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NEWSLETTER - SG Materials

Editorial

Dear reader,

welcome to the summer issue of our newsletter which features a number of upcoming opportunities to take part in our brokerage event programme and connect to stakeholders in your sector.

In particular we would like to draw your attention to the Expo Milano 2015 programme which is open for business until the end of October and features a number of events and activities created to help you connect to new markets and grow (www.expo2015.org/en/events). Please don't hesitate to contact us for further information.

You will also find a selection of our most recent technology and business collaboration profiles, so please get in touch if you see potential for your organization to interact, or if you would like to publish a profile of your own.

We wish you a fruitful and relaxing summer.

Dr Andrew Hebb

Chair of the Sector Group Materials
Enterprise Europe Network UK
Greenwich Research & Enterprise

Sector Group Materials

Is a cornerstone in the Enterprise Europe Network enabling innovations and building bridges between material research & supply and the other sector groups. The Sector Group Materials connects research, technology and business partners active in the wide diversity of the materials sector.



Materials



SG Materials

Recent Technology Offers and Requests / Project Partner Searches

All technology offers and requests of the Enterprise Europe Network are available in full version under <http://een.ec.europa.eu>. Please contact your local EEN partner for more information and contact data.

Industrial Manufacturing Processes

Offer: 3D inspection system (TOES20150417001)

A Spanish ICT research center offers an inspection system that applies machine vision to quality control. It is an industrial solution easy to integrate in production processes, capturing images of an object while it is in free fall. The whole volume of the object is reconstructed in 3D in real time. Then, any deviation is efficiently detected. The research organization is looking for partners to establish license agreement, manufacturing agreement, or services agreement.

Offer: Heavy machines for the heavy industry (BODE20150319001)

A German company specialised in the supply of heavy machines, such as horizontal and vertical lathe's, as well as horizontal and vertical machine centres etc. (for wind-, oil-, mining-, cement-, ship-, power plant industry and other heavy equipment manufacture) is looking for partners acting as a distributor in their respective countries. Mutual distribution or sales services are feasible as well.

Offer: Innovative process to obtain light and cheap aluminium forgings with improved performance against corrosion (TOES20150514002)

A Spanish company has developed a process to obtain aluminum forgings that are lighter and cheaper than traditional copper alloys, and with improved performance against corrosion. They can be used in any environment, even those with high humidity conditions: bathrooms, nautical, automotive, exterior building materials. They seek partners to incorporate this process in their production and to market the resulting forgings.

Offer: Vibration-absorbing roller for flexo printing machinery (12DE15943Q28)

An engineering professor of a Northwestern German university developed a patented roller system for flexo printing machinery which absorbs vibrations. This helps to avoid stripes and imperfections in the print image. The professor is looking for partners from the printing machinery or printing plate sector for license agreements.

Automotive and Transport

Offer: Fibrous material and nanofiber coating for acoustic and thermal isolation materials to be used in transport vehicles (TOES20150407001)

A Spanish research centre has developed light materials and nanofiber coatings with very good acoustic and thermal properties. These materials were firstly applied in buildings, but it has been shown that they are very appropriate for transport vehicles. The centre is looking for industry partners interested in testing these materials in their manufacturing and coordinators of European projects searching partners for the role of reducing noise in aeronautics and other transport vehicles.

Building and Construction

Offer: Urban paving obtained by a sustainable process developed to reach zero-wast in ceramic tile manufacturing (TOES20141006001)

A Spanish research centre has developed a new urban paving by using high content of ceramic waste. To manufacture these tiles, a highly sustainable body preparation process has been designed, capable of recycling all type of ceramic wastes, what makes this tile manufacturing a zero-waste process. The centre seeks partners to discuss further research ideas, to establish technical agreements for adaptations of the process or to be subcontracted to install the process sharing know-how.

