



European Polysaccharide
Network Of Excellence

N°26 - DECEMBRE 2013



“Nature makes polysaccharides, EPNOE turns them into products”

Dear Readers of the EPNOE Newsletter,

2013 was a very active year for EPNOE.

In January, the book "*The European Polysaccharide Network of Excellence (EPNOE): research initiatives and results*", describing the research activities performed in EPNOE institutions, was published by Springer. So far, it attracted more than 2000 downloads.

There were many occasions for EPNOE members to meet. Four EPNOE meetings were held during this year where members of the various Boards made the proper decisions regarding the organization and development of EPNOE. Several brainstorming meetings were also organized for developing research-industry relationship. The next meeting which is dedicated to building proposals in response to the Horizon 2020 call from the European Commission will be organized January 28-29 in the Netherlands.

One of the greatest events of 2013 was the 3rd International Polysaccharide Conference EPNOE 2013 "Polysaccharides and polysaccharide-derived products, from basic science to applications", co-organized with the American Chemical Society (ACS). The conference was held in Nice, France, on October 21st - 24th. It gathered more than 450 researchers, students and industrial scientists from 45 countries. I wish to thank all the people who actively participated in the organization of the conference, in particular Julie Navard, Edwige Després and Agata Kardach.

Two major changes will take place in 2014. From the beginning of 2014, we will invite new research institutions to join EPNOE as Affiliated Members. Also in the same spirit, an EPNOE-at-large web-based network is under construction, with more than 250 scientists or research groups registered. I will come back longer to these initiatives in the next Newsletter.

EPNOE aims at helping its members to produce research results at the best level and bring together all members from academic, research or industrial institutions together. Regarding this last point, we asked several large and small companies to express their opinion about how EPNOE has been useful for them. They are listed in the following pages.

I wish you and the ones you love a very enjoyable end of year period and a very good and successful 2014 year.



Dr. Patrick Navard
Coordinator of EPNOE
Armines/Mines ParisTech/CNRS
CEMEF - Centre for Material Forming
Sophia-Antipolis
(France)



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How small and large companies are valuing EPNOE activities?

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The following companies accepted to write a public statement about EPNOE:

Biobasic Environnement (France), Tembec Innovation (Canada, France), Lenzing AG (Austria), Zuckerforschung Tulln GmbH (Austria), Biopolymer Solutions Ltd, (United Kingdom), Södra Innovation (Sweden), Cargill (Belgium), Novamont (Italy), Unilever (UK), Kiram (Sweden), Dow Pharma & Food Solutions (Germany, USA), SE Tylose GmbH (Germany), Maspex Wadowice Group, (Poland), Freudenberg (Germany)

Julien Troquet, General Manager, Biobasic Environnement (France)

As we are an SME implied in several environmental topics, innovation is our priority in order to increase our activity. The contact of laboratories or companies working on polysaccharides is essential for a small company as Biobasic Environnement. Time devoted to partner search would be too important for our structure and EPNOE supplies this opportunity to benefit from expertise from French and foreign partners.

Moreover, important works of data collection, evaluation of possible interactions between partners and generation of new ways to follow are developed by EPNOE.

Regular meetings are proposed by EPNOE in order to promote contacts between all partners, and workshops are organized in order to develop new collaboration projects in the field of polysaccharides.

For these reasons, Biobasic Environnement supports deeply this association and is thankful for EPNOE work.

Denis Sens, R&D Director - Tembec Innovation (Canada, France)

Tembec, is one of the leading companies in the Specialty Cellulose Industry. Cellulose and Cellulose Derivatives are one of the main branch of polysaccharide family tree. Tembec supported EPNOE project and quickly joined EPNOE in the early days of its creation. It was for Tembec a great opportunity to meet on a regular basis and in the same place a wide panel of Industry participants and the academic world of Polysaccharides research. Networking opportunities and creative thinking workshops were for Tembec a great source of inspiration.

In that respect, 'dormant ideas' booklet prepared by the EPNOE community is seen by Tembec as the premises of future innovation in the polysaccharide business.

It is an important task (but an extremely challenging one) to 'keep the ball rolling' between Industry and Academic Research.

We recognize the excellent work done by EPNOE in the past years and would like to see that the continuation of this Network of Excellence fall within the scope of long term support of the European Community.



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How small and large companies are valuing EPNOE activities?

Gert Kroner, Head of Product Development, Lenzing AG (Austria)

Lenzing AG has been with EPNOE from the beginning as it was among the founding members. The research and the industrial use of polysaccharides, which again are becoming very popular in recent years, have a long and successful history in Europe. In a global competitive environment it is essential for European industries, operating within the field of polysaccharides, to be supported by high-quality academic research. Therefore, EPNOE is an essential network to bring experts from different fields together to create a critical mass. It offers the possibility for its members to see beyond the horizon of their own work and to identify potentials for new cooperation and products. Especially the conferences and meetings organized by EPNOE are a versatile platform to achieve this. For sure, the EPNOE network has an important part in supporting the European "bio based" industry and as a consequence securing jobs in this area. Finally, we believe that EPNOE is an essential European counterpart to recently founded polysaccharide research centers in Asia or elsewhere in the world. Due to all these positive impacts on the polysaccharide based industry, Lenzing AG will continue to be an active part within EPNOE.

