

PRESS RELEASE

Bio-on completes construction of the world's largest fermenters for PHAs bioplastic production

Bologna, 8 November 2017 – Bio-on, listed on the AIM segment of Borsa Italiana and one of the main players in the new eco-sustainable chemical industry, proudly announces the completion of the fermenters that are at the heart of the production technology for 100% biodegradable and natural bioplastic at the Bio-on plant set to open next year. This big technological challenge has enabled the world's largest fermenters to be built with a capacity of over 100 thousand litres and a height of over 13 metres. These large "silos" will house the fermentation process in which bacteria "produce" PHAs bioplastic.

The new fermenters have been designed by Bio-on's technical staff (ENG Business Unit) in collaboration with RAF, the in-house team of scientists that developed the various stages of aerobic fermentation over the last 4 years. The two fermenters, which have just been delivered, will be transported and installed at the Bio-on Plants site in Castel San Pietro Terme, Bologna and will contribute towards the upcoming production of biopolymers for cosmetic use.

"I am proud to have commissioned an Italian company to manufacture these two large fermenters," explains **Bio-on Chairman and CEO Marco Astorri**. "Above all, they have been made by technicians extremely skilled in large-scale, innovative equipment. These fermenters are identical to the ones that will be installed on our licensees' premises around the world. Italy is considered the world leader in the development of fermentation processes and in the past it made an effective contribution towards the development of major antibiotics for safeguarding human health. Breathing life back into this industry to produce biopolymers such as our PHAs is a great opportunity for employment in Italy. Our success will transfer to the hundreds of people who will work on building the plants that will shape the future of plastic."

A short video showing work on the fermenters and various photos are on our website.

Web link: <https://youtu.be/DCHUtFhtIQg>

The new plant, which will be located in **Castel San Pietro Terme** near **Bologna** over an area of 30,000 m², thanks to a 20 million Euro investment, 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**. The company has begun to recruit the **40 people** who will work at the new facility.

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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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