Offer: Integral alarm system for termite detection in wood constructions based on wireless sensors (TOES20140801001)

A Spanish technology centre has developed a sensor to detect wood biodegradation. It detects multifunctional degradation activity caused either by insects (especially termites) or by xylophage fungi. The sensor is very small and easy to install, due to its wireless connection. An integral alarm system to monitor the state of wood in buildings can be installed combining the sensors in a network. The centre looks for partners to establish a commercial agreement with technical assistance.

Request: High temperature foil/membrane required to laminate insulation materials (TRUK20140422001)

A Scottish materials supplier to multiple industries is seeking a number of high temperature foils or membranes to laminate to their existing range of insulation materials. Ideally any potential solution should be flexible and preferably carry CE marking with independent test data and ISO certification. Commercial agreements with technical assistance, technical cooperation and licensing agreements will be considered.

Recycling / Energy / Environment

Offer: Technique to remove hazardous substances in waste packaging by supercritical carbon dioxide in the recycling process (TOES20141124002)

A Spanish technology centre is developing a new technique for eliminating hazardous substances from waste polyethylene (PE) packaging to be used for solvents or phytosanitary products. This technique uses a technology that applies supercritical carbon dioxide (sc-CO₂) in the extrusion phase of the plastic recycling process. The centre seeks partners to discuss further research ideas or to establish technical agreements to adapt and implement the technique sharing know-how.

Offer: Interactive tool for the implementation of environmental legislation in nanoparticle manufacturers (TOES20141022002)

A Spanish research centre has developed an tool to support nanomaterials manufacturers companies, in the efficient implementation of the environmental policy and legislation. It mainly consists of an interactive platform for environmental self-diagnosis. The centre seeks partners to discuss further research ideas, to establish technical agreements to adapt the tool to specific requirements or to be subcontracted to assess about procedures and the implementation of the system.

Offer: Innovative ceramic tiles made from industrial wastes with improved properties (TOBG20141223004)

A Bulgarian research institute with long-term experience in the research and development of glass-ceramics and ceramics from industrial wastes has developed innovative ceramic tiles using various inorganic industrial wastes. The institute seeks commercial agreements with technical assistance and research cooperation agreements with industrial partners.

Chemistry / Pharmaceuticals / Medical Applications

Offer: Development of eco-friendly pharmaceuticals and chemicals (TODE20150120001)

A German university is offering a method for the development of eco-friendly and sustainable chemicals and pharmaceuticals. By using cheminformatics it is possible to precisely evaluate the properties of a molecule in silico, allowing a broad analysis of its potential impact on the environment in order to meet the requirements of the EU restrictions. Licensing agreements and industrial partners for joint development are sought.

Offer: Expertise in the field of electrochemical science and surface chemistry (TODE20150218002)

A German professor offers profound knowledge in several research activities including electrochemical measurements for sensing application and electrochrome devices and development of conducting polymer materials for fuel cells, batteries and supercapacitors.

Offer: Research group offers profound expertise in the field of energy storage, electrochemical science and surface chemistry (TODE20150218001)

A German research group is looking for technical and research cooperation agreements. Their research activities include electrochemical measurements for sensing applications and electrochrome devices as well as the development of conducting polymer materials for fuel cells and batteries.

Offer: Detection and analysis of nucleic acids (TODE20150212002)

A German research company developed a new technique to detect and analyse nucleic acids in a cost-effective, simple and reproducible way. The recently developed technique has innovative advantages and a high economic potential. It allows to detect and analyse nucleic acids cheap, simply and reproducibly. Partners looked for are laboratories and providers of DNA-based analytical methods for services agreement, commercial agency agreement or licence agreement.

Textiles

Offer: Technologies to manufacture advanced textiles for the composite industry (TOES20140328002)

A Spanish research centre has developed deep knowledge and has set up technologies to manufacture advanced textiles for the composites industry. The final materials obtained have all of their properties improved such as the mechanical resistance, burning behavior, aesthetical features and sustainability. The centre looks for partners to establish cooperation lines in research, projects, analysis and characterization services, for further developments and/or applications.

