DUPONT industry news

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WILMINGTON, Del., Aug. 11 -- The Du Pont Company today announced plans to expand capacity for rutile paper slurry (RPS) grade titanium dioxide by 70 percent at its Edge Moor, Del., plant. The expansion will cost nearly $2 million and be completed around the middle of next year.

"RPS is the fastest growing product in our titanium dioxide line," said Thomas A. Bartolec, marketing manager. "Paper and paperboard manufacturers have found they save up to 15 percent when RPS is used in place of anatase, the traditional titanium dioxide form for paper applications."

RPS, produced by a proprietary Du Pont process, has superior optical properties which enable paper producers to reduce costs while maintaining high quality.

"The expansion will allow us to stay ahead of the increased rate at which customers are converting from anatase to RPS," Mr. Bartolec said. "We expect this momentum to continue as recognition of RPS value becomes more widespread," he said.

Titanium dioxide is used both as a filler and in coatings to impart brightness and opacity to paper and paperboard. The paper industry uses about 25 percent of the titanium dioxide sold in the United States.

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