

# CORNING | Advanced-Flow™ Reactors



**Flow-Chem revolution: Seamless scale-up from Lab to 10000 TPA**

**Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers**

Northern Regional Centre – New Delhi

**C K Sethia**  
30<sup>th</sup> July 2022



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# Presentation Outline



Corning & Corning AFR



Advanced-Flow reactors

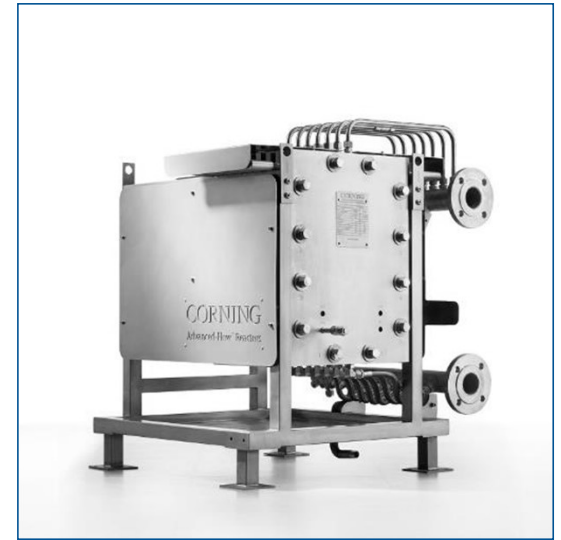


Seamless Scaleup from Lab  
to 10000's TPA

# CORNING



Corning & Corning AFR





Founded:  
**1851**

Headquarters:  
**Corning, New York**

Employees:  
**~60,000 worldwide**

2021 Core Sales:  
**\$14.1 billion** (at rate of 107 ¥/\$)

Fortune 500 Ranking (2022):  
**263**

Corning Incorporated is one of the world's leading innovators in materials science. For 170 years, Corning has applied its unparalleled expertise in glass science, ceramic science, and optical physics to develop products and processes that have transformed industries and enhanced people's lives.

## Corning Reactor Technologies

Provide innovative Corning® Advanced-Flow™ Reactor products and full engineering services for:








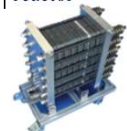









- Pharma chemicals
- Fine chemicals
- Specialty chemicals, base chemicals

- Program started in 2002, commercial since 2006
- Business headquarters: Fontainebleau, France
- Agro chemicals
- Petro chemicals

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# Corning® Advanced-Flow™ Reactors Innovation timeline

<b>2002</b> Concept development & customers collaborations 	<b>2006</b> G1 reactor 	<b>2007</b> Collaboration with European platform	<b>2008</b> European Application Lab HEART design  G2 bank concept 	<b>2009</b> MIT collaboration Low-Flow reactor 	<b>2010</b> Chinese Application Lab G3 reactor 	<b>2011</b> G4 SiC reactor 	<b>2012</b> Indian Application Lab	<b>2013</b> G2 SiC reactor 
<b>2014</b> G1 Photo reactor   Turn key industrial solutions 	<b>2015</b> New Corning AFR Qualified Lab: Nalas Engineering (USA) G1 SiC reactor 	<b>2016</b> New Corning AFR Qualified Lab: - Shanghai Hybrid-Chem (China)	<b>2017</b> New Corning AFR Qualified Lab: - CiTOS (Belgium) - Shandong Chambroad (China)  Lab Reactor   Lab Photo 	<b>2018</b> New Corning AFR Qualified Lab: - Fuzhou University (China) - Sinochem International (China)  G3 Photo reactor   Full automated industrial unit 	<b>2019</b> Chinese Head-Quarter: Corning Advanced-Flow Reactor Technology Co., Ltd.  Education kit for Academia 	<b>2020</b> G5 SiC reactor 		

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# Corning® Advanced-Flow™ Reactors

## Inherently safer technology offering full scale production

- AFR technology enables reduced time to full scale production and improve yield
  - The AFR flow channel design enables intense mixing and heat transfer while providing a narrow residence time distribution
  - Our reactors provide seamless scale up from laboratory reactors to production reactors (5MT to 10,000MT annual flow throughput/unit)
- AFR is a commercially deployed technology
  - 600+ AFR units installed worldwide
  - 100+ production units
  - 30+ production units in pharma and CDMO
  - 35,000+hr continuous run milestone reached
  - Rich experience in AFR flow chemistry process development (tested more than 2,500+)



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# Advanced-Flow Reactor Technologies



Advanced-Flow reactors



# Corning Patented “HEART-Cell” Fluid Module Designs

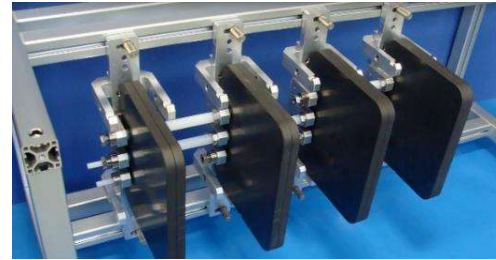
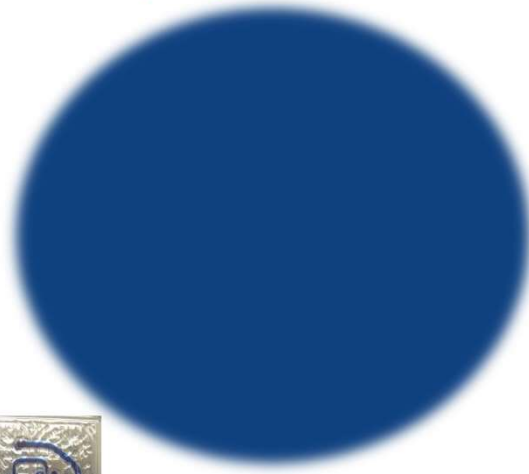
Offer excellent mixing (100X better), superior heat transfer (1000X enhancement)

