



SABIC hires UK firm to oversee decommissioning, dismantling of Wilton, North Tees plants

11:25 AM | July 6, 2017 | Francinia Protti-Alvarez

SABIC has appointed RVA Group (Borehamwood, United Kingdom) to oversee the decommissioning, demolition, and dismantling of 10 plants across SABIC's North Tees and Wilton, United Kingdom, sites. Work has commenced at the two locations and the multimillion pound sterling program is expected to be completed in 2020, RVA says.

In its initial phase, the program involves the demolition of a jetty that will begin at the end of July and be cleared within eight weeks. Continued decommissioning support is being provided for a tank farm complex and RVA is finalizing the contractor selection process for the demolition of two aromatics plants, with a proposed mobilization date of January 2018. SABIC closed a cyclohexane plant at North Tees and a benzene extraction unit at Wilton early this year.

At Wilton, the 48-week demolition of steam cracker furnaces and a neighboring butadiene facility is also in progress and expected to be completed by the spring of 2018 and the close of 2017, respectively, RVA adds. The moves follow SABIC's conversion of its Wilton cracker to enable it to consume ethane imported from the United States, alongside the plant's existing feeds. "With the two-year upgrade of our cracker plant now complete, this current multimillion pound cleanup signals the latest chapter in the creation of safe, efficient, and state-of-the-art facilities that are fit for the future," says Daren Smith, acting site director at SABIC.

RVA says it has been appointed to act as the decommissioning consultant, project management resource, and "construction design and management principal designer." The assignment is being carried out in conjunction with SABIC's project management team and surveyors, as well as dismantling and demolition contractors that are independently appointed.

"We're talking a range of world-scale chemical plants made up of complex structures, surrounded by live plant, in a multiuser operational site. This is an inherently demanding project but unparalleled planning has been invested to prepare for this phase of works," says Richard Vann, managing director of RVA.