Request: Improving adhesion of acrylic onto cotton and/or polyester textile (TRUK20150508001)

Summary: The UK branch of an international developer of coating solutions is seeking novel ways to improve the adhesion of acrylic on cotton and polyester textile. Physical and chemical solutions are sought but also assistance with research into the problem. The type of collaboration with academic and industrial parties from textile coating related fields will depend on the stage of development. It may include commercial agreement with technical assistance, licensing, technical cooperation.

Other

Offer: Patterned surface functionalization by atmospheric pressure plasma (TODE20150511001)

A German research institute has developed a way to apply plasma printing in order to create very versatile surface properties, e.g. for biomedical applications or downstream local metallization, including circuit boards, RFID (radio-frequency identification) antennas or biosensor production. The institute is looking for research institutes interested in research cooperation agreements in order to joint further develop their invention.

Offer: Rarefied gas flow and plasma simulation by Direct Simulation Monte Carlo (DSMC) and Particle-in-Cell Monte Carlo (PIC-MC) (TODE20150508001)

A German research institute has developed a software based tool that allows for rarefied gas flow and plasma simulation investigating details about plasma discharges, particle transport and surface reactions. They are looking for partners to do further research on the product under research cooperation agreement or partners interested in a licensing agreement for the software.

Offer: Photocatalytic material with superior properties suitable for water and air purification applications and a method for its preparation (TOSI20150216001)

A Slovenian research institute has developed a novel photocatalytic material as well as a method for its preparation. The material is based on thin layer of zirconia. The measurements of photocatalytic activity show up to four-times higher photocatalytic activity compared to common titania photocatalysts. The technology is suitable for air, gas as well as water purification. Potential industrial partners for a licence agreement are sought to apply the technology at an industrial level.

Offer: Innovative Hybrid Interfaces for usage with electrochrome materials (12 DE 1594 3P7G)

A professor for chemistry from a North-German university developed an innovative hybrid interface which can be used in the field of electro-chemical materials or in the field of Biosensorics to develop innovative display technologies. Main advantage is the possibility of the detection of red colour or the opportunity to develop higher resolutions within colour electrochrome displays (ECD's).



EU News

Horizon Prize on materials for clean air: European Commission launches €3m prize to improve air quality in cities

A prize of €3 million will be awarded to the person or team that develops the best material to reduce the concentration of particulate matter in urban areas. The aim is to improve air quality in cities and reduce the health risks posed by particulate matter, which has the most severe impact on health. The Horizon Prize on materials for clean air aims to stimulate innovative thinking to find a material-based solution to the problem. The material can be made from any chemical substance (e.g. plastic, concrete, asphalt, etc.) capable of reducing PM concentration in the air (e.g. by capturing it). The rules of contest are available online. Contestants will be able to submit their entries from 26 January 2017 until 23 January 2018.

Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2015&na=na-160415>.

New information system on raw materials

This year the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission launched the Raw Materials Information System (RMIS), a online repository of information on policies, activities and data related to the European raw materials sector. The RMIS supports a series of European Commission initiatives which aim to tackle the pressure on valuable resources and their efficient use to the benefit of EU's economies.

The RMIS provides a structured repository of knowledge on non-energy-related raw materials. This includes links to data, methods, approaches and indicators related to the most relevant activities on raw materials in a European context and beyond. The RMIS thereby contributes to consolidating the EU raw materials knowledge base, and aims at strengthening the visibility and competitiveness of the EU raw materials sector, while promoting green and sustainable growth.

The information is addressed to a broad range of stakeholders engaged or interested in the European raw materials sector. The RMIS contributes to the EU Raw Materials Initiative and supports the activities of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs in the context of non-energy raw materials, including the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) and the European Raw Materials Knowledge Base (EURMKB). Visit the website at <http://rmis.jrc.ec.europa.eu>.

