

## PRESS RELEASE

# Construction begins of new Bio-on plant for special bioplastics production.

- First plant from new Bio-on Plants business unit will produce Minerv Bio Cosmetics, the 100% biodegradable bioplastic destined to replace the microbeads in cosmetics that pollute the seas.
- The plant will be operational in the first half of 2018 and will create 40 jobs.
- Bio-on today announces it will invest a further 5 million Euro in boosting its research laboratories on top of the 15 million already announced, bringing the total investment in the production hub to 20 million.
- A sustainable project. Bio-on has converted a former factory, meaning no new land is occupied or wasted.
- Progress can be followed on the Bio-on website through video updates filmed by drones.

**Bologna, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Bio-on**, listed on the AIM segment of Borsa Italiana and a leading player in the new eco-sustainable chemical industry, announces the start of the construction of a **new plant that will produce special PHAs biopolymers, 100% natural and biodegradable, for advanced and fast-growing niche markets, particularly the cosmetics sector.**

"We are extremely pleased with the preliminary work done so far," explains **Marco Astorri, Bio-on Chairman and CEO**, "particularly the authorisations attained in March 2017 with the symbolic laying of the first stone which, thanks to the collaboration of the local authorities, has been done on schedule, and in some cases ahead of our expectations, allowing us to stick to our time frame."

The new plant, which will be located in **Castel San Pietro Terme** near **Bologna** over an area of 30,000 m<sup>2</sup>, 3,700 of which is covered and 6,000 land for development. When it becomes operational, in the first half of 2018, it will have a production capacity of 1,000 tons per year, rapidly expandable to 2,000. The plant will be equipped with the very latest technologies and the most advanced research and development laboratories. New carbon sources from agricultural waste will be continuously tested to produce new types of biodegradable bioplastic and increase the range of technologies offered by **Bio-on**. Over the next few weeks, the company will begin to recruit the **40 people** who will work at the new facility. The company confirms its **15 million Euro investment and today announces a further 5 million will be invested to boost its research and development laboratories. This decision brings the total investment for the production hub to 20 million Euro**.

"Bio-on's investments will greatly benefit our territory, and not only in terms of jobs," says **Fausto Tinti, Mayor of Castel San Pietro Terme**. "That's why this administration is collaborating fully with this project, which will put our community on the international map when it comes to the green chemical industry of the future."

After clearing and preparing the site, "we will begin consolidating the ground to withstand the weight of the plants, which involves sinking approximately 250 piles to support the concrete beds," explains **Feliciano Ippolito, Project Manager and head of the Bio-on ENG Business Unit**. "Once this phase is complete, work on the foundations will begin." "The entire production cycle will be run from an innovative control room at the heart of the plant" explains **Riccardo Casoni, Bio-on Plants director and plant construction manager**, "and, once construction is complete, this is where all the circuits will be tested before bioplastic production begins. Obviously, we hope there are no delays in the construction phase, such as difficult weather conditions."

"The opening of the site also launches a new phase of information, particularly for our investors," explains **Marco Astorri, Chairman and CEO of Bio-on**. "Drones and fixed cameras will be filming the construction and we will be giving regular video updates on how the work is progressing. We want whoever visits our website to see this exciting new plant being built." The first episode is already online here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sI5DK2z0t94>

The revolutionary **PHAs bioplastics (polyhydroxyalkanoates)** developed by **Bio-on** are made from renewable plant sources with no competition with food supply chains. They guarantee the same thermo-mechanical properties as conventional plastics with the advantage of being 100% eco-sustainable and naturally biodegradable. The direct presence of **Bio-on** in the high-performing biopolymer production sector is an important milestone in creating a global platform for 100% natural and biodegradable bioplastic production of the future.

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## **Bio-on S.p.A.**

Bio-On S.p.A., an Italian Intellectual Property Company (IPC), operates in the bioplastic sector conducting applied research and development of modern bio-fermentation technologies in the field of eco-sustainable and completely naturally biodegradable materials. In particular, Bio-On develops industrial applications through the creation of product characterisations, components and plastic items. Since February 2015, Bio-On S.p.A. has also been operating in the development of natural and sustainable chemicals for the future. Bio-On has developed an exclusive process for the production of a family of polymers called PHAs (polyhydroxyalkanoates) from agricultural waste (including molasses and sugar cane and sugar beet syrups). The bioplastic produced in this way is able to replace the main families of conventional plastics in terms of performance, thermo-mechanical properties and versatility. Bio-On PHAs is a bioplastic that can be classified as 100% natural and completely biodegradable: this has been certified by Vincotte and by USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). The Issuer's strategy envisages the marketing of licenses for PHAs production and related ancillary services, the development of R&D (also through new collaborations with universities, research centres and industrial partners), as well as the realisation of industrial plants designed by Bio-On.

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