

# **BIOCHEM**

## **First Accelerator Forum**

**Milan, 5 – 7 October 2011**

**Steve Fletcher, Chemistry Innovation, UK**

# **BIOCHEM – putting SMEs at the core of bio-based products innovation**

- **European Funding for Innovation**
- **Drivers and Challenges to Innovation**
- **Bio-based Products**
  - Definition and Potential
- **The BIOCHEM Project**
  - Achievements to Date & Next Steps
- **Conclusions**

# European Funding for Innovation

## ● Research versus Innovation

- **Research** is the generation of new knowledge
- **Innovation** is the conversion of knowledge into successful business
- Research consumes money whilst innovation generates money

## ● Within the European Commission

- Research is supported by DG Research
- Innovation is supported by DG Enterprise & Industry

## ● Over the period 2007 – 2013

- Research budget is approx. **€ 53 billion** (FP7)
- Innovation budget is approx **€ 1.1 billion**

# Europe INNOVA

- **The principal initiative within DG Enterprise & Industry to support industrial innovation, mainly by funding the development of new tools and instruments**
- **Three eco-innovation projects funded to start in 2010**
  - BIOCHEM
  - REMAKE
  - INNOWATER
- **Total BIOCHEM budget is €4.4 million**
  - Including €2.85 million from the EC (65%)
- **BIOCHEM supports one of the EU ‘Lead Markets’ – bio-based products**

# Drivers and Challenges to Innovation

## SOCIETAL DRIVERS

### ● **Climate Change**

- EU target of 20% GHG reduction by 2020

### ● **Security of raw material supply**

- Reducing dependency on fossil fuels

### ● **Creation of new jobs**



# Drivers and Challenges to Innovation

## BUSINESS DRIVERS

### ● Growth in demand

- Switching from hydrocarbon to carbohydrate feed stocks for making chemicals
  - 2010- \$125 billion global
  - 2020- \$250 billion global
- One third of chemicals and materials will be produced from biological sources by 2030
- Demand for 'green' products

### ● Cost Benefits

- Cost of petroleum feed stocks will at some point exceed the cost of renewable biomass
- ... and technology costs will reduce



# Bio-Based Products

**Definition:** Non-food products derived from biomass (plants, algae, crops, trees, marine organisms and biological waste from households, animals and food production). Bio-based products may range from high-value added fine chemicals such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, food additives, etc., to high volume materials such as general bio-polymers or chemical feed stocks.

## IMPORTANCE

- **7% of global sales \$ 77 billion in value within the chemical sector (2005)**
- **EU industry accounting for ~ 30% of this value**

	2005	2010	2020
Volume of the new bio-based product markets	\$77 billion (global)	\$125billion (global)	\$250 billion (global)
Jobs dependent on new products	120.000	190.000	380.000

Accelerating the Development of the Market for Bio-based Products in Europe REPORT OF THE TASKFORCE ON BIO-BASED PRODUCTS Composed in preparation of the Communication “A Lead Market Initiative for Europe” (COM(2007) 860 final)

## Estimated EU production volumes of bio-based chemicals

EU, million tonne	Total consumption, 2008	Bio-based consumption, 2008	Bio-based potential, 2020	Growth potential, % pa
Plastics	48	0.13	0.9	16
Lubricants	5.2	0.15	0.23	3.6
Solvents	5.0	0.63	1.1	4.8
Surfactants	2.7	1.52	2.3	3.5

Source: "Assessment of the Bio-based Products Market Potential for Innovation"  
(Poyry, BIOCHEM Deliverable 2.3)



## Estimated EU market share and employment opportunities in bio-based chemicals

EU	2008	2020
Market Value (€ billion)	21	40
Bio-based share of total chemical value	4.0	6.0
Employment in bio-based chemical production	50,200	93,700

Source: "Assessment of the Bio-based Products Market Potential for Innovation"  
(Poyry, BIOCHEM Deliverable 2.3)

