



## USABLE PACKAGING – PRESS RELEASE

### USABLE PACKAGING PROJECT INTRODUCES CUTLERY AS ITS SECOND COMPOSTABLE PRODUCT OUTCOME

Valencia, 05 June 2020 – After unveiling compostable straws as the first outcome of the USABLE PACKAGING project, Spanish project partners Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC) and stakeholders OCENIC RESINS, also based in Spain, have announced the production of **compostable cutlery** as the project's second demonstrator in disposable packaging components made of Poly-Hydroxy-Alkanoates (PHA) polymer.



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.

*"PHA is the only polymer that can be produced from feedstock sourced from a large range of agriculture and agro-industries such as food processing." said Project Co-ordinator Prof. José Maria Lagarón, of CSIC. "It can be obtained at a substantially lower cost than the materials currently on the market and has clear environmental benefits. This compostable cutlery is another example of the value of the USABLE Project research in developing viable, sustainable alternatives to fossil-based, toxic, packaging materials"*

- ENDS -

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#### Notes to Editors:

- About the cutlery
  - The cutlery can be made from commercial grades PHAs to PHA grades derived from food industry by-products and municipal waste.
  - It biodegrades 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 cutlery is similar to that of bamboo equivalents
- Find out more about the USABLE PACKAGING project at [www.usable-packaging.eu](http://www.usable-packaging.eu) ; @uspackproject