Mixing of Two Liquid Phases

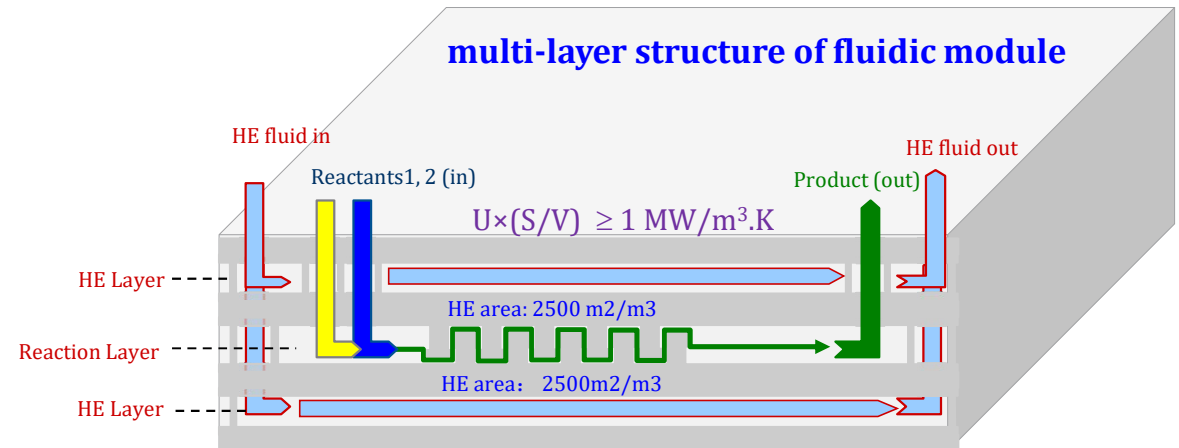
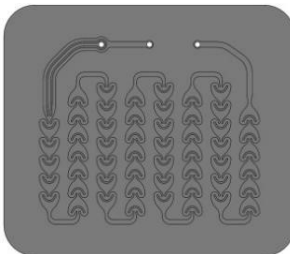
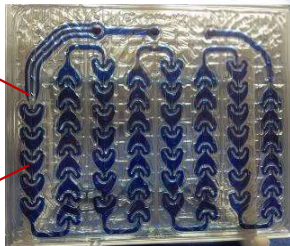
Liquid 1: Blue

Liquid 2: Yellow

Mixture: Green



Corning® AFR™ G1 Platform

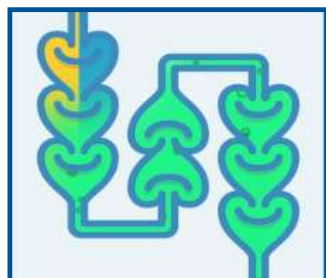


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# Corning® Advanced-Flow™ Reactors

