

Q & A:**Ari E.P.E.: Effy Markesini, Polymer Chemist, Managing Director**

Q: What is the activity and potential for Greek chemical companies to engage in the Research and Development of new chemical products?

A: The private sector showed a limited R&D activity in the field of chemical products until the 90's due to the

small size of chemical companies and the lack of funding to create the appropriate infrastructure.

Research and development was mainly carried out at universities (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Democritus University of Thrace), technological foundations, and public institutes. In recent years the situation has changed considerably. European Commission funds for private companies urged these companies to evolve, become competitive in their field, and finally remain on board. There is a positive trend in research with-

in the private sector and its potential is based on the opportunities to partially fund R&D (equipment, scientists cost, material cost) through collaborative projects at the European and national level.

Furthermore, bilateral agreements with university institutions and the Thessaloniki Technology Park expand the possibilities for high-level research. The establishment of the National Center for Research and Technological Development in the same area will further provide companies with tools for upgrading existing solutions and developing new ones.