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Argus JJ&A Global Methanol Annual 2016

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Key Findings

- For North America, recent yearly demand of 7mn-7.5mn t/yr is being satisfied primarily by increasing domestic production and decreasing imports from the South America, Middle East and Africa regions. Additional demand, as noted, has potential and is expected, but not until late this decade.
- The capacity of existing methanol units, restarts, relocations and new units underway in North America totalled almost 6mn t/yr as 2015 ended. Announced future capacities could be in excess of 6mn t/yr. Other new capacity intentions have slowed, but could add another 5mn-10mn t/yr. Current analysis shows the key US projects underway, plus those announced, will surpass domestic US demand by the 2019 timeframe.
- The overage of methanol in North America will be exported, as well as having backed-out nearly all current imports. Supplies imported into North America will likewise pursue other export destinations, or strongly defend existing market share.
- China (and to a lesser extent India) will continue to be the global methanol demand movers. Methanol exported from North America and the Caribbean basin will likely find a final destination in Asia-Pacific. With little additional new global methanol facilities announced outside of North America through the forecast period, the methanol bubble in North America should dissipate in the early years of the new decade.

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