## Key benefits and advantages

### High Mixing

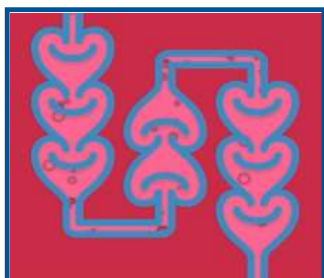


**Patented HEART shape**

**Provides intense mixing, heat exchange and narrow residence time distribution**

**SCALABILITY/ SELECTIVITY**

### High Heat Exchange

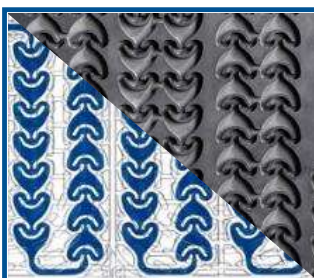


**Independent thermal control**

**Improved heat removal offers excellent temperature control**

**SCALABILITY/ SELECTIVITY/ SAFETY**

### Durable Materials



**Constructed of Glass and Ceramic material**

**Superior corrosion resistance & compatible with broad range of reagents**

**VERSATILITY**

### Seamless Scale-Up



**Reactors are designed for seamless scale-up**

**Direct from Lab to Production**

**SCALABILITY/ SELECTIVITY**

### Complete Units



**Complete turn-key solutions tailormade to the process**

**Configured with support from engineers**

**SCALABILITY/ SAFETY**

**Mass transfer 100x better\***

**Heat Exchange 1000x better\***

**Residence time distribution 50x better\***

**Reaction volume 100x lower\***

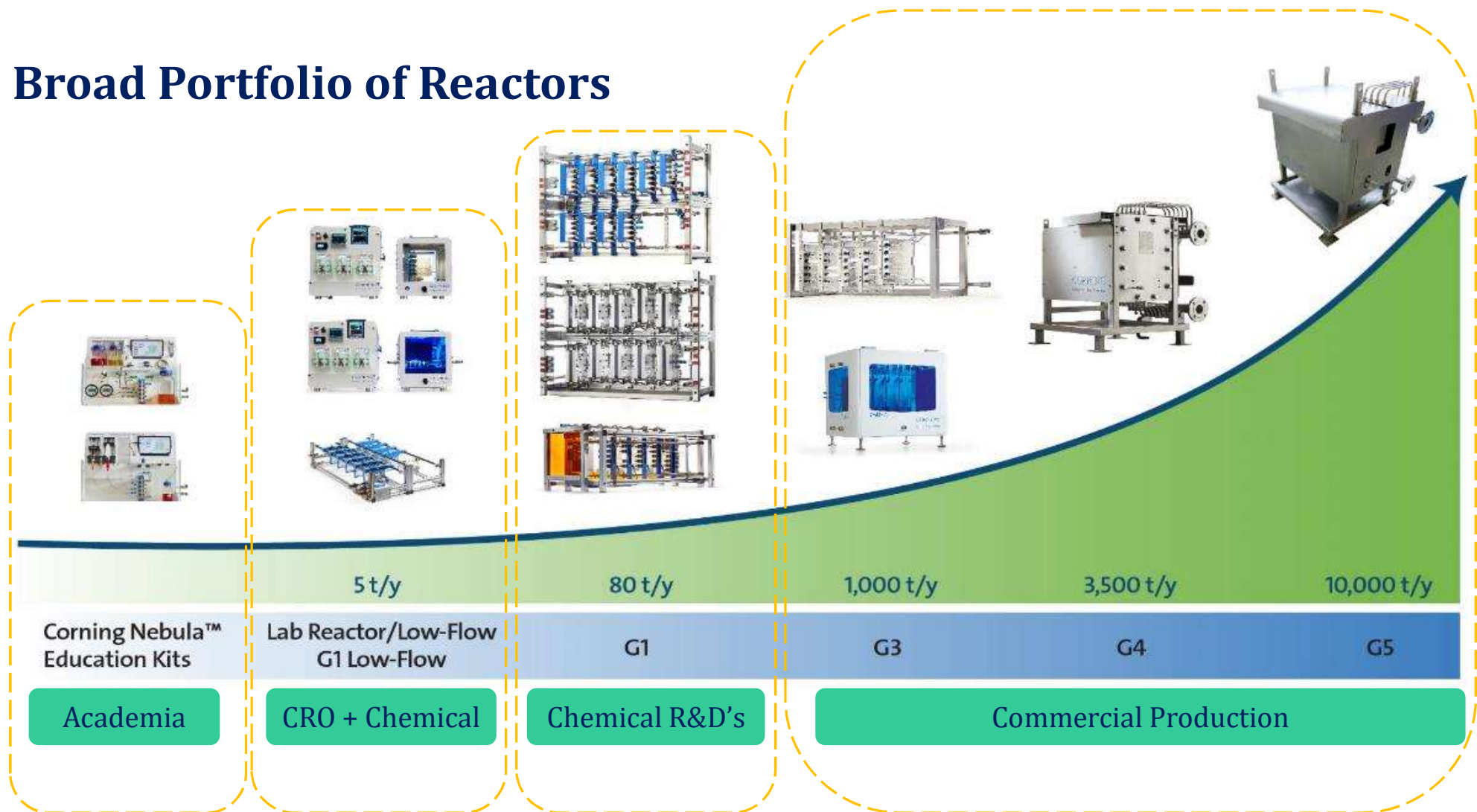
**\*Compared to batch reactors**

## Successfully tested 2500+ Chemistries Globally

- **Nitration Reactions**
  - Reduced solvent usage, higher yield of safer operation
- **More Nitration Reactions in AFR**
  - Mixing quality vs. conversion, and selectivity
- **Selective Hydrogenation of Slurry**
  - 98%+ conversion & selectivity (impurity profiles within spec.)
- **Gas/Liquid Hydrogenation**
  - High catalyst activity enabling short reaction residence times
- **Green Process: Glycerine to Fuel Additives**
  - Successful feasibility demonstration for industrial production
- **Sulphonation Reaction**
  - Full conversion achieved with high purity in shorter time
- **Beckmann Rearrangement: Process Intensification**
  - Stable and better results meeting performance targets
- **Photochemical Reactions**
  - Can be very efficient

- **Liquid/Liquid Amidation (Schotten-Baumann)**
  - Improved yield through continuous mixing
- **Dipeptides Synthesis**
  - Avoiding precipitates in biphasic solvent for amine bonding
- **Dibal Reaction**
  - Same results achieved with much higher temperature
- **Diastereoselective Ritter Reaction**
  - Increased productivity with easy & safe zoperation
- **Accelerating Reactions**
  - An alternative to microwave heating
- **Low Temperature Applications**
  - Energy Saving and/or Better Yield (DCM-B-Pin)
- **Chloroformate Chemistry**
  - Better yield easily followed by on-line Raman PAT
- **Grignard Reagent (RMgX) Preparation**
  - Precise controls lead to better purity of final products
- **Particle Handling**
  - Enable slurry reactions

# Broad Portfolio of Reactors





# Seamless scaleup from Lab for 10000's TPA



Commercial Case Studies

# Corning Advanced-Flow™ G4 & G5 Reactors



- ✓ Seamless scaleup
- ✓ Modular design
- ✓ 100x mixing
- ✓ 1000x heat transfer
- ✓ High chemical durability
- ✓ Thermal cycle of over 110°C
- ✓ No retention zone
- ✓ Shorter Time to market
- ✓ Turnkey solution
- ✓ Inherent Safer design
- ✓ 100+ commercial reactors