New concepts for the preparation of surface water reference materials

In collaboration with other research organisations, JRC scientists developed concepts for the preparation of three model surface water reference materials that contain chemical contaminants, that is, eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), six polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and tributyltin in trace amounts. These RMs will provide quality to the analytical data of EU Member States and support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC. More information at <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/news/novel-concepts-preparation-surface-water-reference-materials>.

Upcoming events

Events of the Sector Group Materials in the Enterprise Europe Network are open to interested enterprises or research organisation and are usually free of charge. You will be supported before the event to disseminate information about your organisation and know-how in advance of the event (by including it in online-catalogues, brochures etc) and you will receive information about other participants (of our brokerage events at international fairs) or visited organisations (at our company missions) in order to preschedule meetings and contacts of your choice. Even after the event we help you to stay in contact with the other organisation and we provide you with further information, e.g. funding opportunities for joint projects.

Rapid.Contact 2015: Matchmaking Event within Rapid.Tech & FabCon 3.D., 10.-11.06.2015, Erfurt / Germany

The Rapid.Contact Matchmaking Event in the frame of the trade fair and user's conference for additive technology Rapid.Tech & FabCon 3.D. in Erfurt provides companies, corporations, researchers and investors active in the field of Rapid prototyping and additive manufacturing the right contacts to seize the opportunities and build collaboration across borders. You can identify innovative technologies and find new solutions for existing problems.

By participating in Rapid.Contact 2015 you will get access to extensive technology expertise and new business channels and select your face2face meetings in advance by creating an online profile. Participation in the B2B Match is free of charge, registration is possible till June, 8. For more information please visit <https://www.b2match.eu/rapidcontact2015> or contact Wilbert Somers (somers@erfurt.ihk.de, +49 361 3484-400).

EuroNanoForum Event, 12.06.2015, Riga / Latvia

The EuroNanoForum 2015 brokerage offers an excellent opportunity to find research and business contacts, as well as partners for future EU projects in nanotechnology field. Brokerage is open for all interested parties that are offering or searching for innovative technologies or products, partnerships for joint R&D projects, and new contacts in nanotechnology and science field. The brokerage event is free of charge and brokerage participants are welcome to join the last day (12th June) of EuroNanoForum 2015 conference for free.

The EuroNanoForum 2015 conference held on 10 - 12 June will provide an insight of European technology development in nanotechnologies and advanced material industries, discussing the latest progress in nanoscience and nanotechnologies, while the fully integrated exhibition brings an opportunity for investors and entrepreneurs or researchers with innovative results to meet and discuss cooperation possibilities.

Find further information about brokerage at www.b2match.eu/euronanoforum2015 or contact Dita Guste (dita.guste@edi.lv, +371 6754 0703).

CERAMIC Network: the major event in the ceramics area, 18.-19.06.2015, Limoges / France

The 5th edition of CERAMIC Network 2015, organized by the European Ceramic Competitiveness Cluster, will bring together 200 international companies around B to B meetings, conferences and visits of sites. Thanks to a complete program, CERAMIC Network is the major event in the ceramics area in 2015: A program of thematic conferences and visits of sites to discover the latest innovations and new uses of ceramics. B to B meetings to find future partnerships for the development

of industrial projects. For further information please visit www.ceramic-network.fr/en or contact Anouchka Mombey (a.mombey@limousin.cci.fr, + 33 (0)5 55 71 39 44).

Brokerage Event at Hellenic Forum for Science, Technology & Innovation, 30.06.2015, Athens/Greece

PRAXI Network, coordinator of Enterprise Europe Network – Hellas, organises in collaboration with the National Center for Scientific Research (NCSR) “Demokritos” the Hellenic Forum 2015 Brokerage Event on the 30th of June in Athens, in the frame of the 3rd Hellenic Forum for Science, Technology and Innovation. The Forum is organized for the 3rd consecutive year by NCSR “Demokritos” and is under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming to act as a meeting point for science, technology and innovation. During the 5 days of the Forum, world renowned speakers from all around the globe will discuss global scientific developments and each day several parallel sessions will take place.

