BP’s Texas City Chemicals (TCC) plant is a leading producer of both metaxylene (MX) and paraxylene (PX), chemical compounds that help make everything from clothes and carpets to smartphones and surfboards.

Located about 60 miles southeast of BP’s U.S. headquarters in Houston, TCC has three process units and a deepwater marine terminal.

In 2017, the plant completed a major investment project that expanded the facility, significantly improved its operational efficiency and increased its production of MX by 10 percent.

“Today’s petrochemicals industry continues to be extremely competitive, and BP has always worked to deliver quality products while prioritizing safety, innovation and caring for our environment,” says Plant Manager Pete Nowobilski. “Everything we do relies upon the safety of our operations, our workforce and the communities around us — and we are committed to continuous safety improvement.”

Advantaged manufacturing
The plant buys hydrocarbon mixtures called “xlenes” from Gulf Coast refineries, and it uses them to manufacture PX and MX.

- TCC delivers much of its PX output to BP’s Cooper River facility in South Carolina, which in turn manufactures purified terephthalic acid (PTA), a chemical feedstock mainly used to make polyester products.

- Meanwhile, TCC sells its MX output to other manufacturers, which use it to make an array of plastic products, including fiberglass auto bodies, cooling fans, electronic connectors and upholstery.

The plant began operating more than half a century ago, and today it is part of BP’s global aromatics business.

BP’s world-leading technologies in both PX and PTA were developed in its U.S. laboratories and have since been deployed by partners and licensees around the world, giving rise to a whole new industry.

Committed to safe and reliable operations, TCC has received the Distinguished Safety Silver Award for top industry safety performance from the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers association.

Elsewhere in Texas City, BP continues to partner with Eastman Chemical Company on the production and marketing of acetic acid, used to make household fabrics, laundry detergent and other everyday items. In fact, BP is the exclusive marketer of Eastman’s annual output, which can reach around 580,000 tons.

Giving back
TCC makes significant contributions, not only to the southeast Texas economy, but also to local schools and regional community groups. For example, TCC employees volunteer for and donate to organizations such as the United Way and Junior Achievement. Over the past seven years, they have contributed more than 20,000 volunteer hours to community service initiatives.