

# CASE STUDY

## RHODIA



## Solving the solvents issue

### The need for innovation

Designing and producing new solvents which meet increasing consumer expectations and legislative standards is a huge challenge facing the European chemical industry. Furthermore, sustainable solutions have to consider the depletion of natural resources and fossil fuels.

### The response through innovation

Rhodia has developed a new generation solvent that responds perfectly to these demands. With its biodegradable, non-toxic, non-irritant, non-flammable and low-volatile properties, Rhodiasolv® IRIS respects both the environment and the health of its users. Made using by-products from the polyamide chain, Rhodiasolv® IRIS helps to optimize the use of petrochemical resources and reduce the environmental footprint of industrial operations.

The solvent provides the basis for safe, high-performance solutions used in numerous applications, such as paint stripping, industrial degreasing, the removal of graffiti and printing inks, as well as the production of resins and crop protection formulations.

Harnessing its expertise in solvents and surfactants, Rhodia has developed innovative formulations which combine efficiency, flexibility and safety with environmental sustainability. Rhodiasolv® STRIP, used for paint removal, features among the offers already on the market.

Drawing on environmental impact studies, Rhodia is developing a continuous production process based on two innovative catalytic reactions. With this new technology, a competitive production plant will be developed, delivering efficiency both in terms of raw material and energy usage.

The development of new industrial catalytic solutions is supported by ADEME (the French Agency for Environment and Energy Management) and the 2009 European Life+ program.

Rhodiasolv® IRIS won the Pierre Potier\* 2009 Award for “innovation in chemistry supporting sustainable development”.

**Further information on this innovation may be found under:**  
[www.rhodia.com](http://www.rhodia.com)

\* The Pierre Potier Award, created in 2006 on the initiative of the French Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Industry, rewards every year chemical manufacturers who engage in innovation at the service of sustainable development.