The Brokerage Event will be held in the evening of the 30th of June 2015, from 17:30-20:30 (Day 2 of Hellenic Forum 2015) at the NCSR “Demokritos” Campus in Athens, Greece. The event addresses academics, SME R&D professionals, business development managers, and post-doctoral students. The event is free of charge. For more information visit www.b2match.eu/hellenicforum2015 or contact George Panagopoulos (panagopoulos@help-forward.gr, +30 210 3636 109).

Matchmaking Event at NANOTECHNOLOGY, 08.07.2015 in Thessaloniki/Greece

PRAXI Network and MIRTEC S.A., members of Enterprise Europe Network – Hellas, invite you to participate in the international matchmaking event during NANOTECHNOLOGY 2015. The matchmaking event will take place on the 8th of July at Porto Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece. Following a pre-arranged schedule of meetings, entrepreneurs, researchers and innovators will have a great opportunity for networking, sharing new project ideas and discussing collaboration schemes to build partnerships for future funding calls, find technologies to partner with as well as or development partners.

NANOTECHNOLOGY 2015 is an international Conference on Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies (12th year), Symposium on Flexible Organic Electronics (8th year) and Exhibition (5th year). NANOTECHNOLOGY 2015 explores the opportunities in the emerging fields of Nanotechnologies & Organic Electronics and it includes a powerful community that brings together over 2,000 researchers, scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and technical professionals to promote research and industrial collaborations and technology transfer.

During the matchmaking event of 2014 more than 65 participants from 17 countries coming from universities, research centers and companies took part in more than 130 bilateral meetings. NANOTECHNOLOGY 2015 Matchmaking Event will focus on the following main topics: organic electronics, plasmonics, photonics, energy, bioelectronics, nanoengineering, nanoconstruction, nanomedicine, graphene, nanomaterials.

The Participation is free of charge. SMEs, organizations and researchers interested in participating can register until June 30th uploading their profile on the website: www.b2match.eu/nanotextology2015. For more information please contact Nikos Kanatsoulis (n.kanatsoulis@ebetam.gr, +30 210 9948432).

Save the date: International Conference Nanotech ITALY 2015, 25th - 27.11.2015, Bologna/Italy

With the contribution of experts from industry, government and academic laboratories worldwide, the three days event is designed to showcase nanotechnologies, key enabling technologies related innovations and spotlight applications oriented to fields crucial for economical growth and wellbeing. The Conference aims to illustrate how Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) principles should guide the development of these technologies to answer the demand rising from the society for safe innovations..

The 3-days program, with oral and poster presentations, will cover topics with an impact on a broad range of industrial sectors. Sessions will include: healthcare and medical devices, smart manufacturing and robotics, materials and graphen based innovations, bio-inspired and bio-based innovations, aerospace related applications, KETs for the Made in Italy. For more information visit www.nanotechitaly.it or contact Luisa Secci (luisa.secci@ASTER.IT, +39 051 6398099).

News from the Sector Group

Positive impact of the International Technology Transfer Conference in Ljubljana and its Award for innovation with the greatest commercial potential



Each year two EEN partners from Slovenia join forces to organize the International Technology Transfer Conference in Ljubljana. The event targets researchers, businesses, policy makers, private investors, entrepreneurs, students with entrepreneurial ambitions and others. First, distinguished speakers make the introduction and motivate the attendees. At the previous conference, held in September 2014, the introductory speaker was Mrs. Violeta Bulc, innovator, entrepreneur and founder of Vibacom Ltd, now European Commissioner for Mobility and Transport. After the motivating speeches we usually have two rounds of TT-related presentations.

