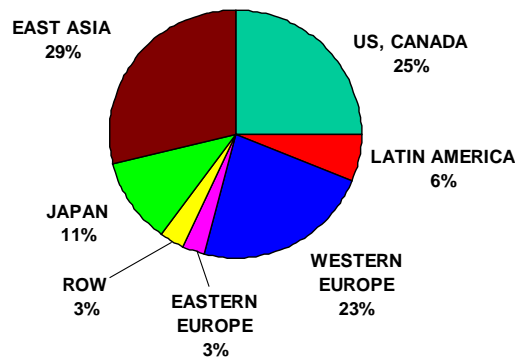


Chem Systems' Process Evaluation/Research Planning program has published a new report, **Polystyrene/ABS (00/01-1)**.

Styrenics are a major thermoplastic, rubber, and coatings product group with styrene the largest constituent. Demand in 2000 is estimated to have reached a global total of 20 million tons as indicated below. East Asia, which excludes Japan, has the largest portion of demand at 30 percent. With Japan, the Asian region has over 40 percent of demand. The U.S. and Canada amount to 26 percent. Latin America, including Mexico, has 6 percent. Growth globally for the period 2000 to 2005 is forecast to average 3.9 percent per year, with above average growth in East Asia and very subdued growth in Japan. In the Americas, the U.S. and Canada are forecast to see average growth of 3.8 percent per year. These growth rates are driven by consumer demand, and are related to forecasts of GDP, with multiples of 1.2 to 1.3 times GDP.

REGIONAL STYRENICS DEMAND, 2000
(total = 20 million tons)

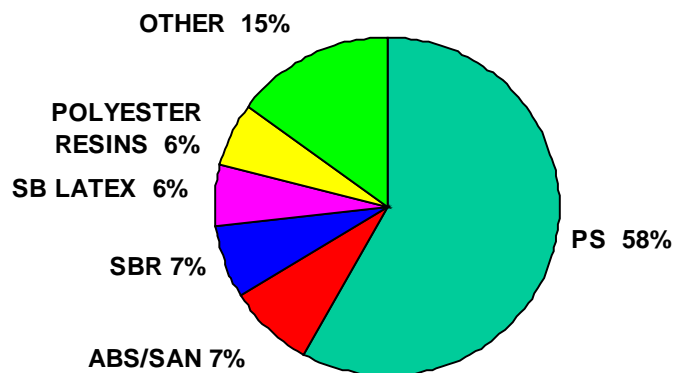


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By far the largest segment of styrene demand arises from its use in polystyrene (PS). For instance, in the U.S. polystyrene accounts for 58 percent of all styrenics. Other end uses include the following:

- ABS/SAN, is used in high end plastics parts, such as computer housings, heavy duty plumbing parts, and automotive applications. ABS/SAN is under competitive pressure from polypropylene at one end of the cost/performance spectrum, and engineering plastics at the other end
- SB (Styrene butadiene) rubber. Growth in this end use has been constrained by increased use of natural rubber and longer life rubber tires
- SB latex
- Polyester resins

U.S. STYRENICS DEMAND, 2000



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This new report by Chem Systems presents the process technologies, production economics, and markets for polystyrene and ABS.

Nexant Chem Systems Merge

Nexant, Inc., a leading provider of technology solutions and experienced-based technical and management consulting services to electric utilities, energy producers, oil and gas companies, governments, and energy end-users worldwide, has recently acquired Chem

Systems. This acquisition, combining our services and products, allows us to span the full range of power, oil, gas, refining, petrochemicals and specialty chemicals sectors and provide our clients with a broader base of services in the energy and process industries.