

COMUNICATO STAMPA

Bio-On S.p.A.

Bio-on brings forward the opening of its new research centre and announces a new extension of its laboratories.

- **Bio-on** has decided to accelerate the construction of its **new research hub** due to rising demand for special PHAs biopolymers.
- Opening is set for **3 April 2018**, several months ahead of schedule. By the end of the year, the space dedicated to the development of new biopolymers will be extended by over **600 m2** to a total of **1000 m2**, where over **20 Italian and foreign researchers** will be based.
- Additional **2.5 million Euro** set aside to fit out the laboratories with the very latest scientific equipment, on top of the 20 million being invested in the new production plant at Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna).

Bologna, 1 February 2018 – “We have decided to accelerate the development of our new research laboratories to meet the rising demand for special bioplastics from around the world,” explains **Marco Astorri**, *Chairman and CEO of Bio-on*, as he announced the **early opening, on 3 April 2018, of the new research centre alongside Bio-on's first production plant to be inaugurated in June 2018 in Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna)**. The company, listed on the AIM segment of Borsa Italiana and the leader in eco-sustainable chemical technologies and production of eco-sustainable and fully biodegradable biopolymers, **has invested 2.5 million Euro in cutting-edge scientific equipment**. This investment is in addition to the 20 million Euro that Bio-on is already investing in the new plant.

The new laboratories will be run by the **CNS Business Unit (cosmetics, nanomedicine, smart materials)**, which operates in polyhydroxyalkanoates applications in the cosmetics, biomedical and smart materials fields. **400 m2** of laboratory space will be available once the plant opens, to be extended to approximately 1000 m2 by the end of the year. Our laboratories will be the operations base for over **20 research technicians** (added to the new production plant's 40 employees) from all over the world and many different scientific disciplines, **such as organic and inorganic chemistry, physics, biology, pharmacy, materials engineering, biotechnologies, electronics, management and mathematics with an average age of 30**.

*“The constant and growing requests Bio-on receives, thanks to the new international awareness of the emergency in conventional plastics,” explains **Bio-On** Chairman and CEO **Marco Astorri**, “and the important results achieved by our researchers, have encouraged us to speed up and broaden the space for technicians and scientists. This is no doubt the best response to the companies, from around the world, that have decided to use high-performing biopolymers such as ours.”*

*“The **CNS Business Unit** was set up once we became convinced that the driver for innovation is bringing different scientific backgrounds together and a balance of in-house research and external collaboration. Our new Labs Center allows us to bring our researchers together and inject the definitive boost for the incredible innovation that **PHA** will introduce into all our lives,” says **CNS Business Unit** managing director **Paolo Saettone**.*

All the **PHAs (polyhydroxyalkanoates)** developed by **Bio-on** are made from renewable plant sources with no competition with food supply chains. They can replace a number of conventional polymers currently made with petrochemical processes using hydrocarbons; they guarantee the same thermo-mechanical properties as conventional plastics with the advantage of being completely eco-sustainable and 100% naturally biodegradable.

*"**Bio-on** is the world's first company to offer a comprehensive "fully biodegradable" industrial solution, fundamental for tackling the huge problems of global pollution that cannot be solved by recycling," adds **Astorri**. "The real challenge is using truly biodegradable materials and this is only possible by replacing oil-based polymers with natural bioplastics such as ours. Many governments and big multinationals now understand this and have asked **Bio-on** to accelerate the development of hundreds of new applications. That is why we are proud to be launching this industrial laboratory in Bologna that will be the "home" for many foreign researchers and as many Italian scientists who will have the opportunity to come back and work in their country".* The new laboratories are located in the same area as the new **Bio-on** plant producing special bioplastics such as microbeads for the cosmetics industry. The plant occupies an area of 30,000 m², 3,700 of which is covered and 6,000 land for development, and will have a production capacity of 1,000 tons per year expandable to 2,000. **Bio-on** will test and develop new types of PHAs bioplastic using agricultural and agro-industrial waste as raw material. **Bio-on** also demonstrates its focus on environmental sustainability in its choice of site, opting to convert a former factory, meaning no new land is wasted.

The "production" section of Bio-on's website now contains new video content of the plant construction. For further information visit: <http://www.bio-on.it/production.php>



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

www.bio-on.it

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