Marnik Wastyn, Managerial Director, Zuckerrforschung Tulln GmbH (Austria)

Zuckerrforschung Tulln joined the Network over a couple of years, and we sincerely do not regret it. We are very interested in the different activities and initiatives of EPNOE. We appreciate the meetings offering the opportunity to have stimulating discussions with the academic partners of EPNOE, but also to discuss interesting ideas with other industrial partners. One of the youngest initiatives of EPNOE, the Dormant Ideas, gave us the opportunity to start several discussions on potential projects with new interesting European partners for us. EPNOE enables us to enlarge our horizon of activities and partnership in Europe. We are convinced that our membership represents another important way to develop new ideas and projects in the field of renewable Materials. Zuckerrforschung Tulln needs the catalytic networking of the EPNOE Association for the initiation of Horizon 2020 projects with academic and industrial partners. Zuckerrforschung Tulln appreciates an increase of expertise of EPNOE through the expansion of academic research members and sees here a clear benefit for all members including the industrial consortium. We are supporting the way the EPNOE community focuses on the needs of industry on the base of an excellent network of academic expertise and industrial experience.

John Mitchell, Chairman, Biopolymer Solutions Ltd, (United Kingdom)

As an SME concerned with innovation, the contacts developed though EPNOE have been of value in terms of access to methods, ideas and also industrial partners that may facilitate the exploitation of our technology. As an editor of an international journal publishing extensively on industrially important polysaccharides it is clear that European companies must innovate to meet the challenges resulting from the extensive and rapidly improving research being undertaken in China. EPNOE initiatives in particular "sharing dormant ideas with companies" will play a useful role in helping to meet these challenges.



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Margaretha Söderqvist Lindblad, Science Relations and Senior Specialist, Södra Innovation (Sweden)

The activities of EPNOE including the "Dormant ideas" are of great interest for Södra, and it is the reason why we are a member of EPNOE.

Bernd Kettlitz, Scientific Advisor, Cargill R&D Center Europe (Belgium)

We have supported the EPNOE concept already for several years as an industrial member, as sponsor of events and via lectures given at symposia organized by EPNOE. We support the concept since we believe that keeping the polysaccharide research at a high level is necessary to maintain the economic significant European polysaccharide processing industry competitive via innovation.

We see a great value for our company on having community of expertise, like EPNOE, that brings academia and business science together. EPNOE is unique because it covers the whole polysaccharide spectrum including starch, hydrocolloids and cellulose for a complex area ranging from food to non-food applications.

The process of sharing dormant ideas is allowing alignment on key scientific projects and programs for increasing the European competitiveness. The workshops organized by EPNOE are (re)-activating and strengthening the relationships between the academic and industrial communities and are an important signal towards the scientific community to continue investing in know-how creation in the field of polysaccharides."

EPNOE is of high value because of information sharing but it could further develop vehicles how to build knowhow or views on long term and pre-competitive fields.

Luigi Capuzzi, Research & Development Director, Novamont (Italy)

The Dormant Ideas collected by scientific EPNOE members is of great interest, since it is a good opportunity to have an overall view on several experimental ideas about products, processes and technologies. We think that the methodology chosen by EPNOE, consisting first in sharing with companies resume documents on dormant ideas and after in organizing face-to-face meetings is efficient. As an Industrial Member of EPNOE, we think that the welcome of new associated members represents an important action to develop an active role of EPNOE in the bio-based field, even more if we consider Horizon 2020 Opportunities.

The implementation of information and communication tools made available for the EPNOE Members are looked with favor by Novamont, as a means to implement networking activities, to join new academic and industrial members and to increase partnership and develop project ideas. We renew our interest in EPNOE.

Robert Farr, Unilever (UK)

The list of dormant ideas is a bold initiative and potentially a very useful resource for setting up new collaborations. Descriptions of ongoing PhD's at EPNOE are very useful. Some countries (such as the Netherlands) maintain public databases of completed PhD's, which are a great resource, but knowledge of ongoing projects allows us to stay more up to date.



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Lars Stigsson, Director, Kiram (Sweden)

Several of the ideas gathered in EPNOE meetings and documents are quite inspiring and my company will make contacts to propose cooperation in upcoming Horizon 2020 projects.

Jürgen Engelhardt, Dow Pharma & Food Solutions (Germany, USA)

We see great value in linking the expertise in Polysaccharides via EPNOE. The expansion of that network will be useful as long as the network could be kept manageable efficiently and the focus on "Polysaccharides" is not lost. Recent connection with ACS during EPNOE conferences helped to broaden the support and attention globally. With the new membership at Bio-based Industries Consortium a useful connection to the growing bio-based community has been generated. The facility tool box, provided by EPNOE, comes in handy in case of looking for capabilities not available at the own location /institution.

The option of confidentiality of research projects launched in the EPNOE network is a requisition to catch relevant and valuable work topics from industrial partners in a broader network.

Roland Stern, SE Tylose GmbH (Germany)

The interest of being a member of EPNOE is to keep aware of actual research topics regarding polysaccharides in Europe.

Marek Seremak, Key Coordinator, Maspex Wadowice Group, (Poland)

Thank you very much for all initiatives which EPNOE is launching for connecting science and business for mutual projects. There are many interesting ideas. Maspex Wadowice Group is one of the biggest companies in food sector (beverages, instant product, cereals, etc.) in Central and Eastern Europe. As an industrial leader, we would like to express our will to look in-depth for projects with excellent scientists from EPNOE for sustained communities in perspective of Horizon 2020.

Olivier Bédoué, R&D Manager, Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions GmbH (Germany)

The EPNOE website and the Newsletter are a precious source of information for anyone wishing to keep updated on recent trends and publications in many hot topics of bio-based science (lignin, polysaccharides, fibers, ...). The International Conferences (e.g. EPNOE 2013, Nice) and private meetings are the place to meet not only potential academic partners, but also Industrial Partners of the Network to share with them views on potential common fields of interest and build collaborations. The powerful analytical tools available to the industrial community through the Tool Box are valuable assets.