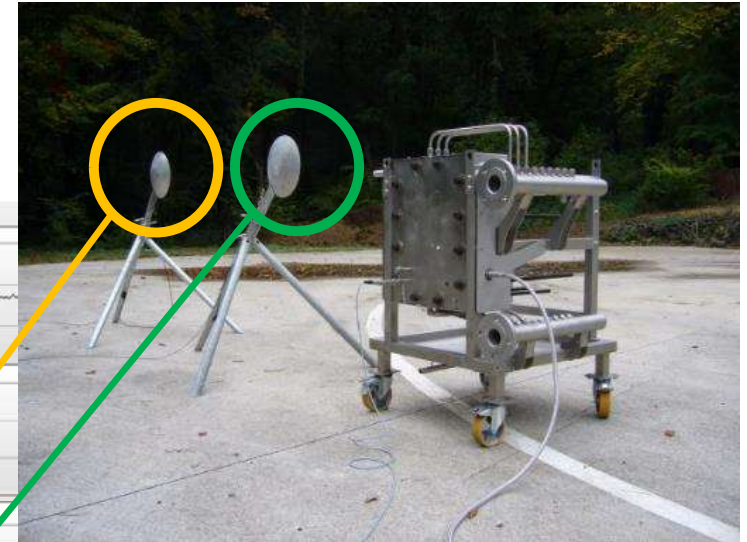
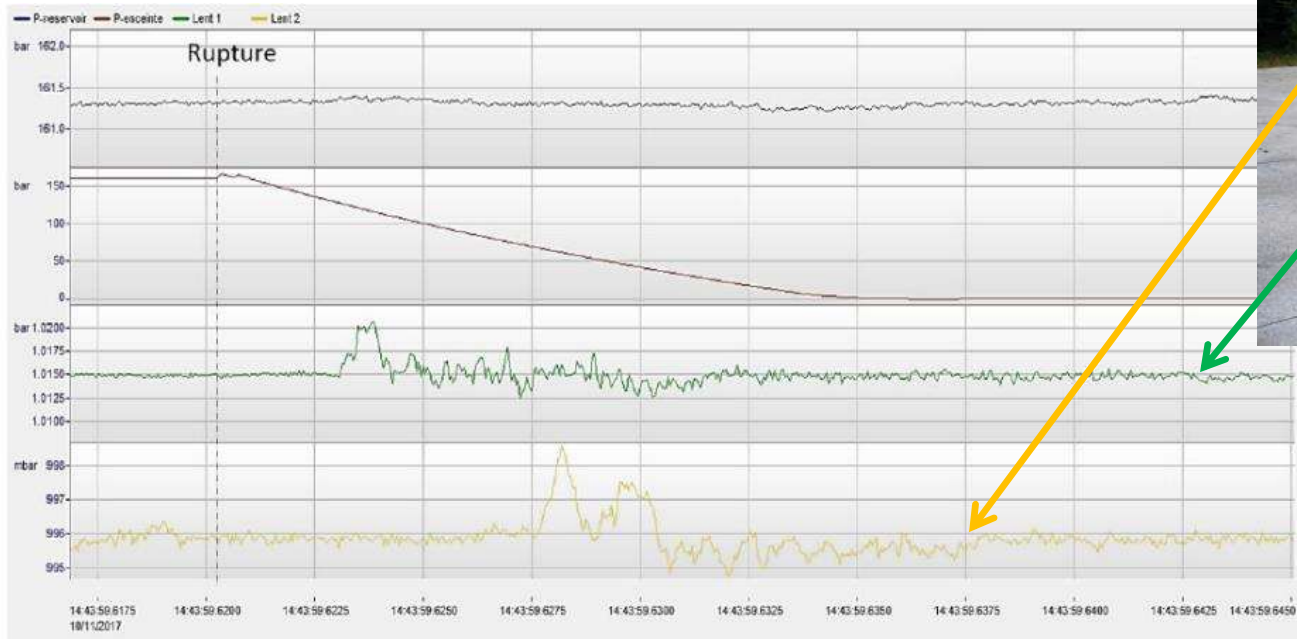


