

## Press release

### **FKUR AND SYNBRA MOVING ON TO ENHANCED PLA COMPOUNDS**

Etten-Leur, The Netherlands, and Willich, Germany, 25th October 2010

FKuR and Synbra realise the opportunities of the new PLA generation: GMO free and heat resistant. After first concluding highly promising development work FKuR has started systematic tests with Synbra's second generation PLA produced from non-genetically modified carbohydrates. The PLA polymerization takes place in Synbra's new plant in Etten-Leur with a capacity of 5000 t/a. The lactide feedstock is produced in Purac's fermentation process.

The development partners expect a further strong market push since many brand-owners and retailers in Western Europe are keen to use GMO-free materials. In addition, FKUR and Synbra are targeting at high temperature applications to date not accessible for bioplastics. By blending almost 100% pure PLLA with PDLA at high temperatures, a stereocomplex PLA (sc-PLA) can be formed with properties that excel the ones of the individual homopolymers. The melting temperature of the complex is around 220°C which is 50°C higher than that of conventional PLA. Consequently, FKUR in cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute for Environmental, Safety, and Energy Technology UMSICHT intends to develop a new generation of high performance bio compounds.

"FKUR Kunststoff GmbH has outstanding knowledge in modifying bio-based raw materials and developing unique PLA blends and we are pleased to supply FKUR as a launching customer with our sc-PLA grades" Jan Noordegraaf, Managing Director of Synbra, pointed out.

"Synbra's GMO free resins pave the way to new markets and the technical capabilities of the stereo complex offer us incomparable opportunities to design high engineered bio-compounds." Edmund Dolfen, Managing Director of FKUR Kunststoff GmbH, added.

In recognition of the purity and the feed stocks used, Synbra's high purity PLA, as well as its BioFoam<sup>®</sup>, has been Cradle to Cradle SM certified by EPEA in Hamburg, and is the worlds first and thus far only PLA to be certified.

**FKuR Kunststoff GmbH** produces and markets special, customized biopolymers under the brand names Bio-Flex<sup>®</sup> (polylactic acid/copolyester compound), Biograde<sup>®</sup> (celluloseester compound) and Fibrolon<sup>®</sup> (natural fibre reinforced polymers). The close cooperation of the company with the Fraunhofer Institute UMSICHT assures outstanding know-how and quality standards.

**Synbra Technology bv** in Etten-Leur, The Netherlands, is the in-house polymerisation and R&D facility 'Technology & Innovation' and the centre of excellence in materials and product development in the Synbra Group. Synbra has a leading position in Europe regarding Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) for Sustainable Insulation Systems and Industrial Products & Solutions for a wide diversity of markets. Synbra Holding achieves a turnover of € 300 Million with about 1400 employees in The Netherlands, Germany, France, Denmark, the United Kingdom and Portugal. A recent example of the Synbra group's innovations is BioFoam<sup>®</sup>.

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