GLOBAL BIOENERGIES secures a 5.7 million euro grant to proceed with its second industrial pilot in Germany

Evry (France) and Leuna (Germany) - November 20th, 2013 - Global Bioenergies announces its decision to construct its second industrial pilot on the site of the Leuna refinery, close to Leipzig in Germany. This new pilot plant, to be supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through a EUR 5.7 million grant, should include a 3 year study at the Fraunhofer Center for Chemical-Biotechnological Processes (CBP). The pre-commercial pilot is designed for an isobutene production capacity of up to 100 tons per year.

Global Bioenergies, a NYSE Alternext Paris listed company (ALGBE), is a pioneer in the development of one-step fermentation processes for the direct and cost-efficient transformation of renewable resources into light olefins, the key building blocks of the petrochemical industry. The Company's German subsidiary, Global Bioenergies GmbH, located in the BIO-CITY building in Leipzig, has just been awarded a EUR 5.7 million grant from the BMBF within the "BioEconomy Cluster" framework.

"After conducting a systematic assessment of available pilot facilities in North America and Europe, we have concluded that the Fraunhofer CBP platform in Leuna offers the unique combination of fermentation capabilities and olefin-oriented chemical engineering. Articulating our process with the recognized German knowledge in chemical engineering will be a key success factor", commented Marc Delcourt, CEO of Global Bioenergies SA.

Gerd Unkelbach, Head of the Fraunhofer CBP, added: "Historically focused on petro-chemistry, the area around Leuna will benefit from new processes based on renewable resources, such as the one from Global Bioenergies. The CBP, inaugurated in October 2012 by Chancellor Angela Merkel, is the right place to explore the technical and economic potential of this innovative isobutene process."

"With the support from the BMBF and the BioEconomy Cluster we can now focus on building a European success story and taking part in the global transition from fossil to renewable resources", added Thomas Buhl, Managing Director of Global Bioenergies GmbH.

The pilot plant in Leuna will combine two 5,000 liter fermenters and a complete purification system, mimicking all aspects of a commercial scale plant. Designed for a production capacity of up to 100 tons per year, the isobutene produced in Leuna can be used for the fabrication of plastics, elastomers and fuels. Such scale will enable the delivery of samples to industrialists. This second pilot is the final step in Global Bioenergies' development program before the full scale exploitation of the isobutene process.

In June 2013, Global Bioenergies had announced the launch of its first industrial pilot in the heart of the Bazancourt-Pomacle biorefinery, close to Reims. This first pilot, to be run through a collaboration with Arkema and the CNRS, is supported by a EUR 5.2 million state financing through the French "Investissements d'Avenir" program. This first industrial pilot will set the bases for large scale exploitation of the isobutene process in its application to methacrylics.

About GLOBAL BIOENERGIES

Global Bioenergies is one of the few companies worldwide, and the only one in Europe, that is developing a process to convert renewable resources into hydrocarbons through fermentation. The Company initially focused its efforts on the production of isobutene, one of the most important petrochemical building blocks that can be converted into fuels, plastics, organic glass and elastomers. Global Bioenergies continues to improve the yield of its process and is actively entering the industrial pilot testing phase. The company recently replicated this success to propylene and butadiene and is also looking to continue with other members of the gaseous olefins family, key molecules at the heart of petrochemical industry. Global Bioenergies is listed on NYSE Alternext Paris (FR0011052257 – ALGBE).

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Global Bioenergies on video

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