# Inherently Safer reactor



# G4 explosion test (done by INERIS)

## Shock wave



→ Max : 6 mbar

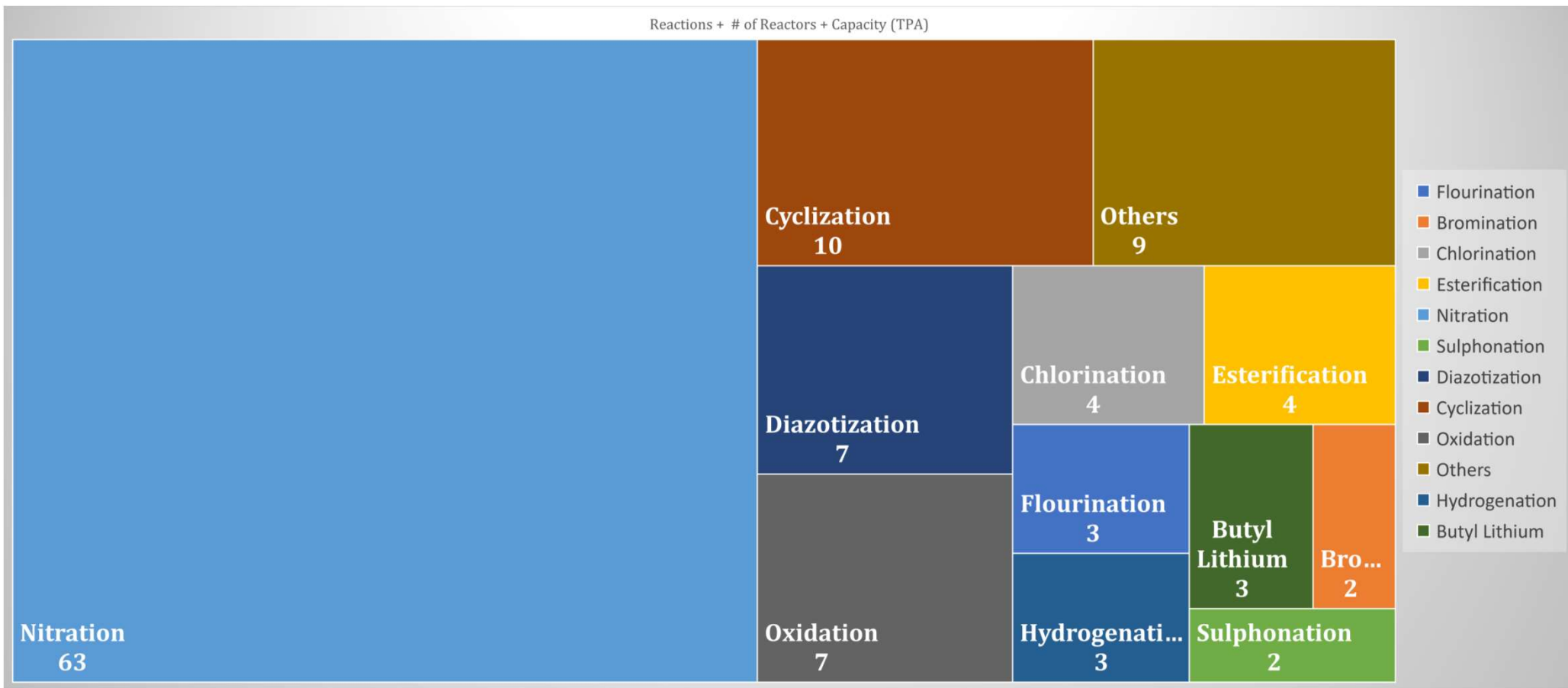
→ Max : 2 mbar

- 20 mbar : possible indirect effet on people (windows broken...)
- 140 mbar : serious direct effect on human being
- 200 mbar : potential lethal effect on human being

**NO risk in terms of shock wave**



# Commercial Reactors: Treemap (105+) 1,000 to 1,00,000 TPA



## Corning delivered its promise of seamless scale-up from Lab to production for multi Step chemical Synthesis for pyrophoric & hazardous chemicals



For detailed article, please visit :  
<https://www.corning.com/worldwide/en/innovation/corning-emerging-innovations/advanced-flow-reactors/corning-advanced-flow-reactors-collaborates-with-sun-pharmaceutical-industries.html>

Anupam Rasayan,  
India



## Corning AFR G4 installation @ Anupam Rasayan, India

Corning G4 reactor system with 3 dosing lines, 1 temperature zone control and Electrical Panel with a footprint of 15m<sup>2</sup> for a multipurpose chemical plant upto 2000 TPA installed since Dec 2016



Nitration  
+  
Multiple Reactions

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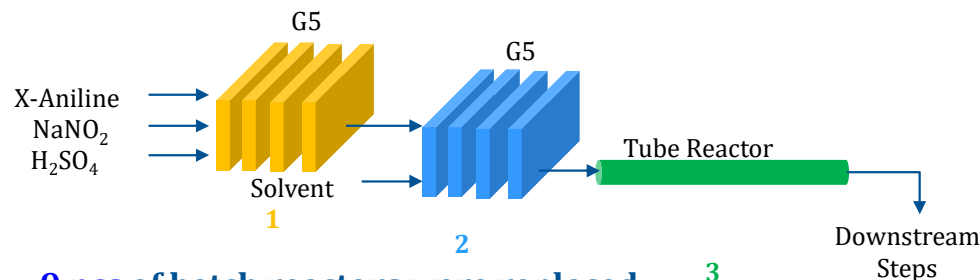
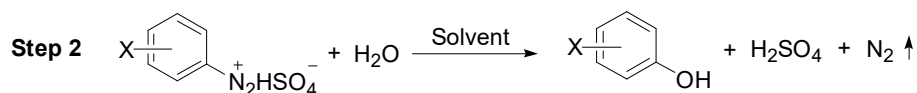
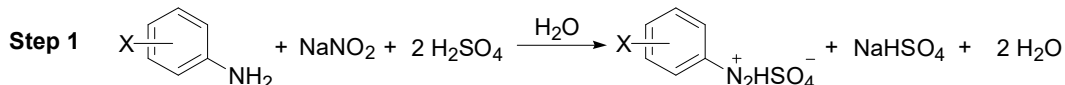
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# Agro-chem continuous manufacturing with AFR at 10 000 MT/Yr flow throughput via X-Aniline diazotization & hydrolysis

惠和化德生物科技  
HYBRID-CHEM TECHNOLOGIES



**9 pcs of batch reactors were replaced**  
**Volume 36,000 L  $\rightarrow$  2x2L AFR + 2x270L Tube**

**Traditional reactor s: 9 pcs**

- ✓ 6 pcs of 3000L batch reactor (diazotization)
- ✓ 3 pcs of 6000L batch reactor (hydrolysis)

