

PRESS RELEASE

Bio-on S.p.A.

**Bio-on and Italeri present results of research and development
of Minerv PHA Supertoys bioplastic in Germany in 2017.
Safe and eco-sustainable, a new frontier in toys.**

BOLOGNA, 11 November 2016 – The final phase testing **Minerv PHA Supertoys** for making scale models has begun, launched by **Bio-on** in collaboration with **Italeri**, the leading manufacturer of static models. The results will be presented in February 2017 in **Nuremberg, Germany** during the "**Play and toys fair**" (<http://www.spielwarenmesse.de/?L=1>), the sector's largest and most prestigious event.

Testing is applied to specific areas of **Italeri**'s vast offer, such as its toy soldiers (3 cm tall) which require extreme precision. The tests run thus far have been positive and the two companies confirm the goal of producing the world's first scale models made of the special grade **Minerv PHA Supertoys**, the new type of bioplastic developed by **Bio-on**'s laboratories for **the toys of the future**.

Based on Bio-on's revolutionary biopolymer, 100% naturally biodegradable and already tested in dozens of applications, from automotive to design to biomedical, **Supertoys** is safe, hygienic and biodegradable, it meets and exceeds the provisions of the recent **European Directive 2009/48/EC**, known as the **TDS (Toy Safety Directive)**, implemented into the standard international procedure for toy safety evaluation **EN 71**.

The **Minerv PHA Supertoys** project, launched by **Bio-on** in late 2015, aims to demonstrate that specific, eco-sustainable and also completely biodegradable formulations can be created for making models and toys that are safe for children and the environment, without losing out on the end product's functionality and aesthetic.

*"We are extremely pleased to present to the world the results of this important collaboration with **Italeri**, a company that has written the history of global modelling,"* explains **Bio-On S.p.A.** Chairman **Marco Astorri**, *"because it is offering us the opportunity to develop new uses for **PHAs Supertoys** biopolymers in thousands of different items with extremely high levels of precision."*

"It is very interesting and promising to create new models with a completely natural eco-sustainable material," say **Gian Pietro Parmeggiani** and **Giuliano Malservisi**, the founders of **Italeri S.p.A.**. *In the toys sector, the future will increasingly demand more eco-sustainable products and our company will play a leading role this time too."*

Bio-on bioplastics are made from renewable waste plant sources, with no competition with food supply chains, and are 100% naturally biodegradable. *"Working with **Italeri** is very important,"* explains **Astorri**, *"because it allows us to create highly complex models that can also be used on a large scale. Minimum tolerances and high quality enable us to make product grades that can be used in any other item in the sector."*

The **Minerv PHA Supertoys** research and development project launched in December 2015 is dedicated to all companies around the world working on toy design and aims to create two types of bioplastic by the end of 2017: **Minerv PHA Supertoys type "R"**, rigid and strong, and **Minerv PHA Supertoys type "F"**, ductile and flexible.

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 traditional plastics in terms of performance, thermo-mechanical properties and versatility. Bio-On PHA 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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ITALERI S.p.A.

Italeri S.p.A was set up in the mid '60s in Bologna by two co-founders, Gian Pietro Parmeggiani and Giuliano Malservisi. The company has maintained its initial characteristics and is now a leader in the static modelling field, with a presence in over 50 countries in all continents. In 2001 Pama Trade Srl, a connected company, was founded to distribute and market the main international model and toy brands. Today the Italeri offer boasts 600 models, within an overall production of approximately 1,500 items, many of which are recognised as being unique on the global modelling scene. The Italeri range, which began with scale models of aeroplanes, broadened with the introduction of military vehicles, ships, trucks, cars and motorcycles. The range is constantly being developed thanks to painstaking modelling research, detailed techniques and the careful design of dedicated models and lines. Italeri has entered into a number of collaborations with major international partners. In particular, it has launched collaboration projects that are unique in the sector, bringing modelling and videogames closer together for the very first time. For the last two years, it has run a project specifically dedicated to schools, aimed at raising awareness and enhancing the practice and culture of modelling amongst young people. The company has gained international recognition whilst remaining firmly rooted in Italy.

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scale modelling since 1962