

Press Release

Industrielle Biotechnologie Bayern Netzwerk GmbH

13th January 2014

Successful application for ZIM cooperation network "BioPlastics"

Objective: Exploitation of the potential of innovative, biodegradable biopolymers

Martinsried (Germany), 13th January 2013 - The grant application for the cooperation network "BioPlastics", submitted by Industrielle Biotechnologie Bayern Netzwerk GmbH (IBB Netzwerk GmbH), has now been approved by the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE). Funding is provided within the program "Central Innovation Program SME" (Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand – ZIM). The interdisciplinary cooperation network wants to significantly increase the market share of bio-based polymers. The focus of the 20 partners at the moment lies on technical projects for the development of innovative and low-priced biopolymers. These shall be used in mass-produced products such as packaging. The biopolymer materials must have the same or even better properties than conventional petrochemical plastics. In addition, the production of biopolymers and the materials themselves have to fulfil strict sustainability criteria.

The IBB Netzwerk GmbH was commissioned by the participating partners for the network management. This includes expansion of the network, promotion of the network interactions and designing research and development projects. In addition, the IBB Netzwerk GmbH will inform the public and develop concepts to facilitate market entry. For this, the company receives a total of 150,000 euros from BMWE and the network partners, initially for one year. After a successful first year, further funding over two to three years is possible.

Thus, IBB Netzwerk GmbH is active in a field with enormous environmental relevance: food packaging, carrier bags, toys or functional clothing made of petrochemical plastics are an integral part of our everyday lives. However, their persistence is a problem, because they are hardly degradable in the environment. For this reason, polluting plastic waste accumulates more and more, clearly visible in the oceans. "In order to reduce this pollution, the cooperation network 'BioPlastics' wants to focus on bio-based, biodegradable polymers and will adapt their requirements according to the particular application," explains Prof. Haralabos Zorbas, CEO of the IBB Netzwerk GmbH. Due to their features, the market potential for bio-based polymers is huge. In future, the cooperation network will unlock this potential.

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About the cooperation network „BioPlastics“

The network comprises 20 partners at the moment: Arbeitsgruppe Chemische Funktionen in Biosystemen, 2mag AG, ANiMOX GmbH, Baerlocher GmbH, BARTLING GmbH & Co. KG, Beucke & Söhne GmbH & Co. KG, Bionatic GmbH & Co. KG, Fritzmeier Umwelttechnik GmbH, Gaplast GmbH, HPX Polymers GmbH, ifeu - Institut für Energie- und Umweltforschung Heidelberg GmbH, jura-plast GmbH, jura-tech GmbH, provenion GmbH, Rampf Ecosystems GmbH & Co. KG, Siegwerk Druckfarben AG & Co. KGaA, Technische Universität München - Lehrstuhl für Chemie Biogener Rohstoffe, UnaveraChemLab GmbH, Walter Rau Lebensmittelwerke GmbH & Co. KG and Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster - Institut für Molekulare Mikrobiologie und Biotechnologie. IBB Netzwerk GmbH is in charge of the network management, will expand the network and support the partners to develop technical projects. Funding is initially restricted to January to December 2014. Further funding over two to three years is possible.

About Industrielle Biotechnologie Bayern Netzwerk GmbH

Industrielle Biotechnologie Bayern Netzwerk GmbH (IBB Netzwerk GmbH) is an organization focusing on the promotion of real economy in the area of Industrial Biotechnology. Our objective is the transformation of valuable scientific knowledge to innovative marketable products and processes. One of the main tasks of IBB Netzwerk GmbH is the management and coordination of the IBB-network, consisting of about 100 members. Within this network, the competences and the potentials of industry and academia are combined and mobilized to strengthen as well as to expand Industrial Biotechnology. Technology transfer is realized nation and Europe-wide by implementation of R&D projects and industry deals, as well as by spin-offs and settlement of foreign companies in Bavaria.

IBB Netzwerk GmbH puts much emphasis on transmitting and circulating processed relevant information to network members, general public and political decision makers, aiming at the advancement of Industrial Biotechnology and the benefit of the IBB network members. A part of information dissemination is accomplished by our website. Further publicity and visibility is achieved by organizing and/or participating in conferences, workshops and fairs.

IBB Netzwerk GmbH is financed by funds of the Free State of Bavaria and the German Federation as well as by private money from service contracts. The company is located in Martinsried near Munich, Germany. More information: www.ibbnetzwerk-gmbh.com.

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