

Bio-on chooses INCICO to make the first PHAs biopolymer production plant for cosmetics.

- Contract worth approximately 2 million Euro as part of an overall investment from Bio-on of 15 million for the construction of the new plant that will produce bioplastic micro powders.
- Site expected to open in October 2017 with a view to going into production by summer 2018.

BOLOGNA 18 July 2017 – **Bio-on**, listed on the AIM segment of Borsa Italiana and owner of the know-how to produce PHAs bioplastic, recognised as one of the best biopolymers of the future in various fields of application, has assigned to **INCICO S.p.A** based in Ferrara a contract worth approximately 2 million Euro for the development of the basic and detailed engineering of the **first PHAs production plant for cosmetics**.

The plant will be built in Castel San Pietro Terme, outside Bologna, on the site of a former Granarolo plant and will have a production capacity of 1000 tons per year. It will be the first plant producing PHAs in the form of micro powders for cosmetics, natural and 100% biodegradable, produced to date solely in an industrial scale-up plant in Bologna.

The plant construction, in which Bio-on is investing 15 million Euro overall, is particularly challenging and envisages opening a site in October with a view to going into production by summer 2018.

INCICO's multidisciplinary engineering services (over 40,000 engineering hours) will cover the specialities needed to acquire equipment and launch the plant construction phase. The project will implement a 3D model in PDMS that will allow the coordinated development of the various disciplines and control of the interfaces; INCICO will also oversee technical supervision and management of the site during the works.

"We chose to develop this project with INCICO," explains **Marco Astorri, Chairman and CEO of Bio-on**, "as it will enable us to comply with the schedule we set and launch the industrial production anticipated by the entire cosmetics industry. This plant is strategic for us because it allows us to determine new standards for biopolymers for cosmetics and to continue our intellectual property business model through licensing. This is why we want the best professionals by our side."

"We are proud to be working alongside a company with international ambitions that successfully teams innovation and research in the competitive sector of innovative natural microplastics," explains **Giovanni Monini, CEO of INCICO**, "our technicians will work with teams in other countries already building plants based on Bio-on's licenses that will soon make PHAs available in industrial quantities."

All the **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 at ambient temperature.



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 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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INCICO S.p.A.

INCICO S.p.A. is an Italian engineering company based in Ferrara and Milan that develops Project Management and basic and detailed engineering activities in the Power, Oil & Gas, petrochemical and agri-food, and infrastructure sectors. Its design activities are developed with advanced technologies and software using 3D modelling to manage interdisciplinary interfaces and interferences, in compliance with quality requirements and in search of solutions that can optimise timing and costs. Employing a team of over 70 engineers and technicians, the company has an international presence with subsidiary or investee companies in India, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and, more recently, the United States. It develops over 70% of its multidisciplinary engineering services to work orders from abroad, without neglecting its links with the Italian market.

Among its clients are some of the major players in the energy sector, such as General Electric (with which it has signed an international master agreement), ENEL, Israeli energy company IEC, Siemens, E.On, as well as renowned companies and EPC Contractors such as Foster Wheeler, Cargill, Chemtex, Tecnimont, Lyondell Basell and many other private companies of varying sizes.

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