

12 COMPANIES, LED BY AQUAFIL HAVE BEEN AWARDED A GRANT OF 7.1 MILLION EUROS THANKS TO THE H2020 PROGRAM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The project aims to improve the sustainability of fibers and plastics

Arco (Trento), May 16, 2018 – Aquafil announced today that it will act as the coordinator of a consortium which has been awarded a grant from the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU), a public/private partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). The grant, for a total of 7.1 million euros, has been allocated for the “EFFECTIVE” project, which aims to develop economically viable models to produce sustainable fibers and plastic films. It focuses on producing bio-based polyamides and polyesters from renewable feedstocks rather than oil and gas and aims to accelerate progress toward a circular economy and responsible use of materials. The project intends to enable the use of renewable raw materials in the production of widely-used consumer products across multiple industries, such as construction, automotive, packaging, garments, carpets and textile, and demonstrate improved ways of recycling, biodegrading and composting.

The participants in the EFFECTIVE project include 12 companies in 7 countries, specializing in:

- renewable feedstocks;
- conversion technologies, including fermentation-based techniques of making widely-used chemicals from renewable feedstocks;
- producers of intermediate and finished products;
- major consumer brands;
- recycling, biodegrading and composting experts;
- sustainability advisors.

The EFFECTIVE project will be coordinated by AquafilSLO (Slovenia) and includes Aquafil S.p.A (Italy), Novamont (Italy), Südzucker (Germany), Carvico (Italy), Vaude (Germany), Balsan (France), H&M Group (Sweden), Bio-Mi (Croatia), CIRCE (Spain), Life Cycle Engineering (Italy) and Circular Change (Slovenia). This multi-stakeholder approach can greatly accelerate widespread adoption and deployment of new technologies, and enable gaining both economic and sustainability benefits.

Moreover, the project will also benefit from the significant involvement of Genomatica, a U.S.-based leader in biotechnology, which will contribute to the project by developing and demonstrating innovative chemical technology based on renewable raw materials.

The project, which will officially start in June 2018, is part of the European Commission’s H2020 program to stimulate investments towards the development of a sustainable and circular bio-based economy.

More details and updates on the project’s activities and progress, contacts and other information will be available on the project website, online soon.

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Founded in 1965, **Aquafil** is one of the main players, in Italy and worldwide, in the production of synthetic fibers, particularly for Polyamide 6 applications. The Group is present in three continents with a workforce of over 2,700 at production sites in Italy, Germany, Scotland, Slovenia, Croatia, USA, Thailand and China. For further information: www.aquafil.com

Aquafil is a pioneer in the circular economy also thanks to the ECONYL® regeneration system, an innovative and sustainable process able to create new products from waste and give life to an endless cycle. The Nylon waste is collected in locations all over the world and includes industrial waste but also products (such as fishing nets and rugs) that have reached the end of their useful life. Such waste is processed so as to obtain a raw material (caprolactam) with the same chemical and performance characteristics as those from fossil sources. The polymers produced from ECONYL® caprolactam are distributed to the Group's production plants, where they are transformed into BCF yarn and NTF yarn.

For further information

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