

Press Release

Industrielle Biotechnologie Bayern Netzwerk GmbH

Wednesday, May 15th, 2013

Strategic Alliance „Technofunctional Proteins“ announced Project partners use biobased resource for various technical applications

The strategic alliance „Technofunctional Proteins“, to be funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), was presented at the symposium “Deutsche Biotechnologietage” (German Biotechnology Days) in Stuttgart. The objective of the 14 project partners is, first, to gain protein isolates and modificates from agricultural plant residues. The proteinaceous material shall then be optimized in a way, such that it can be used as base or additive for paints, cleansing agents, building materials, lubricants, plastics etc. They want to launch protein derivatives on the market with properties that cannot be achieved so far by conventional materials.

With ANiMOX as project coordinator, BioLink, Bunge, Clariant, the Fraunhofer Institute for Process Engineering and Packaging IVV, Fuchs Europe Schmierstoffe, the University of Applied Sciences Munich, HPX Polymers, Kronos, Landshuter Lackfabrik, Naturhaus Naturfarben, Vermop as well as a research institute for economic and environmental issues are working together. The industrial partners cover the entire value chain for optimized protein products: from the supply of raw materials over purification and modification up to the technical use in numerous industrial applications. The activities of the companies are supported by the research institutes mentioned. IBB Netzwerk GmbH supported the partners in planning the Alliance and the proposal submission and will take over the administrative project management. In addition, IBB Netzwerk GmbH is the designated contractor for implementation-enhancing measures.

The alliance "Technofunctional Proteins" has successfully applied to the supportive measure „Innovationsinitiative Industrielle Biotechnologie“ of the BMBF. With this funding initiative, the BMBF wants to raise the potential of industrial biotechnology for climate and resource protection. By using renewable resources as raw material and applying biotechnological methods, petrochemical products can be replaced by bio-based ones. Thus, the energy consumption can be reduced. "The strategic alliance is a showcase for the transformation of our national economy to a bioeconomy: away from oil and towards renewable resources", Dr. Georg Schütte said, State Secretary at the BMBF while announcing the alliance.

Dr. Axel Höhling, CEO of ANiMOX, is delighted: "Proteins are renewable resources like cellulose, lignin and fats. With this alliance, we can now help to also make this underrated feedstock technically more usable." For the next six years, a total project volume of about 9 million euros is planned. The funding requested from the BMBF will be approximately half of the total project costs.

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Background information:

Industrielle Biotechnologie Bayern Netzwerk GmbH (IBB Netzwerk GmbH) is an organization focusing on the promotion of real economy in the area of Industrial Biotechnology. Our objective is the transformation of valuable scientific knowledge to innovative marketable products and processes. One of the main tasks of IBB Netzwerk GmbH is the management and coordination of the IBB-network, consisting of about 100 members. Within this network, the competences and the potentials of industry and academia are combined and mobilized to strengthen as well as to expand Industrial Biotechnology. Technology transfer is realized nation and Europe-wide by implementation of R&D projects and industry deals, as well as by spin-offs and settlement of foreign companies in Bavaria.

IBB Netzwerk GmbH puts much emphasis on transmitting and circulating processed relevant information to network members, general public and political decision makers, aiming at the advancement of Industrial Biotechnology and the benefit of the IBB network members. A part of information dissemination is accomplished by our website. Further publicity and visibility is achieved by organizing and/or participating in conferences, workshops and fairs.

IBB Netzwerk GmbH is financed by funds of the Free State of Bavaria and the German Federation as well as by private money from service contracts. The company is located in Martinsried near Munich, Germany. More information: www.ibbnetzwerk-gmbh.com.

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