**Reaction time:**

Diazotization: 8 hrs /batch  $\rightarrow$  <5s (flow)

Hydrolysis: 4 hrs/batch  $\rightarrow$  <10min (flow)

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WEIHUA NEW MATERIAL  
魏华新材



Total yield increased by 15%

# of operators reduced by 30

Solid waste reduced 75%

Process footprint reduced by 90%

15 000 hrs

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## Nitration in G4 Reactors for Fine Chemicals Manufacturing

- **Customer:** Shandong Efirm is a manufacturer of fine chemicals located in Binzhou, Shandong Province
- **Project:** 10 000+ ton/year continuous flow nitration plant for safety (hazardous batch process), increased product purity, and reduced footprint (equipment and manpower) for production of 2-ethyhexyl nitrate (EHN) for use as diesel additive
- **In Service Date:** 24/7 operation since **October 2018** (four G4 reactors); additional G4 reactors added April 2019
- **Footprint reduction** for continuous flow:
  - 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> (batch) → 400 m<sup>2</sup> (Five G4 reactors)
- **OpEx improvement:**
  - Increased product purity and product color
  - Reaction time decrease: hours/batch → residence time of seconds (flow)
- **Reduction in manpower:** 2 operators/shift with centralized monitoring & control



**Corning 6×G4: 12 000 mt/yr stable  
operation over**

Nitration: Ethyl  
Hexyl Nitrate

# Organometallic reaction: from home-made to G1 and to G4



**Learning:** Spent lot of time with home-made with local university feasibility study, but at the end, no way to scaleup!

**Merit:** Seamless scale up from G1→G4, 1 year, 3 validation batches, ROI 1 year

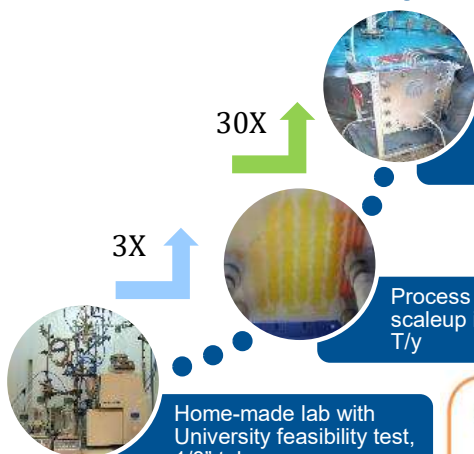
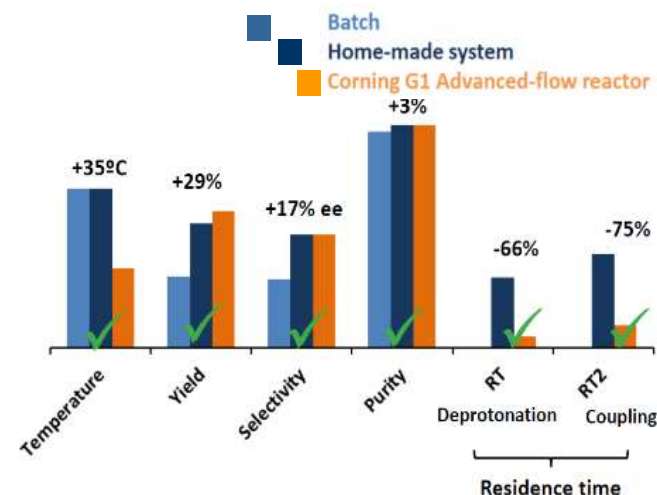
**Solutions:** Handling solid, run 16 hrs, auto-clean 5 min



Similar yield / impurity profile as feasibility trials

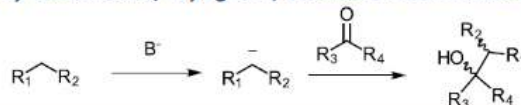
COGS reduction by 30-40 % vs sourced intermediate

