



Press release

NOVAMONT AND THANTAWAN INDUSTRY: AGREEMENT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF MATER-BI IN THAILAND

Novara, September 22, 2010

In Asia Pacific, Thailand is the closest country to the opportunities offered by the green economy and the use of biopolymers.

Novamont, the Italian fully-integrated bioplastics manufacture and the world's leader in the sector, **has signed an agreement with Thantawan Industry**, the country's first manufacturer of packaging (including straws, garbage bags and resealable bags) for the distribution of Mater-Bi in Thailand.

Novamont's new business development director, **Stefano Facco**, said: “ Thailand is a very promising and interesting location for bioplastics production in Asia Pacific. In case of positive market results by Thantawan Novamont is willing to establish a plant manufacturing starch-based Mater-Bi bioplastics in Thailand starting from cassava starch”.

In Italy **Novamont** has established a fully-integrated process of manufacturing bioplastics. This innovative company was originally founded as a research centre, and is today involved in the development of products containing renewable raw materials from agricultural origin. The company purpose is to contribute in a significant manner to forging a new industrial policy capable of reconciling the twin demands of development and sustainability, thus creating an integrated system involving chemistry, agriculture, industry and the environment in “**genuinely sustainable development**” with low environmental impact. This requires solution of the urgent problems of environmental pollution through the use of renewable resources of agricultural origin, while reducing to a minimum any post-consumption waste and developing processes with low environmental impact.

Mater-Bi®, the bioplastic developed by Novamont, is naturally biodegradable and compostable in accordance with Italian standard UNI EN 13432 and can guarantee the same strength and performance as traditional plastics, but containing renewable resources of agricultural origin. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions and the consumption of energy and non-renewable resources, thus completing a virtuous circle: the raw materials of agricultural origin return to the earth through biodegradation and composting processes, without releasing pollutants.

Novamont has been doubling its production capacity every three years. Last year it had a capacity of 80,000 tonnes per year, and it expects to reach 160,000 tonnes within the next three years.

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Novamont SpA, whose shares are held by Banca Intesa San Paolo and Investitori Associati, is leader in the production of bioplastics manufactured with renewable raw materials of agricultural origin. With 173 employees (30% of them working in R&D), it invested more than 7% of its total sales in 2009 (the equivalent of 63.6 million Euro) in research and development. It has an overall production capacity of 80,000 tons per year. The company holds a patent portfolio that includes 90 patent families and 800 internationally registered patents. It is based in Novara and its manufacturing plants are in Terni. It operates directly or through its distributors in Germany, France, Benelux, Scandinavia, Denmark, the UK, the US, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

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