



USABLE PACKAGING – PRESS RELEASE

COMPOSTABLE STRAWS UNVEILED AS FIRST OUTCOME OF THE USABLE PACKAGING PROJECT

Valencia, 28 February 2020 - The first demonstrator developed as an outcome of the USABLE PACKAGING project into disposable packaging components has been unveiled as a **compostable straw** made of a PHA polymer material.



The solution was developed by project partner Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) and stakeholder OCENIC RESINS, both based in Spain.

The USABLE PACKAGING project seeks to reduce the use of environmentally harmful fossil-fuel-based packaging by developing high-performance bio-alternatives derived from food industry by-products to cover packaging and product needs for the food, drinks, pharmaceutical and clothing industries.

It aims to develop bio-based and compostable materials that can be used for the production of the next generation of food packaging, creating a sustainable, circular value chain where the end-of-life processes of the products contribute towards the next cycle of manufacture, further reducing the impact of plastic waste on the environment as they biodegrade into compost.

"The development of innovative, non-toxic materials for use in the food industry is key to implementing circular economy models in the packaging sector." said Project Co-ordinator Prof. José María Lagarón. "These compostable straws are now made from commercial PHAs but within the project they will be, at a later stage, derived from food industry by-products, such as pasta and bakery residue or municipal waste. They all eventually biodegrade into feedstock for future biobased PHA. They demonstrate the bio-circular economy "from waste back to waste" model, in which waste is turned into a resource and damage to the environment is eliminated."

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Notes to Editors:

- About the straws
 - They can be made from commercial grades PHAs to PHA grades derived from food industry by-products and municipal waste.
 - The straws biodegrade under industrial and home composting conditions.
 - The grades that are made from commercial PHA have a full food contact status.
 - The feedstocks are less carbon intensive compared to plastic
 - The PHA is compliant with the application required properties of the petroleum derived benchmark products based on Polypropylene.
 - The cost of the compostable straws is similar to that of paper equivalents
- Find out more about the USABLE PACKAGING project at www.usable-packaging.eu ; @uspackproject