Reduction of amount of raw materials and solvents



## Organometallic reaction

Fast and highly exothermic, cryogenic, unstable intermediates



Heat transfer



Mixing



Extreme reaction conditions

## Organometallic Reactions

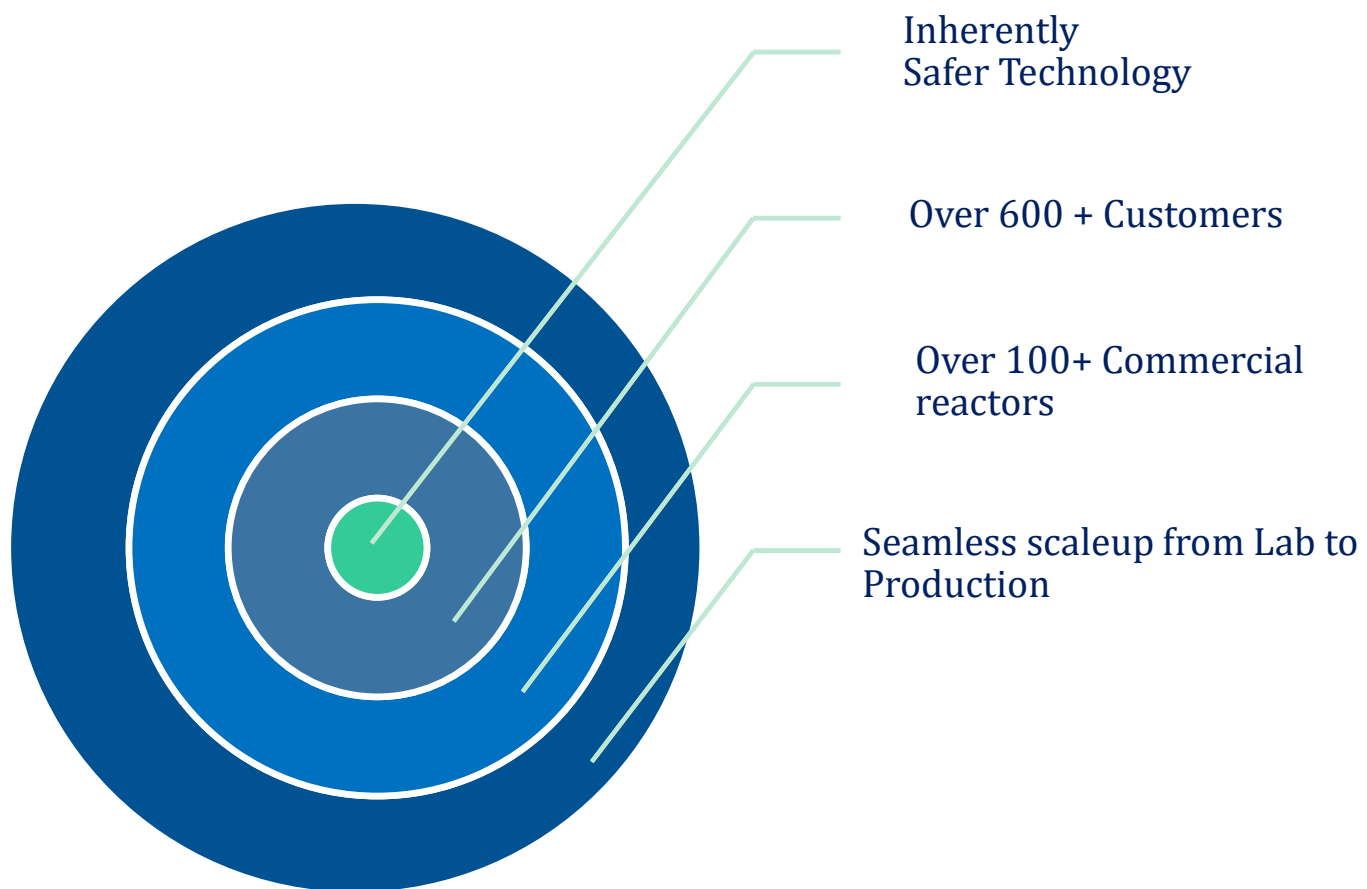
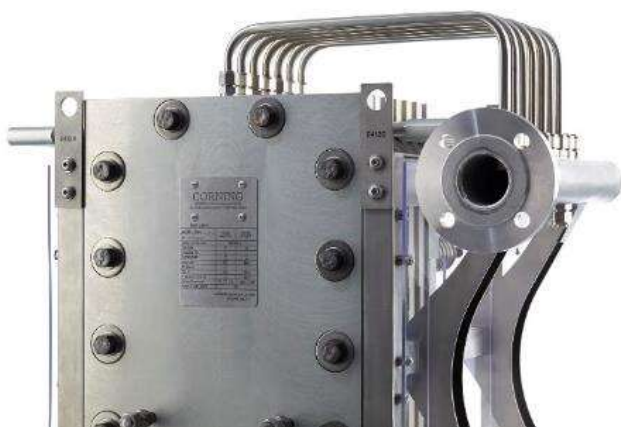
# cGMP and FDA G4 Reactor for API Manufacturing



- Multipurpose G4 Platform
- Dosing lines with automation
- ATEX design, DCS control
- Corning supplied whole system including reactor, dosing lines and control system