During the conference the pre-applied researchers deliver their pitches in front of the international jury to win the Conference Award for innovation with the greatest commercial potential. In 2014, the prize was divided into two parts and was awarded to the innovations entitled “Laser Fiber Optic Sensor Catalytic” and “Liposome based targeting of tumor cells”. In parallel, pre-arranged meetings between companies and researchers took place. Information about the conference is available online (<http://tehnologije.ijs.si/8ittc>). The next conference will be organised on 16 September 2015.

Besides the new knowledge gained on TT, the participants receive concrete assistance of Enterprise Europe Network. We support researchers competing for the award also when they explore the possibilities for establishing the spin-out companies. The majority of applications for the award are later written as Technology offers and inserted in the Enterprise Europe Network database. Companies attending the event get the better insight into the work of research organisations and make the first contacts via B2R meetings.

The Slovenian EEN services are delivered by seven organisations. Center for Technology Transfer and Innovation (CTT) from the biggest Slovenian research institute, Jozef Stefan Institute, is coordinating the consortium. Several clients are active in the “materials” sector and are supported by Mr. Urban Šegedin, member of SG Materials. (Author: Urban Šegedin, Jozef Stefan Institute)

Biobased Economy in Potsdam, 30.04.2015 - Opportunities for Research Institutes and Companies in the German Capital Region and Europe

Plants, not petroleum is the simple way to explain what the biobased economy is all about: a green economy based on plant- and waste-derived food, feed, fuel, and materials – sourced and refined locally. The international conference „Biobased Economy“ in Potsdam focused on ecological as well as economic benefits that a biobased economy has to offer. For this purpose 110 regional, national and European companies as well as research institutes from different sectors (plastics/chemicals/food/healthcare and tourism industry) discussed the

potential of a biobased economy in the German Capital Region and beyond. Based on specific project outlines most participants were proactively seeking an outcome oriented exchange with potential cooperation partners. Thematic workshops addressing all steps along the value chain represented an ideal platform for project-based networking.



Top class experts from the Bioeconomy Council Germany and the European Commission gave an interesting insight into the potential of biobased activities on national and European level. The operational level was covered by European companies and research institutes that presented their biobased activities, thus served as best practise examples for other participants.

The event was actively supported by the Sector Group Materials of the Enterprise Europe Network. Due to the positive response of participants at the Potsdam conference future activities dealing with biobased economy shall be drafted on European level. (Author: Ulrike Munz, ZAB ZukunftsAgentur Brandenburg)

A regional Profile: Piemonte / Italy

Piemonte is located in North-West of Italy - a macro-region that represents over 32% of Italy's GDP, 41% of exports and 50% of imports - in a strategic position between northern Europe and the Mediterranean basin, ensuring high accessibility of goods and people, at the crossroads of Europe's two vital development axes.

General data

- › 4,400,000 inhabitants (7.5% of the national population)
- › 9,806 square miles of surface
- › 1,863,000 employees (18% in hi-tech sector)
- › 124.9 billion euros GDP (8% of national total)
- › Over 28,000 euro per capita income (superior of 25% to the European average)

Research and Development in Piemonte

As the top Italian region for private investment in research and development, Piemonte offers a blend of competencies and industries: automotive, design, robotics, information and communication technology, aerospace, agriculture and food processing, textiles, tourism, cinema, multimedia and emerging clusters such as bio and nano-technologies, intelligent transportation system and renewable energy.

Research and development, innovation

- › First Italian region for expenditure on innovation in the manufacturing sector
- › First Italian region for private investments in R&D
- › Over 18,000 employed R&S (11% of the total national)
- › Over 200 public and private research centres, 380 laboratories, 4 Universities, 6 science and technology parks

Innovation in Materials in Piemonte

In Piemonte there are several universities, public and private research centres, industrial clusters and companies that carry out activities and projects focused on the development of new materials for various applications in manufacturing, health/medical, agro-food, agriculture, textile, chemistry, aerospace, energy sectors.



