PRESS RELEASE

Five newly created Business Units, controlled by Bio-on, to respond to high global demand for bioplastic.

Bologna, 31 August 2017 – **Bio-on**, listed on the AIM segment of Borsa Italiana and a leading player in the new eco-sustainable chemical industry, today announces the **creation of 5 new Business Units (BU) to speed up its response to the growing demand for PHAs**, the 100% natural, biodegradable bioplastic. The new divisions will enable more effective and faster development of new materials from biopolymers and new applications.

"*We decided to set up these **five new Business Units** to rapidly meet the enormous number of requests from all over the world for our revolutionary technology,"* says **Marco Astorri**, Chairman and CEO of **Bio-on**. "*This move will create more independent and more efficient departments to deal with special industrial production **(Bio-on Plants)**; Cosmetic, Nanomedicine & Smart Materials **(CNS)**; Recovery and Fermentation **(RAF)**; Engineering **(ENG)** and Structural Materials Development **(SMD)**."*

Every year, **300 million tons of polluting plastic** are produced and sold and thousands of types of oil-based polymers are made for myriad uses. Each of these is called a product **"*grade*"** and each one comes with its own technical data sheet. In recent months, and particularly since the recent presentation of Bio-on's 2017-2020 industrial plan released in November 2016, our technicians have developed hundreds of new ***grades*** to replace existing high-pollution plastics. But, more importantly and surprisingly, there has been an exponential increase in the number of international patent applications submitted by Bio-on in high added value sectors unthinkable until as recently as last year.

*"Our goal," continues **Marco Astorri**, "is to develop as many products and agreements as possible in a rapidly changing scenario. And since Bio-on's polyhydroxyalkanoates **(MINERV PHAs)** can already be used in cutting-edge applications, unthinkable for conventional plastics, we had to speed up our response to market demand in a personalised way whilst continuing to provide a high level of service. The new Business Units meet this requirement."*

Bio-on Plants, the production BU, will be based in Castel San Pietro Terme, outside Bologna, where an innovative plant is being built, controlled by Bio-on, that will produce micro bioplastics for cosmetics. The **RAF** (Recovery and Fermentation) and **CNS** (Cosmetic Nanomedicine & Smart Materials) business units will also be based here. The latter will be equipped with laboratories and a business centre on two floors in the area opposite the Bio-on Plants facility. It is expected to open in early 2018. The **SMD** BU (Structural Materials Development) will further develop the current Bentivoglio (Bologna) site, in operation since 2016, with new spaces for studying and developing structural materials. The **ENG** BU (engineering) will be based at Bio-on in Via Santa Margherita al Colle in Bologna and will develop projects for the construction and assistance of licensed plants.

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Here is the logo and the description of the five new **Business Units** presented today by Bio-on:

Bio-on plants

Will manage and develop the production plant, future extensions or new special productions of PHAs bioplastics for cosmetics use or other cutting-edge applications. Bio-on Plants S.r.l. is 100% controlled by Bio-on S.p.A.

HEADQUARTERS: Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna)

CNS

The Bio-on Business Unit CNS (*Cosmetic, Nanomedicine & Smart Materials)* will develop and sell **functionalized biomaterials and devices** capable of providing "Ultra-Green Performance" by exploiting the unique biodegradability in water and biocompatibility of PHAs bioplastics. It will operate in the following sectors: Cosmetics, Biomedical, Nutraceuticals, Bioremediation, Organic Electronic, and Smart Materials.
In cosmetics, in particular, it will develop micro powders designed to replace the harmful plastics currently used.

HEADQUARTERS: Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna)

SMD

This Business Unit will develop product grades for injection, extrusion, thermoforming and film coating. Structural materials are those made from granules or pellets. As a rule, they are large or complex plastic items with high-performing form and function.

HEADQUARTERS: Bentivoglio (Bologna)

bio-on/smd

Structural Materials Development

RAF

This Business Unit will develop and research new types of agricultural waste to be used in fermentation to produce PHAs biopolymers. Development and scale-up of new plants for fermentation and recovery of PHAs biopolymers with a high degree of purity.

HEADQUARTERS: Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna)

bio-on/raf

Recovery and Fermentation

ENG

This business unit will develop and provide comprehensive documentation on dedicated and bankable industrial feasibility studies: Project description, Designation list, Standards, Design Criteria, Processes, Process control system, Storage and Warehouse, Utilities, Electrical Installation. Industrial scale-up with the definition of production modules. We produce complete PDP (process design packages) from the laboratory to the industrial-scale production plant. Production modules for 5, 10 and 20 thousand tons/year

HEADQUARTERS: Bio-on (Bologna)

bio-on/eng

Engineering

Bio-on S.p.A.

Bio-on S.p.A., Intellectual Property Company (IPC) italiana, opera nel settore della bio plastica effettuando ricerca applicata e sviluppo di moderne tecnologie di bio-fermentazione nel campo dei materiali eco sostenibili e completamente biodegradabili in maniera naturale. In particolare, Bio-on sviluppa applicazioni industriali attraverso la creazione di caratterizzazioni di prodotti, componenti e manufatti plastici. Dal febbraio 2015 Bio-on S.p.A. è anche impegnata nello sviluppo della chimica naturale e sostenibile del futuro. Bio-on ha sviluppato un processo esclusivo per la produzione della famiglia di polimeri denominati PHAs (poliidrossialcanoati) da fonti di scarto di lavorazioni agricole (tra cui melassi e sughi di scarto di canna da zucchero e di barbabietola da zucchero). La bio plastica così prodotta è in grado di sostituire le principali famiglie di plastiche tradizionali per prestazioni, caratteristiche termo-meccaniche e versatilità. Il PHAs di Bio-on è una bio plastica classificabile al 100% come naturale e completamente biodegradabile: tali elementi sono stati certificati, da Vincotte e USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). La strategia dell'Emittente prevede la commercializzazione di licenze d'uso per la produzione di PHAs e dei relativi servizi accessori, lo sviluppo di attività di ricerca e sviluppo (anche mediante nuove collaborazioni con università, centri di ricerca e partner industriali), nonché la realizzazione degli impianti industriali progettati da Bio-on.

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