

News

Bacteria 'trained' to convert bio-wastes into plastic (*Waste Management World*, 23/11/2010)

A researcher at the Delft University of Technology claims to have 'trained' bacteria to convert all the main sugars in vegetable, fruit, and garden waste efficiently into high-quality environmentally friendly products such as bioplastics. ([Read more](#))

Eastern Netherlands to work on bio-based products (*OostNV*, 26/10/2010)

The Eastern Netherlands has taken a major step towards producing bio-based products. Eleven companies, three universities and a college of higher professional education will jointly develop bio-based pigments, paints, brushes and yarns. ([Read more](#))

Polymer and rubber innovation lighten environmental impact of automobiles (*ICIS*, 22/10/2010)

US automaker Ford Motor has decided to use soy-based urethane foam in the seats of its next-generation Explorer sport utility vehicles. The firm was the pioneer in using soy-based urethane in the Mustang in 2007. Currently, the polymer blend contains about 5% of soy bean oil and is used in seats, seat backs, headliners and other interior parts. ([Read more](#))

Enzymes - a new ingredient for marine paint? (RSC Publishing, 20/10/2010)

Cross-linked enzyme aggregates have great potential in marine antifouling paints claim Danish scientists. ([Read more](#))

News Focus: DSM mulls major renewables push (ICIS, 18/10/2010)

Netherlands-based firm sees major potential in biotechnology as a route to sustainable chemistry ([Read more](#))

Better bugs to make plastics (MIT Technology Review, 20/09/2010)

A startup that has successfully engineered bacteria to make common industrial chemicals is now using its technology to engineer organisms to make renewable fuel. ([Read more](#))

Iowa State chemists discover method to create high-value chemicals from biomass (e! Science News, 2/09/2010)

Iowa State University researchers have found a way to produce high-value chemicals such as ethylene glycol and propylene glycol from biomass rather than petroleum sources. ([Read more](#))

Highlight

Governments seek to help innovative SMEs (Euractiv, 16/10/2010)

Governments have introduced a range of schemes to help small firms, including tax credits for research investment, the development of "innovation centres", support for business angels and schemes to link SMEs with universities and industry. [\(Read more\)](#)

OpenAIRE opens access to EU scientific results (OpenAIRE, 02/12/2010)

EU researchers, businesses and citizens can have free and open access to EU-funded research papers thanks to OpenAIRE (Open Access Infrastructure for Research in Europe). [\(Read more\)](#)

Commission opens gateway to China for European small and medium size companies (European Commission, 08/11/2010)

Antonio Antonio Tajani, Vice President of the European Commission responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, has launched the Center for European Union Small and Medium Enterprises in Beijing on 5 November.(...) This new venture will provide information, advice, training and matchmaking opportunities for European SMEs wishing to export to or invest in the chinese market. [\(Read more\)](#)

Events

SME Finance Summit, 26-27 January, London, United Kingdom

Sustainable chemistry, innovative and competitive companies - 2nd edition, 17-18 February, Barcelona, Spain

Industrial Biotech World Europe 2011, 23-25 February, Amsterdam, Netherlands

19th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition - From research to industry and markets, 6-9 June, Berlin, Germany