

Press release

nova-Institut GmbH (www.nova-institute.eu)
Hürth, 16 May 2019



Compostable sanitary pads from India, sustainable fibres from Finland and home compostable coffee capsules from Germany are the winners of the innovation award “Bio-based Material of the Year 2019”

For the 12th year in a row, the innovation award “Bio-based Material of the Year” has been granted to the young, innovative bio-based chemicals and materials industry. The award has been sponsored by InfraServ Knapsack and organized by nova-Institute (both located in Hürth, Germany).

After a 10-minute presentation from each of the six nominated companies, the three award winners were chosen by the expert audience at the “12th International Conference on Bio-based Materials” (www.bio-based-conference.com). The six nominees were previously selected by a jury from a total of 21 submissions. With more than 270 participants and 30 exhibitors, the conference was able to further establish itself as one of the world’s most important meeting places for the leaders of the bioeconomy.

InfraServ Knapsack sponsored the Innovation Award and presented it together with Michael Carus, Managing Director of nova-Institut GmbH and organizer of the conference.

Organizer Michael Carus, nova-Institute, was enthusiastic about the overwhelming response: “The most important pioneers of the global bioeconomy met in Cologne and exchanged views on the strong dynamics of the industry. Previous hopefuls of the bio-based chemistry are weakening and others are making amazing breakthroughs!”

The winners in detail:

First place: Aakar Innovations Pvt. Ltd. (IN): Anandi Eco+ – 100% Compostable Sanitary Pads

Anandi Eco+ is the first and only Govt. of India Lab certified 100% compostable sanitary pad. In a compost environment, at least 90% of the pad are biodegraded within 180 days. Under other conditions in nature it takes longer respectively. The pads can be disposed easily in the backyard mud pit of any rural household to avoid polluting the environment and create bio-manure for agriculture. Aakar also uses local resources like starch, jute, bagasse, banana fibre and water hyacinth to produce their sanitary pads to reduce cost and utilizes agricultural plant waste materials. Anandi Eco+ pads do not use any harmful chemicals like SAP and convert into manure post disposal, which can be further utilised. This way, the pads contribute to

environmental protection and increased resource reuse. It also follows the Compostable American Standard ASTM D6400 & European Standard EN 13432. Aakar contributes to 12 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN through their work. Decentralised production is carried out by women in India and soon also in various African countries on the basis of regional raw materials. More information: www.aakarinnovations.com

Second place: Spinnova Oy (FI): Spinnova – Sustainable Textile Fibre

Spinnova is a sustainable fibre company from Finland that develops ecological breakthrough technology for manufacturing cellulose-based textile fibre. Spinnova's patented technology does without harmful chemicals and creates no waste or side streams, making the fibre and the production method probably the most sustainable in the world. The biggest difference to other man-made cellulosic fibres is that no chemical dissolution takes place throughout the whole process. Spinnova's raw material commitment is to only use FSC certified wood or waste stream-based cellulose. Spinnova's objective is to globally commercialize the fibre products in collaboration with major textile brands. The properties and prices of the new cellulose fibres are based on cotton.

More information: www.spinnova.com

Third place: Golden Compound GmbH (DE): HOMEcap – Home Compostable Coffee Capsules

HOMEcap is the world's first and only home compostable capsule successfully introduced in the market that is 'OK compost HOME' certified and made with natural fibres of the sunflower seed hull. The biodegradation in home compost avoids considerable waste streams. The capsule was successfully launched on the market in the spring of this year. It is made from a unique compound comprising PTTMCCs PBS and PBSA mixed with sunflower seed shells and inorganic fillers. It comes with a paper and cellulose based lid, which is sealable to the capsule without any additional glue, and of course the lid is home compostable as well. The material composition results low oxygen transmission rates, which allows to avoid additional barrier packaging and therefore saving waste. A VDI 4605 sustainability assessment showed that this capsule outperforms current state of the art capsules like deep-drawn PP EVOH multilayer capsules in terms of sustainability.

More information: www.golden-compound.com

The nova-Institute would like to acknowledge InfraServ GmbH & Co. Knapsack KG (DE) for sponsoring the renowned innovation award “Bio-based Material of the Year 2019”. UPM (DE) is supporting the conference as Gold Sponsor, Neste (CH/FI) as Silver Sponsor and FKUR (DE) as Bronze Sponsor. nova-Institute also thanks CLIB (DE) as Premium Partner for the close cooperation.

Responsible for the content under German press law (V.i.S.d.P.):

Dipl.-Phys. Michael Carus (Managing Director)

nova-Institut GmbH, Chemiepark Knapsack, Industriestraße 300, DE-50354 Hürth (Germany)

Internet: www.nova-institute.eu – all services and studies at www.bio-based.eu

Email: contact@nova-institut.de

Phone: +49 (0) 22 33-48 14 40

nova-Institute is a private and independent research institute, founded in 1994; nova offers research and consultancy with a focus on bio-based and CO₂-based economy in the fields of food and feedstock, techno-economic evaluation, markets, sustainability, dissemination, B2B communication and policy. Every year, nova organises several large conferences on these topics; nova-Institute has 30 employees and an annual turnover of more than 3 million €.

Get the latest news from nova-Institute, subscribe at www.bio-based.eu/email