# Some examples of innovation in bio-based products

## Pfizer – Biocatalytic Route to Pregabalin

### Problem

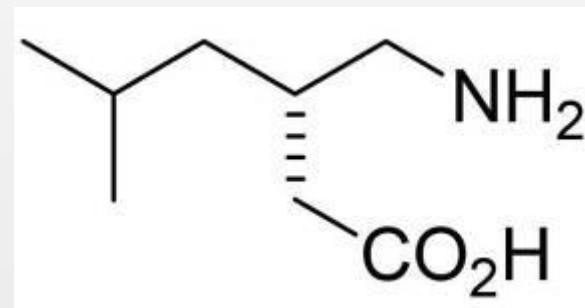
Pregabalin is an anti-convulsant used in the treatment of neuropathic pain. The production route involved a last step resolution with the undesired enantiomer difficult to recycle. An efficient, highly enantioselective route was needed for production.

### Technical Solution

Use of a biocatalytic kinetic resolution at the first step vastly improved the process and allowed recycling of the wrong enantiomer.

### Benefits

- three synthetic steps, all in water
- high throughput (over 3 kg/litre water)
- low raw material cost
- short development time (concept to pilot)
- solvent use reduced by calculated 40 million litres per annum
- over 2000 tonnes less material required per annum



## From Sugar cane to tyres.....

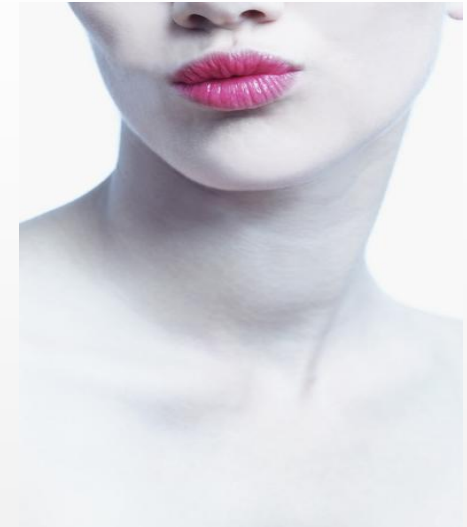
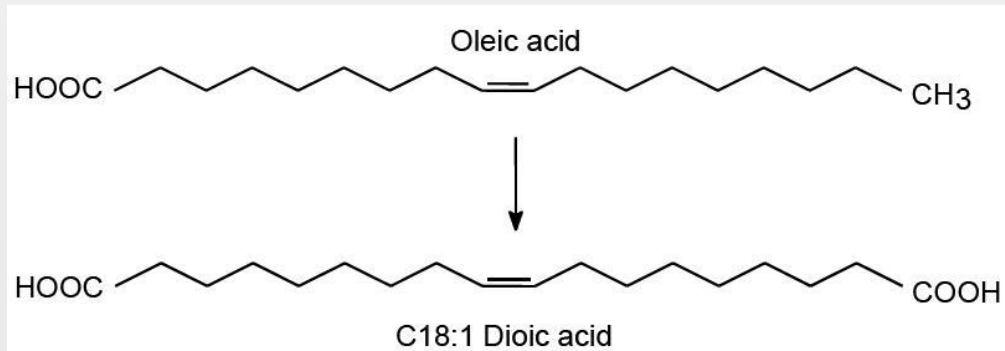
- **Genencor, a Division of Danisco, has developed technology for manufacturing isoprene from sugar cane, corn, corn cobs, switchgrass or other biomass, involving**
  - **Microbial strain development**
  - **Large scale fermentation**
  - **Recovery and purification**
- **Joint venture with Goodyear; The vision is for all Goodyear tyres to be manufactured from this bio-isoprene**
- **Manufacturing a conventional tyre requires seven gallons of petroleum feedstock per tyre. Using Biolsoprene will reduce that to close to zero**



# Active ingredient in cosmetic product

## ● Croda

- C18:1 dioic acid
- Skin whitening agent
- Produced through biotransformation of oleic acid, a natural fatty acid
  - Inhibits biosynthesis of melanin
  - Significant market in Asia
- Effectively unachievable by chemical transformation



# But these are all large companies

**What is preventing faster take-up of industrial biotechnology and renewable feedstocks by other companies, especially SMEs ?**

