PRESS RELEASE

Bio-On S.p.A.

Bio-on: new research hub for bioplastic development open from 3 April and new laboratory expansion confirmed.

- The new research hub for plastic development is **operational from 3 April 2018**, as announced in February and 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.
- **Bio-on** decided to bring forward the construction of its **new research hub** ahead of initial plans due to rising demand for special **PHAs** biopolymers.
- **2.5 million Euro** already invested to fit out the laboratories with the very latest scientific equipment, in addition to the 20 million being invested in the new production plant at Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna).

Bologna, 5 April 2018 – Bio-on's new research laboratories for special PHAs bioplastic development became operational on 3 April in Castel San Pietro Terme (Bologna), at the site where **the company's new production plant is set to open by June 2018**. **Bio-on**, listed on the **AIM** segment of **Borsa Italiana** and operating in the high-quality, natural and 100% biodegradable bioplastics sector, opened the laboratories ahead of schedule to deal with the **rising demand for biopolymers from around the world**. The new structure is run by the **CNS** Business Unit ***(cosmetics, nanomedicine, smart materials)***, which operates in special bioplastics applications in the cosmetics, biomedical and smart materials fields.

Main characteristics of the new laboratories:

- **400 m²** of laboratory space, to be extended to approximately **1000 m²** by the end of the year.
- **2.5 million Euro investment to purchase cutting-edge scientific equipment**, on top of the 20 million Euro Bio-on is investing in the new production plant.
- 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 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 use this site to 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 contains video content of the plant construction. For further information visit: http://www.bio-on.it/production.php

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.

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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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