Courtesy of Angelini

# Corning AFR can change the industry – and lives





# Growing list of industry & academic AFR India customers\*

## INDIA

\* Partial list



NIT Warangal



JNTU, Hyderabad



IIT Madras



Osmania University  
Chemical Technology

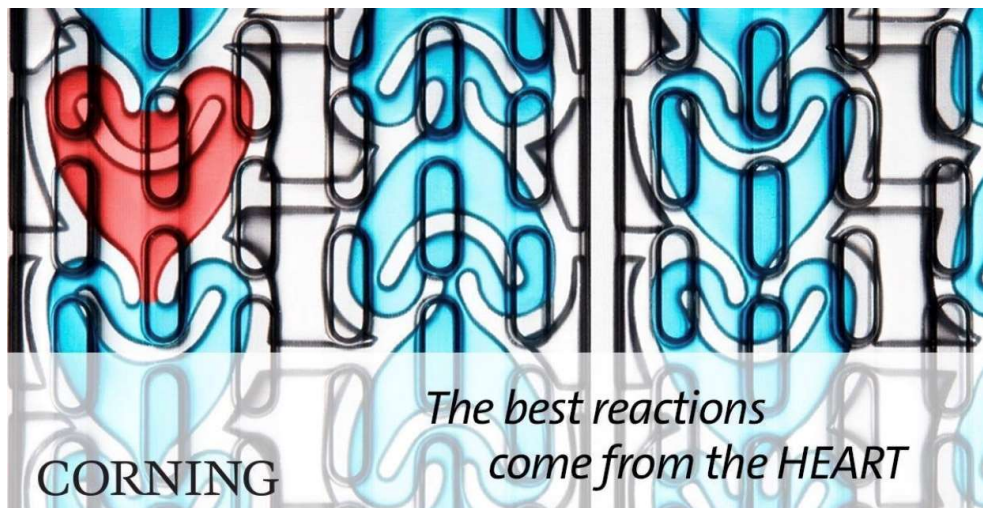


IIT Delhi

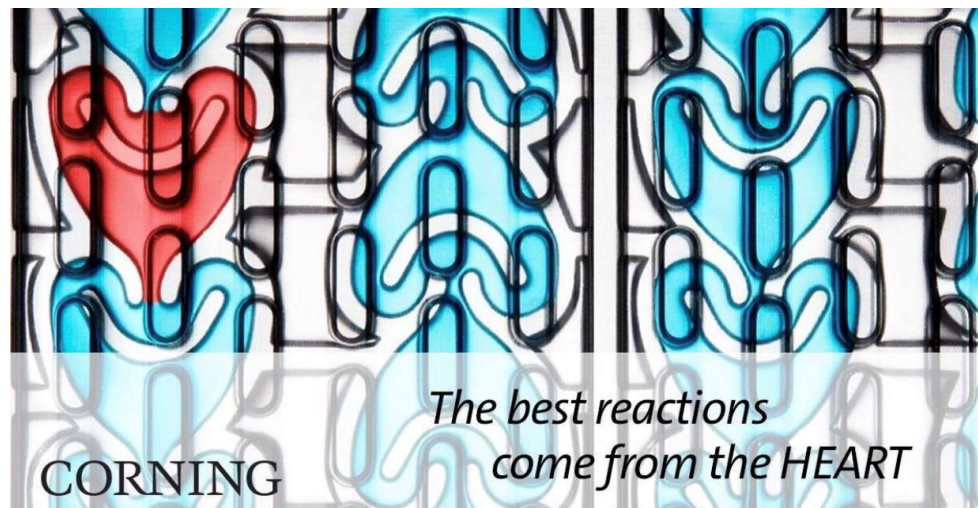
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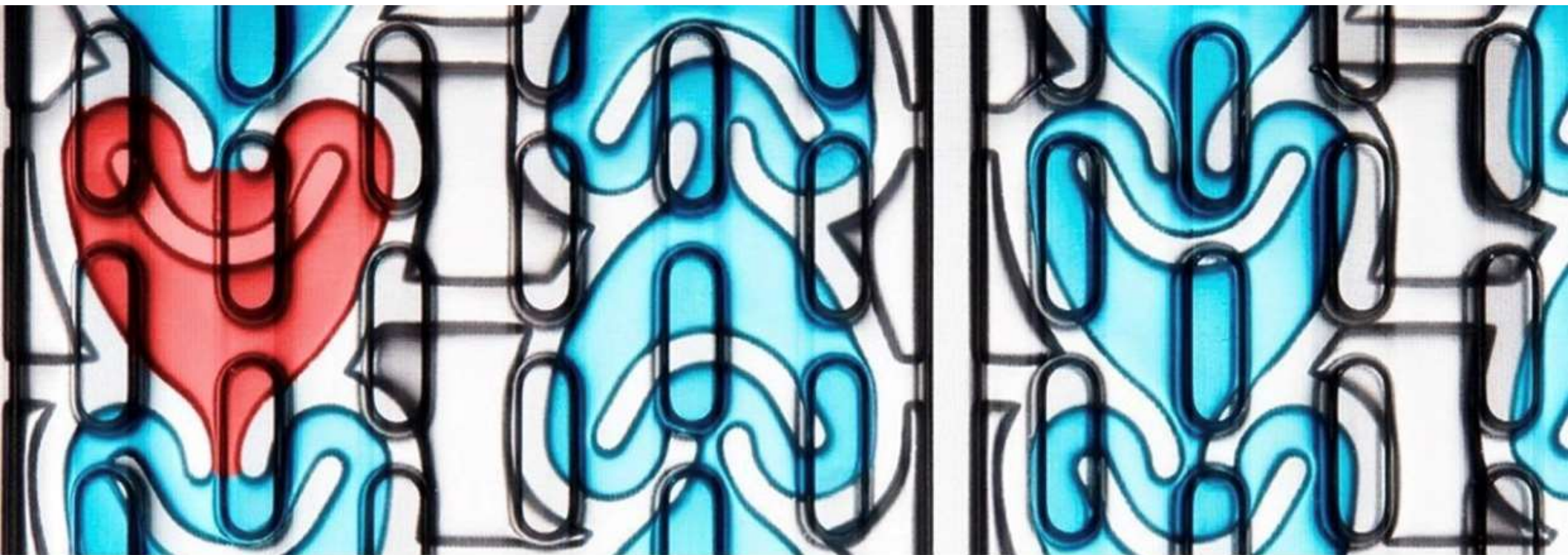
**ACHEMA**  
**4.0/ Stand J58 | 9.1/Stand E64-03**  
**Messe Frankfurt, Germany**  
**August 22 – 26, 2022**



**Flow Chemistry India**  
**Hotel Sahara Star, Mumbai**  
**September 15 – 16, 2022**

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*The best reactions  
come from the HEART*

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[www.corning.com/reactors](http://www.corning.com/reactors)

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