

News Release



BASF supports restoration of Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Museum

ISELIN, NJ, April 14, 2011 – BASF today announced it has provided a \$25,000 charitable contribution to help restore the Menlo Park, New Jersey-based memorial tower and museum honoring the legacy of Thomas Alva Edison, one of America's greatest inventors, whose innovations changed the world and everyday lives.

While the museum and memorial tower have fallen into disrepair in recent years, the non-profit Edison Memorial Tower Corporation has been formed to raise funds to help restore the facilities, and to increase the museum's commitment to educational programs and outreach to stimulate future innovation. The organization has raised nearly \$5 million in public and private donations to date, and restoration work is beginning this year on the tower and museum facility, which are located in close proximity to BASF's North American catalysis research and development headquarters in Iselin, New Jersey.

"As a global innovation leader, with a strong research and development presence in the Menlo Park area, BASF is delighted to join those honoring the life and legacy of Thomas Alva Edison," said Dr. Friedbert Nees, Senior Vice President, Catalysis Research at BASF. "Edison's work has inspired countless scientists and researchers to test the bounds of existing knowledge, and we see this sponsorship as a fitting way to pay tribute to such a prolific inventor and inspirational figure."

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From 1876 to 1882, Thomas Alva Edison lived and worked in Menlo Park, where he established the world's first organized research and development laboratory. It was here that he invented and refined vital technologies that earned him more than 400 of his 1,093 recorded patents. Among the key technologies Edison developed in Menlo Park include the carbon transmitter, the phonograph, the incandescent light bulb, the electric railroad, wireless telegraphy and a system for generating and distributing electric current.

Today, the site of Edison's laboratory is part of a 36-acre facility known as the Thomas Edison Center at Menlo Park, located in Edison Township, New Jersey. The center contains structural remnants of the inventor's laboratory buildings, as well as a memorial tower constructed in 1937-1938 and a museum housing numerous original artifacts of Edison's inventions, including original Edison phonographs, recording cylinders, mimeographs and early lighting equipment. The museum also houses some of Edison's original research notes and vintage photographs of the inventor at work in his Menlo Park laboratory.

Longer term plans for the Thomas Edison Center, which are expected to be realized over the next three to five years, include the construction of a much larger interactive museum, educational facility and meeting space that will combine science, technology and history to celebrate Thomas Alva Edison's life and achievements.

About BASF's Catalysts division

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