



Co-funded by the Eco-innovation
Initiative of the European Union

9 July 2015, Brussels

Press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Placard, bio-based plasticizer: Tests show good results

Good results were reported during a meeting of the Placard project held at EuPC premises on 8 and 9 July. The project is aiming at producing a new bio-based plasticizer for soft PVC with a focus on applications in construction. It is obtained by chemical modification of cardanol, an industrial grade yellow oil obtained by vacuum distillation of cashew nut shell liquid. By using a by-product such as cashew nut shells the Placard plasticizer does not create pressure on food resources.

Production of the Placard plasticizer on a pilot scale was carried out at Serichim premises whilst tests were conducted by Università di Salento that compared properties from different high/low molecular weight phthalates and non-phthalates plasticizers. Placard results showed better plasticizing efficiency than DEHP and DOTP enabling raw material saving. Processability and an energy cost reduction were other parameters that demonstrated better performance compared to selected commercial plasticisers. Remaining tested parameters were comparable with other selected plasticisers and showed good stability of properties over time.

Additional results, such as ability to facilitate recycling, will be further investigated and quantified. They will be presented in internal meetings and at targeted conferences by EuPC that is in charge of the dissemination activities as well as by Kommi, the project leader.

The Placard project is financed by Eco-innovation initiative is expected to last 32 months. The Eco-innovation initiative is part of the EU's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (EIP), set up to support innovation among SMEs and to improve their competitiveness

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About consortium partners

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Unisalento

The Department of Innovation Engineering of the University of Salento focuses on new technologies and is devoted to promote and to disseminate technology innovation. It is involved in Renewable energies; Materials science and technology; ICT; Bio-applications of materials and ICT; Nanotechnologies; Manufacturing technologies; Robotics; Design and testing in Mechanical and Civil Engineering. Many prestigious results and awards have been and are currently obtained by the Department research staff in several research areas. Research activities are supported by European Union (in the FP5, FP6 and FP7 programs), the Italian Ministry for Education University and Research, regional authority, main Italian research centres (ENEA, ASI CNR, INFM, INFN), private companies. About 100 of staff people and an average of 100 of PhD students and Postdocs are involved in the research activities, of the Department, using the facilities on 1500 square meters of laboratories. On a regional basis the Department in the last years was capable to win about 30% of all supported research projects.

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Serichim

founded in 2006 as a "spin off" of the Research & Process Development department of a major Italian Chemical company - is a Contract Research Organization operating in Italy, specialized in developing chemical synthetic methods and processes devoted to the fine and specialty chemical productions. Based in Friuli (Northern Italy), SERICHIM employs 23 people, most of them having a PhD degree in Chemistry or Chemical & Pharmaceutical Technologies. SERICHIM promotes open innovation by licensing its patents, by knowledge network implementation and by developing chemical know-how and technology according to a tailor made approach to meet customer needs. Main services / products offered are: i) Chemical contract research, patent analysis, feasibility studies, consultancy and technical assistance, analytical services and synthesis process for the pharmaceutical, agrochemical, cosmetics, food, fine chemicals, specialties and additives for polymers, ii) Research and environmental consultancy, iii) Supply of pilot samples, iv) Innovative Continuous Flow Reaction systems (CompactChem® modulus), v) Production of high values / high technological content chemicals, vi) Development of pilot-scale and industrial processes, with a particular focus on "continuous flow production", including environmental impact assessment.

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Kommi

Kòmmi s.a.s. was established in march 1998, aiming at being a company able to combine experience and attention for details, together with innovation in converting polymeric materials. Given this research and deployment point of view, it has created a new productive unit with modern plants. Kòmmi's technical office is able to satisfy customer requests immediately giving better customers solutions. Accuracy in the choice of raw materials, together with a scrupulous study of formulations, allows Kòmmi to produce checked and high standard materials. Very strict quality controls at each single stage of the production process guarantee total product quality, assuring compliance of requested characteristics and, obviously, environment respect. In fact, Kòmmi s.a.s has been certified UNI - EN ISO 14001:2004. Kòmmi's production planning, as well as its well-stocked warehouse, allows to meet rapidly both customer requests and unexpected demands. Kòmmi s.a.s. produces high accuracy printed thermoplastic components, PVC wireworks with different Shore hardness, hard PVC wireworks with or without calibration, thermoplastic rubber wireworks. CETMA, subcontractor of KOMMI, is a research centre in charge for the technical activities related to the characterisations of the final product.

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European Plastics Converters

is the leading EU level Trade Association, based in Brussels, representing European Plastics Converters. Its powerful European Plastics Network exists to support the beneficial use of plastics worldwide, especially providing plastics converting companies with a voice in European legislation. EuPC now totals about 51 European Plastics Converting national and European industry associations, it represents close to 50,000 companies, producing over 45 million tonnes of plastic products every year. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.6 million people are working in about 50,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover in excess of 280 billion € per year.

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