

## **TWB has signed a contract with Braskem, the giant Brazilian manufacturer n°1 in biosourced plastic.**

**TWB, experts in managing scientific projects, has announced its collaboration with Braskem, the leading south-american producer of biosourced plastic. The collaboration focuses on Research & Development for new renewable solutions.**

Based in São Paulo, Braskem is the world's leading biopolymer producer. Engaged in the green revolution, the company is a pioneer in the production of polyethylene (plastic) produced biologically using biomass resulting from the cultivation of sugar cane, a crop with a strong presence in Brazil.

The objective of this 3 years contract with TWB is to develop new biosourced chemical molecules. The different types of sugars resulting from sugar cane and its residual products will be studied in order to increase industrial production yields. Braskem has chosen to entrust this project, under the guidance of TWB, to a team of researchers at TBI (INSA Toulouse) well known for their work in this field. In fact, this project will validate a patent which resulted from research financed by TWB and carried out by said team under the direction of Jean-Marie François. In total, up to 9 researchers will be devoted to this new project.

*"TWB is one of the world's leading research centers in industrial biotechnology. We joined the consortium and now are expanding this collaboration to projects that reinforce our vision of using chemistry and renewable materials as tools for carbon sequestration",* explain **Mateus Schreiner Garcez Lopes, Director of Innovation in Renewable Technologies at Braskem.**

Braskem is expanding its efforts in researching, developing and marketing chemicals and materials made from renewable resources. In May 2018, the company inaugurated an operation in Boston, Massachusetts to complement its activities at its Renewable Chemicals Research Center in Campinas, São Paulo and its competencies in material sciences at its Technology & Innovation Centers in Triunfo (Brazil) and Pittsburgh (USA). The company is a pioneer in the production of Green Polyethylene and Green EVA on an industrial scale, which are biobased resins made from sugarcane. The solutions are 100% recyclable, and CO<sub>2</sub> is captured in their production process.

The partnership with TWB is aligned with Braskem's commitment to promoting sustainability in the plastics chain. In November 2018, the company defined a series of global initiatives to drive the Circular Economy, one of which is 'to continue investing in the development of new renewable products to support and encourage the circular economy from the beginning of the value chain.'

*"We are proud to welcome to our consortium Braskem, the leading south-american in thermoplastic resins. We look forward to contributing in every way possible to this R&D project in order to promote the development of new, sustainable production pathways, an objective in which we fully share,"* commented **Olivier Rolland, Managing Director of TWB.**



#### **About Braskem:**

Every day, Braskem's 8,000 team members work to improve people's lives through sustainable solutions in chemistry and plastics and engage with partners throughout the value chain to advance the Circular Economy. With 41 industrial units in Brazil, United States, Mexico and Germany and net revenue of R\$58 billion (US\$15.8 billion), Braskem produces annually over 20 million tons of plastic resins and chemical products and exports to Clients in approximately 100 countries.

#### **About TWB:**

**Expert in steering scientific projects**, TWB contributes to the development of new sustainable production pathways by providing innovative and economically sound alternative biological solutions. In order to accelerate the transition towards an eco-responsible industry, TWB has drawn on collective intelligence to drive pioneering links between researchers, industrial groups and investors. By fostering worthwhile, practical and innovative research, TWB meets a two-fold challenge: to effectively address the issue of climate change whilst creating economic value.

Since the creation of TWB 6 years ago, under the triple supervision of INRA, INSA and CNRS, and, as of the 1st January 2019 strengthened by 50 partners; (industrial groups, startups, investors, research bodies, local and regional authorities, etc.); TWB has contributed to the launch of 145 collaborative research and development projects and to the growth of numerous startups which in total have raised more than 100M€.

**More information:** <https://www.toulouse-white-biotechnology.com/en/>

#### OXYGEN Press Contact

OXYGEN - Aurélie Mauries / Aurélie Vérin – Phone: +33 532 11 07 31 - [aurelie@oxygen-rp.com](mailto:aurelie@oxygen-rp.com)

#### TWB Contact

Véronique Paquet - Phone: +33 673 48 13 84 - [paquet@insa-toulouse.fr](mailto:paquet@insa-toulouse.fr)