Universities and public research centers

University of Torino

Several departments are involved in research and technology development in materials. In particular, NIS - Nanostructured Interfaces and Surfaces Centre of Excellence. It offers a multidisciplinary laboratory equipped with advanced techniques in microscopy and spectroscopy. It is focused on nano-structured interfaces and surfaces that influence the materials' final properties (www.nis.unito.it).

Politecnico of Torino

Several departments are involved in research and technology development in materials. In particular, CHI-Lab. The lab is structured in two integrated divisions committed to develop respectively materials and processes for micro and nano-technology together with related prototypes and applications of integrated microsystems with communication and data transfer protocols (www.chilab.polito.it).

University of Eastern Piemonte in Alessandria

Several departments are involved in research and technology development in materials. In particular, Nano-SiSTeMI. The lab was funded in October 2005, its main objective is the diffusion of knowledge in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. The most advanced tools for synthesis and characterization of nanomaterials are available to the researchers affiliated to the Centre. Catalysts, sensors, superconductors and composite materials for optoelectronic, luminescence, energy production, green chemistry and biomedical applications are developed in the Centre (www.centronanosistemi.it).

PROPLAST – Centre for Plastic Engineering

PROPLAST was created in 1997 with the aim to promote the plastic culture in Italy. Originally created by Bayer, Basell, Guala and Mossi & Ghisolfi Group, Proplast counts today 209 members (184 industrial companies, 9 associations, 13 universities, 2 public bodies, 1 bank foundation). It has a significant experience in applied research on several topics such as: injection molding, extrusion, blow molding; biopolymers, polymers for green applications; flame retardant materials; nano-composite materials; metal replacement; adhesive polymers; compositions for food packaging (www.proplast.it).

INRIM – National Institute of Metrological Research

The institute, with 280 researchers, conducts research activities in measurement science, materials science and innovative technologies. In addition, to physical and engineering metrology, its main R&D areas are in fundamental physical constants, materials, metrology for chemistry, nano-technology, innovation, quantum information and artificial vision (www.inrim.it).

ISTEC - Institute of Science and Technology for Ceramics

Istec is the institution of the National Research Council the conducts research to develop advanced ceramic materials with nanometric microstructure, both monophase and composite (www.to.istec.cnr.it).

Environment Park – Plasma Nano-Tech Lab

Plasma Nano-tech Lab is specialized in plasma surface pretreatment. Plasma is a gas that works on surfaces, generating multiple innovative features without altering the basic properties of the material. From textiles to sports equipment, from biomedicine to packaging, from automotive to air pollutant reduction (www.envipark.com/en/plasma-nano-tech).

Innovation Cluster on New Materials: Innomat – www.innomat.it

Innomat gathers 121 companies and research centres working in the plastic sector: labs, mould making, plastic transformation, instruments, tools, machinery and other devices. Main objectives: to improve cooperations between companies and research institutions; to help SMEs to access to European RTD and Innovation programmes; to foster transnational technology transfer between companies. Proplast, together with Plastics Academy srl were founded:

- › to offer services to all those - enterprises and people - who operate in the plastics field and are interested in its development
- › to promote the creation of a reference point for research activities within in favour of companies working in the plastic field
- › to represent a reference point for a professional education about plastics
- › to promote the co-operation between companies, athenaeums and other business, formative and research entities

The main objective of the cluster is the boosting of the competitiveness of its associated companies and universities operating in the plastics and composite sector. Proplast is a contact point between universities and research centers and the big, medium and small companies. Proplast roadmap include collaborative projects and research in these fields:

- › sustainable materials (recycled, bio etc.)
- › materials and technologies for new performances (metal replacement, high performance, composites)
- › biomedical materials
- › materials and technologies for the surface finishing

(Author: Katia Costa, Unioncamere Piemonte)

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