

Evonik wins bio-based materials award

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Evonik's Household Care Business Line was honored with the 2016 Bio-Based Material of the Year award. The award was given at the International Conference on Bio-Based Materials in recognition of the outstanding properties of the REWOFERM® SL 446 biosurfactant.

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Essen, Germany. REWOFERM® SL 446 is a novel biosurfactant that Evonik manufactures from sophorolipids using biotech methods. The reasons given for the award highlighted the fact that REWOFERM® SL 446 is 100% bio-based, has excellent cleaning properties in addition to an outstanding toxicological and ecological profile, and is completely biodegradable.

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Each year, the nova Institute for Ecology and Innovation in Hürth, Germany, recognizes the three most innovative materials in the bio-based economy. The Bio-Based Material Award was presented at the ninth International Conference on Bio-Based Materials, which was held in Cologne in early April. The conference advisory board and nova Institute experts nominated six manufacturers in advance, and these companies gave ten-minute presentations introducing their innovations to the audience. Conference participants then selected the three winners.

“REWOFERM® SL 446 meets absolutely all of the demands on modern biosurfactants: excellent cleaning capacity, environmental sustainability, and is manufactured from renewable resources,” says Dr. Xiaolan Wang, the head of the Household Care Business Line. “The profile of sophorolipids opens up good opportunities for formulators wishing to distinguish their products from the competition in the interesting and growing bioproducts market.”

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Sophorolipids are a special type of biosurfactants that are produced naturally by yeasts. Up to now, they have only been on the market as specialty products. Evonik has succeeded in developing an

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economical manufacturing process and operates a fermentation plant in Slovakia.

Company information

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals, operating in the Nutrition & Care, Resource Efficiency and Performance Materials segments. The company benefits from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms. In 2015 more than 33,500 employees generated sales of around €13.5 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.47 billion.

About Nutrition & Care

The Nutrition & Care segment is led by Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH and contributes to fulfilling basic human needs. That includes applications for everyday consumer goods as well as animal nutrition and health care. This segment employed about 7,000 employees, and generated sales of around €4.9 billion in 2015.

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