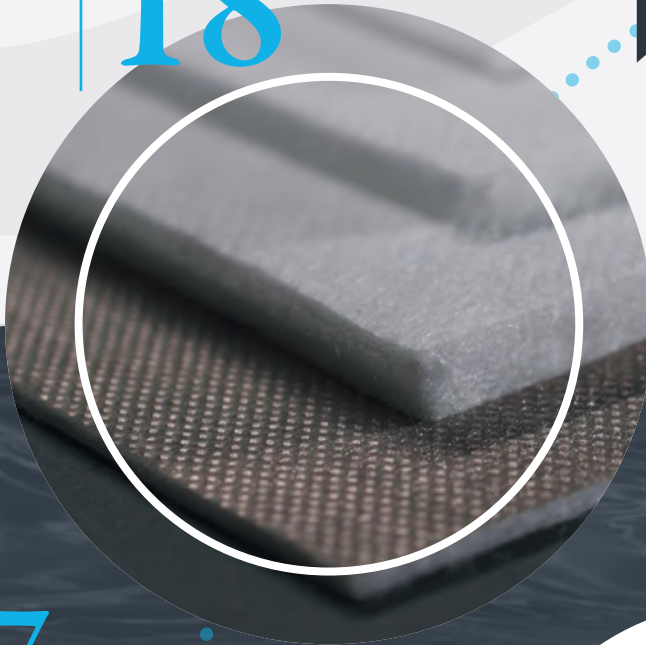
New **SAF™** branding  
launched. Launch of initial  
washable fabric range

20**19**



Focus on  
development of new  
medical **SAF™** grade

20**18**



20**17**



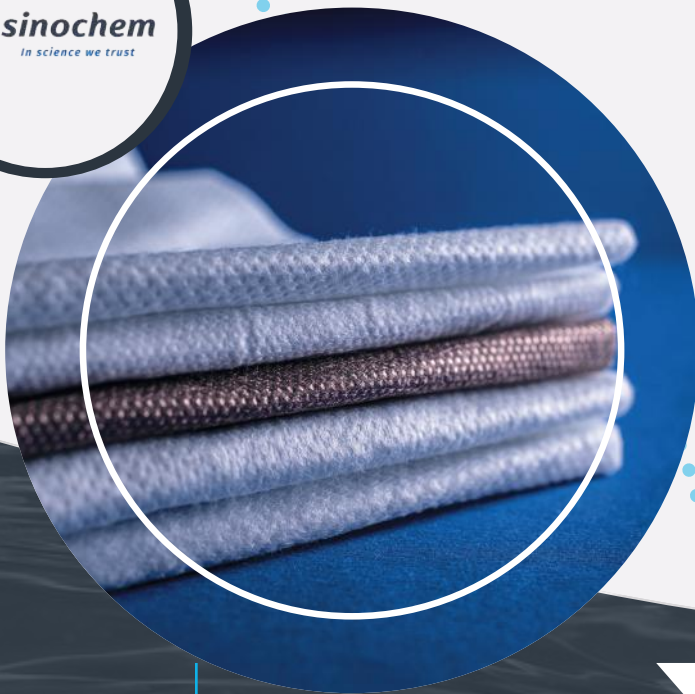
Creation of higher  
gel strength **SAF™** grade

20**20**



20**21** Sinochem Group Co., Ltd. and China National Chemical Corporation Ltd. merge to become the new entity of Sinochem Holdings Corporation Ltd.

 **sinochem**  
In science we trust



20**22**  
**ESG**

Dedicated ESG steering committee established to oversee sustainability journey and reporting



30th anniversary  
20**23**

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years



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