

PRESS RELEASE

Bio-On S.p.A. – S.E.C.I S.p.A.

PHAs Bioplastic in Parma, the construction of the industrial plant starts

BOLOGNA 21 February 2018 - The company **SECI**, holding belonging to the Maccaferri family, announces the launch of the bioplastics project to be carried out at the **San Quirico** production site using the Bio-on technology. The project will be carried out by the company Sebiplast s.r.l., a controlled company of the **SECI Group**, in the production site where today stands the sugar factory managed by the operating company of the **SECI Group, Sadam S.p.A.**

The choice of the **San Quirico (PR)** production site will guarantee the bioplastics project to benefit from synergies and common services with the sugar factory, but without interfering with the latter's production activity.

During the first part of the year there will be carried out the detailed engineering activities and the purchase of critical equipment as well as the site preparation works and the demolitions necessary to make ready the area on which the PHA plant will be built up. The project is expected to enter into production in approximately 24 months with an initial production capacity of 5,000 tons / year. The design activities, scheduled to start in the coming days, will take into account the possibility to expand the production capacity up to 10,000 tons / year and possible future additions with other industrial activities related to green chemistry which are part of the development and diversification plans of the Group.

The **PHAs** (polyhydroxyalkanoates) are bioplastics that can replace several conventional polymers currently made with petrochemical processes using hydrocarbons. The **PHAs** developed by Bio-on guarantee the same thermo-mechanical properties as conventional plastics with the advantage of being 100% naturally biodegradable.

*"We are satisfied to continue this important journey - declares **Massimo Maccaferri**, President of **Sadam** – with the support of the Region that has released a first tranche of funding for the implementation of the first design phases and will allow us to realize this important innovation with enthusiasm. It is a very positive result also for the growth of our Group in the new "green chemistry" sector, with an eco-compatible and eco-sustainable approach".*

*"We are proud to realize an important production project together with the Maccaferri Group – explains **Marco Astorri**, President of **Bio-on S.p.A.** – one of the most important industrial groups in Europe, expanding the development of the promising high-performance biopolymer business developed by Bio-on and the granting of its licenses".*

The two companies, already active in sustainable bio-chemistry and in the industrial development of the Levulinic Acid production with **Sadam**, will work together to take a further step towards the construction of the platform for the production of the bioplastic of the future.

SECI S.p.A.

The **Maccaferri Industrial Group** is owned by the family holding company, SECI, a company that operates in various business areas through its subsidiaries: Officine Maccaferri (environmental engineering), Manifatture Sigaro Toscano (tobacco), Sadam (food and agro-industry), Samp (mechanical engineering), Seci Real Estate (construction), Seci Energia (renewable energy), JCube (Innovation Hub). The Group, chaired by Gaetano Maccaferri, is present in the world with 57 plants, more than 5,000 employees and closed 2017 with a turnover equal to 1066 million euros.

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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 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.

www.bio-on.it

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