



PRESS RELEASE

THE UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA AND BIO-ON TOGETHER TO LAUNCH A PIONEERING MSc ON RAW MATERIALS AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY FUNDED BY THE EC

Bologna (Italy), 13 December 2018 - Starting in 2019, the **University of Bologna** and **Bio-on** will collaborate on the setup and delivery of a new, **EU-funded MSc course on Raw Material Exploration and Sustainability (RAMES)**, which will bring together cutting-edge expertise on raw materials and circular economy principles. The objective of RAMES is to educate a new generation of entrepreneurially oriented geologists and engineers who have in depth expertise on the physical-chemical properties of raw materials, their geological exploration and are particularly sensitive to best practices in sustainable exploitation.

For its design and launch in the academic year 2019-2020, RAMES will receive funding from the European Institute of Technology. The MSc will leverage competences and know-how from three departments of the **University of Bologna**, two departments of the **Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim)**, the **Geological Survey of Finland**, and a number of Italian and foreign companies that are active in distinct aspects of the circular economy.

Bio-on, the Italy based company that is revolutionizing the industry of bioplastics, **is RAMES' leading industrial partner** and will contribute specific technological and business know-how to help students gain exposure to best practices and hands-on expertise.



UNIBO

The University of Bologna has very ancient origins: founded in 1088 it is considered the first University of the Western World. It counts over 85,000 students, 219 degree programs, more than 70 of which are international, distributed over 5 Campuses: Bologna, Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini. It has 33 Departments, 47 PhD courses, 59 Postgraduate Schools, 91 first and second level Masters and an average of 11,000 research products per year. The University of Bologna is the first university in Europe for the number of students participating in exchange programs, both outgoing and incoming.

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 conventional 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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