



Success Story of Belgian Biotech Pilot Facility continues in Thailand

Ghent (Belgium), April 22, 2022 - Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (BBEPP), Belgium and National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand announce a Joint-Venture to launch the Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant (BBAPP), a multi-purpose biorefinery pilot plant inspired by the successful Belgian facility. The Facility is built at the Eastern Economic Corridor of Innovation (EECI), at Wangchan Valley (Rayong Province) in Thailand.

Thailand is one of the top producers and exporters of sugarcane, cassava, oil palm and many other agricultural products. More than 40 million tons of biomass are currently under-utilized. This gap presents ample opportunity for biorefinery technology that enables the conversion of biomass to energy, chemicals and biomaterials, significantly raising the value of these crops and their by-products.

“BBEPP and NSTDA have been collaborating to set up the Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant as a joint-venture with shared financial and technological resources, in order to leverage the best of both parties” said **Dr. Narong Sirilertworakul, President of NSTDA.** *“The Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration for Establishing the Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant in Thailand was signed on November 12, 2019”.*

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant is a unique world-class service provider for process development, scale-up and custom manufacturing of biobased products and processes. Its unique expertise, technologies and successful business model are among the many contributions to the Joint-Venture activities. NSTDA, through the investment of the Thai Government, funds the investment of the facility and equipment and contributes its established existing platform for biobased process and product development using locally abundant resources. NSTDA also contributes its customer base through its broad contact network.

“The complementarity of the partners will provide our customers with a world-class facility and technologies which are among one of the best in the industries in ASEAN”
Dr. Somvong Tragoonrung, Chairman of the Board of Directors, BBAPP

“The Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant is the first of its kind in Thailand and ASEAN countries with a unique mission to develop and scale up sustainable biobased products and processes.” said **Prof. Wim Soetaert, CEO of Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant,** *“Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant consists of **two separate pilot facilities for non-GMP and GMP activities.** The non-GMP facility serves the industry that is active in biochemicals, biomaterials and other relevant bioproducts, while the GMP facility will focus on applications in food, feed, cosmetics and nutraceuticals. The services broadly cover biomass pretreatment, industrial biotechnology (microbial fermentation and biocatalysis), green chemistry and downstream processing operations to transform low-value biomass raw materials into a wide range of high-value bioproducts.”*

Hilde Crevits, Flemish Minister for Economy and Innovation states: *“The cooperation between BBEPP and NSTDA brings out the best in both: in Flanders, we are proud to be able to share our expertise and our technological know-how in bioeconomy. Thailand, in turn, makes it possible for a new sustainable bio-based industry to be developed due to the available biomass and industrial expertise. This cooperation allows us to share knowledge more widely. Furthermore, this is a major step forward in the development of the international relations of the Flemish bio-based economy. We hope this will be a promising start for many more trade relations. After all, investing in the bioeconomy translates to investing in a prosperous and sustainable future for all of us.”*

The Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant is currently under construction and will be fully operational in 2024.

Note to editors:

A online webinar on the launch of the Bio Base Asia Pilot Plant can be followed and or viewed as of Friday April 22nd, 2022, 10am CEST via the following link:

<https://www.bohezproductions.com/bbapp-live>.

*ASEAN: Association of Southeast Asian Nations

About National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA):

NSTDA was established in 1991 under the National Science and Technology Development Act 1991. The Agency is affiliated to the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. NSTDA is committed to develop capability in science and technology of the country. <https://www.nstda.or.th/en/>

About Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (BBEPP):

BBEPP is an independent multipurpose pilot facility specifically dedicated to the process development, scale-up and custom manufacturing of biobased products and processes. BBEPP was established in 2008 and is located in Ghent, Belgium. It is a world-class service provider that has developed into a global reference for biobased developments and currently has over 140 collaborators. www.bbeu.org.

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