



- **PRESS RELEASE** -

TWB's 2015 results: one first company created, 18 million euros of contracts signed since 2012, 7 new partners as of 1st January 2016

- ❖ **Creation of the EnobraQ start-up emerged from a TWB research project**
- ❖ **5.2 million euros of contracts signed in 2015 (18 million since 2012)**
- ❖ **20 new R & D projects (57 since 2012)**
- ❖ **4 new patents (13 patents since 2012)**
- ❖ **New laboratories with an area of 1700 m²**
- ❖ **7 new partners as of 1st January 2016**

Toulouse, 9 February 2016 – Toulouse White Biotechnology - TWB, a pre-industrial demonstrator in industrial biotechnology based on renewable carbon and managed by INRA, published today its results for 2015. The relevance of the open innovation model proposed by TWB has been validated again despite an economic context unfavourable to bioeconomy development. TWB also announces the commitment of 7 new partners in 2016 in its consortium.

A significant increase in the number of industrial contracts

TWB gathered its partner members of the Strategic Steering Committee on 3 and 4 February last to present the review of the year 2015. With 57 Research and Development projects to its credit for a total of 18 million euros of contracts signed since 2012, TWB keeps its promises by coming very close to the target set for the end of 2019, that is 21.8 million euros.

In 2015, 20 new R & D projects were launched: 3 research projects, 16 industrial projects and 1 European project. Furthermore, 4 new patents were filed, bringing the number of patents to 13 since 2012.

The creation of EnobraQ with Sofinnova Partners*

EnobraQ, a company resulting from a TWB research project, is located in the TWB laboratories. It develops a yeast capable of using CO₂ (atmospheric or of other origins) and of transforming it into molecules of interest for the chemical industry. Sofinnova Partners, one of the venture capital leaders in Europe specialized in the life sciences and partner of TWB since its creation, finances the start-up of EnobraQ through its « Green Seed Fund » which has invested 1.3 million euros in the company.

Arrival of 7 new partners in 2016

The meetings of 3 and 4 February provided an opportunity to welcome 7 new partners in the TWB consortium in addition to the members already committed in previous years**, bringing to 45 the number of consortium partners: **Hélioscience**, specialized mainly in the control and evaluation of solar protection products, **EnobraQ**, specialized in CO₂ capture by yeasts, **ARD**, a shared private research facility for the enhancement of its shareholders' productions (cereals, sugar beets, alfalfa, oilseeds, etc.), **IPSB**, Ingénierie de Procédés Sucres et Biotechnologies (Process Engineering for the Sugar Industry and Biotechnology), **Processium**, expert in the

design of new processes and products for players in the chemical and biotechnology industry, **PILI**, developer of biosourced pigments, **Innoval Sud-Ouest**, an agricultural cooperative association that promotes innovation in agriculture.

2015 Highlights

January: Opening of the consortium to international and national new members (10 new French and foreign partners)

March: Entry into service of a unique microbial culture robotic platform designed in collaboration with Hamilton

April: TWB is the public partner of the European project H2020 2G Biopic, coordinated by CIMV.

June: Move into the new premises doubling the floor space (1700 m²)

September: TWB selected to organize in Toulouse the 24th edition of the **Enzyme Engineering Conference** of 24 to 28 September 2017

November: Creation of the EnobraQ company emerged from a TWB research project, with an investment of Sofinnova Partners

December: ISO 9001 certification

Pierre Monsan, Founding Director of TWB, is pleased with the very satisfactory results for 2015 which confirm the attractiveness of TWB's mode of operation and validate the hypotheses retained at the origin of the structure. *"In 2015, TWB went through important steps of its development and moved into a new phase of achievements."*

*Cf Press release of 26 November 2015

** In 2015, the TWB consortium comprises 40 private and public partners: **INRA, INSA, CNRS, ICT, Toulouse Métropole, Région Midi-Pyrénées, Sicoval, IAR, Agri Sud-Ouest Innovation, France Brevets, INRA Transfert, Toulouse Tech Transfer, Auriga Partners, Bpifrance, Demeter, IRDIInov, Sofinnova Partners, Affichem, Agronutrition, Carbios, CIMV, Deinove, Eurodia, Global Bioenergies, GTP Technology, LibraGen, METabolic EXplorer, Tolerys, Ynsect, Adisseo, Agilent Technologies, Givaudan, L'Oréal, Michelin, Protéus, Roquette Frères, Sofiproteol, Solvay, Tereos, Total.**

About TWB:

Toulouse White Biotechnology (TWB) is a preindustrial demonstrator whose goal is to speed up the development of industrial biotechnologies by facilitating exchanges between public research and industry. Its vocation is to contribute to the expansion of a bioeconomy based on the use of renewable carbon in various fields (chemistry-biochemistry, materials, energy, etc.). Various kinds of collaborative research and development projects are proposed, as well as personalized services for businesses.

In March 2011, TWA was awarded the call for project for the Investments for the Future Program (PIA – Programme Investissements d'Avenir). It receives State aid through the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche - National Research Agency). TWB is a UMS (Unité Mixte de Service – Mixed Service Unit) managed by INRA under triple INRA/INSA/CNRS tutelage.

More about TWB: www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/

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