



**LAUNCH OF BIO-QED, THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH PROJECT
FOR DEVELOPING BIOCHEMICALS FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES
COORDINATED BY NOVAMONT**

10 partners from 6 different European countries will collaborate to define innovative and sustainable industrial processes for the production of biochemicals from renewable sources.

Novara, 27 February 2014 - Opening new industrial routes for the production of important chemicals from renewable sources rather than traditional petrochemical sources: this, in summary, is the aim of the BIO-QED project, financed by the European Union as part of the Seventh Framework Programme, involving 10 partners from 6 European countries (Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Croatia and Spain).

The project, which will last for 4 years, was officially launched on 1 January 2014. On 25 February Novamont hosted the initiative's kick-off meeting, which was attended by all partners, leading companies from industry and European research, namely Fraunhofer Institut, Nova Insitut, Cargill, Lubrizol, Rina, TNO, Miplast, Patentopolis and Mater-Biotech.

BIO-QED fits perfectly with the EU's Bioeconomy strategy, which is intended to guide the European economic system towards a broader and more sustainable use of resources, reconciling the requirements of agriculture and food safety with the sustainable use of renewable sources for industrial purposes.

“This project is of strategic importance for Novamont research, which has accrued significant experience in integrating chemical and biotechnical processes for the transformation of biomass by developing proprietary technologies, and will allow us to further consolidate our relations with the leading players in bioeconomy at an international level”, said Luigi Capuzzi, Research Director at Novamont SpA.

Novamont is the leading company in the development and production of materials and biochemicals through the integration of chemistry, the environment and agriculture. With 323 employees (20% employed full time in R&D), it registered a turnover of €135 million in 2012 and made continuous investments in research and development activities (4.9% of its 2012 turnover). It has a portfolio of around 1,000 patents. It has its headquarters in Novara, a production facility in Terni and research laboratories in Novara, Terni and Piana di Monte Verna (CE). Novamont has subsidiaries in Porto Torres (SS) and Bottrighe (RO). It has commercial offices in Germany, France and the United States and operates through its own distributors in Benelux, Scandinavia, Denmark, the United Kingdom, China, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

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