



PRESS RELEASE

Bio-On S.p.A. – Hera S.p.A.

Bioplastics research accelerates thanks to new investments by HERA in Bio-on technology

Bologna, 13 July 2015 – **Bio-on S.p.A.**, the leader in eco-sustainable chemical technologies, and **Hera S.p.A.**, Italy's leading multi-utility provider, are renewing and strengthening their partnership launched last year. The aim is to identify a new type of organic material from which the revolutionary bioplastic developed by Bio-on can be made using sugar beet processing waste.

“The agreement signed today,” explains **Tomaso Tommasi di Vignano**, Executive Chairman of **Hera S.p.A.**, *“is the natural continuation of the collaboration launched with Bio-on in 2014 which enabled our company to assess the technology necessary for transforming the biogenic waste produced in the territories covered by the Group into latest-generation bioplastics”*.

PHAs, or polyhydroxyalkanoates, are bioplastics that can replace a number of traditional polymers currently made with petrochemical processes using hydrocarbons. PHAs guarantee the same thermo-mechanical properties with the advantage of being completely naturally biodegradable.

“We are extremely proud,” explains **Marco Astorri**, Chairman of **Bio-on S.p.A.**, *“because this agreement helps find new uses for some of the products collected by HERA, using a new industrial technology already being studied at our laboratories”*.

The agreement between the two companies has arisen from the research and development conducted at the Bio-on laboratories which, with HERA's support, is aimed at developing a new industrial process for the production of PHAs from organic material waste.

GRUPPO HERA

One of Italy's largest multi-utility providers working in Environment (waste collection and treatment), Energy (electricity and gas distribution and sale) and Water (waterworks, sewers and purification), the Group employs over 8,500 people and works every day to meet the many and varied needs of 4.4 million citizens. It serves over 350 local municipalities mainly in the Emilia Romagna, Marche, Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions.

www.gruppohera.it

For further information:

Gruppo Hera
Cecilia Bondioli
Head of Media and Publishing Relations
Tel: 051.287595 - 320.4790622
cecilia.bondioli@gruppohera.it

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 (PE, PP, PC, etc.) in terms of performance, thermo-mechanical properties and versatility. The Issuer's 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. The alphanumeric codes for ordinary shares "ON" IT0005056236, for ordinary shares "ON" with bonus share IT0005056228 and for warrants "WARRANT Bio-On 2014-2017" IT0005056210. The minimum unit of trading envisaged by the Italian Stock Exchange is 250 shares. Company Nomad is EnVent S.p.A.. Banca Finnat Euramerica S.p.A. acts as company specialist.

For further information:

Issuer

Bio-On S.p.A.
via Dante 7/b
40016 San Giorgio di Piano (BO)
Marco Astorri
Tel: +39 051 893001
info@bio-on.it

Nomad

EnVent S.p.A.
Via Barberini, 95
00187 Rome
Paolo Verna
Tel: +39 06 896.841
pverna@envent.it

Specialist

Banca Finnat Euramerica S.p.A.
Piazza del Gesù, 49
00186 Rome
Lorenzo Scimia
Tel: +39 06 69933446
Fax: +39 06 6791984