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PRESS RELEASE

Bio-On S.p.A. – University of Hawaii USA

Bio-on and University of Hawaii to study how to produce bioplastic from wood and household waste

Honolulu, Hawaii U.S.A. 1 September 2015 – Bio-on and **University of Hawaii** today signed an exclusive global research contract to further develop the technology for the production of the revolutionary bioplastic PHAs: the objective is to use lignocellulosic materials (wood processing waste) and domestic or agricultural waste as the raw material. **Bio-on will invest 1.4 million dollars** in the Manoa (HI) laboratories for this project.

Bio-on and **University of Hawaii** will create an industrial process that will enable Bio-on over the coming years to further increase its technological offer, which has a unique selling point in the sector: **the wide variety of waste products from which its high performing PHAs can be made**. Wood and domestic or agricultural waste are therefore added to the sugar beet and sugar cane, glycerol (biodiesel waste) and potato processing waste co-products already used. The industrial plants, part of the licenses granted by Bio-on, will have the capability of using all of these materials, with limited adjustments, making them highly flexible.

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

*“We are enthusiastic to participate in the development of Bio-on's technology,” says **Robert Bley-Vroman**, Chancellor of the **University of Hawaii Manoa USA**. We are also pleased to accept Bio-on's investment of **1.4 million dollars**, which will make our scientists at the **Hawaii Natural Energy Institute School of Ocean and Earth Science & Technology University of Hawaii Manoa** key players in the research into the green chemical industry at global level”.*

*“With this new contract, we are confirming a collaboration between Bio-on and UH active since 2008, which makes the research conducted in the USA on behalf of Bio-on one of the highest-level collaborations in existence,” explains **Marco Astorri**, Chairman of **Bio-on S.p.A**. “We are committing our funding and our technicians to support UH scientists in the technological expansion of the high performing biopolymers produced with Bio-on technology”.*

The agreement between **Bio-on** and **University of Hawaii** adds an important building block to the construction of the platform for bioplastic production and the green chemical industry of the future. This agreement heralds the opening up of highly promising scenarios for the development and internationalisation of Bio-on's technology on new markets.



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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.

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.

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University of Hawaii at Manoa U.S.A.

Founded in 1907, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is the flagship campus of the University of Hawai'i System. A destination of choice, students and faculty come from across the nation and the world to take advantage of UH Mānoa's unique research opportunities, diverse community, nationally-ranked Division I athletics program, and beautiful landscape. Consistently ranked a "best value" among U.S. colleges and universities, our students get a great education and have a unique multicultural global experience in a Hawaiian place of learning—truly like no place else on earth.

For more detailed information about the University please visit the [Manoa Institutional Research Office \(MIRO\)](#) pages.

Web link: <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/>

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