

Press-release about signing the Agreement between TAIF JSC and Bio-on S.p.A.

TAIF GROUP AND BIO-ON ANNOUNCE TO HAVE CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF BIOPLASTIC PRODUCTION PROJECT IN TATARSTAN.

MOSCOW October 25, 2018 – Yesterday took place in Moscow, in the presence of President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, the signing ceremony of the contract for the implementation of a plant for the production of 10.000 tpy of PHAs (polyhydroxyalkanoates).

TAIF JSC and Bio-on S.p.A., thanks to this agreement, will start the design and the construction of first plant for the production of PHA bio-plastic obtained from co-products of beet sugar production to be built in the Republic of Tatarstan (Russian Federation).

"We consider essential initiating a commendable way in green chemicals," says General Director of TAIF JSC Albert Shigabutdinov, "particular because we believe that biodegradable polymers can efficiently promote a gradual decrease in environmental pollution. In the short run biopolymers won't be able to completely replace conventional polymers due to their output volume," Mr. Shigabutdinov continues, "but in our opinion introduction of green, that is environmentally safe production facilities in competent market sectors would contribute to creating new opportunities in the field of plastics production."

"This agreement represents an important milestone for us," explains Marco Astorri, the President and CEO of Bio-on S.p.A., "and the co-operation with a prestigious Russian industrial group, leader in the plastics industry," continues Marco Astorri, "confirms the great value of our technology and the vision that the PHA bio-plastic represents today the only real alternative to solve the environmental problem generated by traditional plastics. "

With this project, whose estimated value of the investment is 90 million euros, the TAIF Group jointly with the Italian party that includes Bio-on, intends to open new areas of development of this revolutionary "green" plastic both for applications in segments traditionally served by fossil-based plastics and for advanced and high-value market sectors.

"This important result," says Vittorio Folla, General Manager of Bio-on S.p.A. who led the negotiations with Taif, "has been achieved thanks to a continuous work of Bio-on team and Smart Energy (Italian company partner managed by Ferdinando Menci) with TAIF Group and it represents a first important step for the affirmation and growing in the Russian Federation of this new eco-friendly biopolymer".

TAIF

The TAIF Group, who has over 43 thousand employees, is a huge production and investment company possessing significant assets and enormous production capacities, flexible and high-level management. TAIF Group comprising 52 subsidiaries and affiliated companies operates in various areas with the following major fields of activity: oil and gas processing and petrochemistry, telecommunication, building and construction, banking and investments, and services. All the enterprises are closely interconnected in terms of finances, engineering, technologies, and management.

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 characterizations, 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'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 realization of industrial plants designed by Bio-On.

