



The German Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs visits Albemarle's Bergheim facility

On the 24th of June, Albemarle welcomed the Federal Minister, Olaf Scholz, to the Martinswerk facility in Germany. Olaf Scholz is the responsible minister for extension of the 'working time reduction' instrument, where employees working hours of employees are reduced and loss of salary is largely compensated by the state (in Bergheim 20%). Olaf Scholz is the second federal Minister who visits the Bergheim site in 3 years and with that, Albemarle Bergheim's reputation is growing.



Rene Herbiet, Albemarle's R&D manager of mineral flame retardants, shows the minister and the parliament member what flame retardants do and how they work.

The minister wanted to see in practise how this law helps companies to survive the economic crisis without losing the expertise of its employees. Mr. Scholz chose Martinswerk as the location of the meeting because of its long-standing history of employment in the region. Other local companies also joined the minister at Martinswerk to participate in the discussions. The visit was concluded by a tour of Albemarle's Martinswerk facilities.

Mr. Scholz and Gabi Frechen, Berlin Bundestag's (German Parliament) representative for the Rhein-Erft-Kreis region, also met with 20 employees who are participating in the project: Demographic personnel planning in the chemical industry, which focuses on employees over the age of 60 and the great wealth of knowledge that they can pass on to young graduates. According to Albemarle's Klaus Schilbert, Senior Purchasing Agent & Warehouse Supervisor, it takes approx one to two years of working together to pass on this hands-on knowledge that requires daily practice that can't be acquired from textbooks.