# BIOCHEM

## Objective:

**To develop practical solutions which will lower the barriers to innovation in bio-based products**

## **BIOCHEM: Objectives**

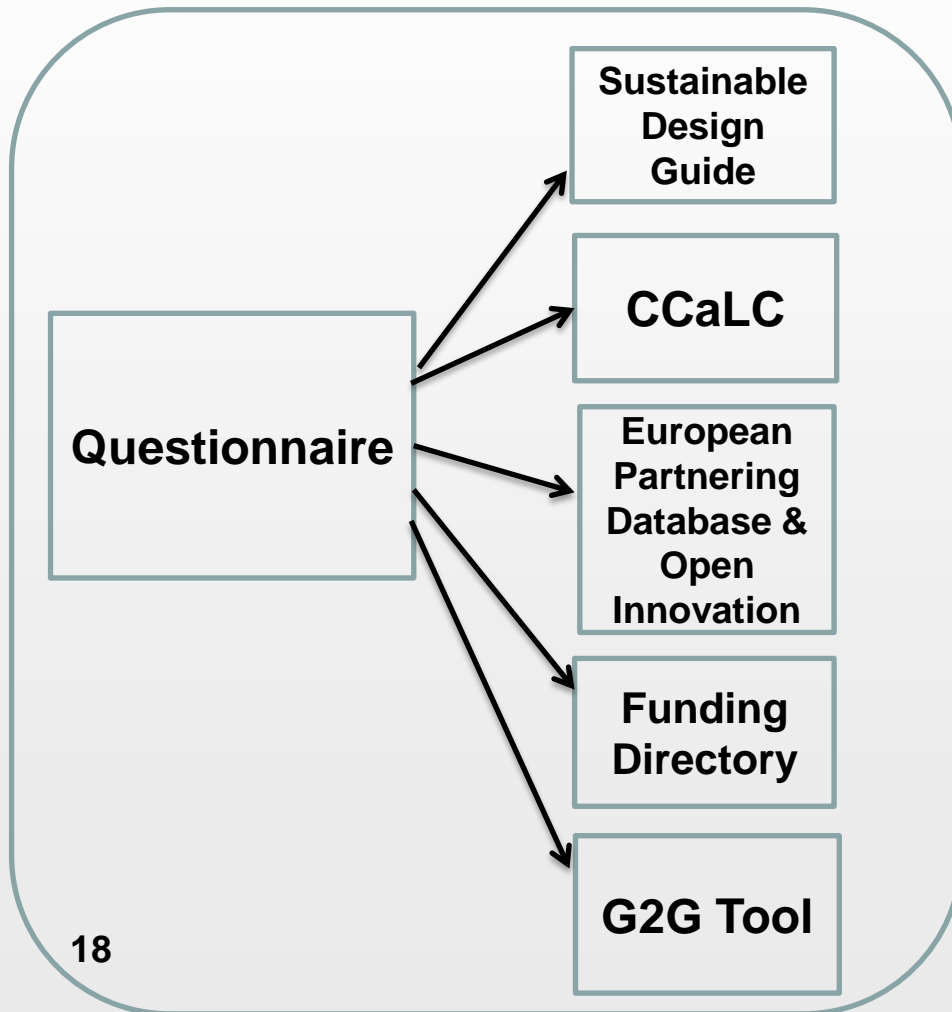
- Develop a business support toolbox to help lower the barriers for SMEs to innovate in this market (toolbox developed and national innovation agencies trained in preparation for SME visits)
- Test the toolbox with SMEs through three interrelated activities
  - Support for existing businesses – assessment of the opportunities for at least 250 SMEs using the toolbox, and production of Individual Development Plans
  - Access to funding – funding needs and opportunities for each SME based on its Individual Development Plan
  - 4 Accelerator events (technology transfer, partnering and venture capital) including 2 business plan competitions (BPC)
- Dissemination of information on the bio-based market and the toolbox in order to increase awareness within the chemistry-using sectors
- Develop an exit strategy to ensure the benefits continue beyond the lifetime of the project



# BIOCHEM Project Partners



# The BIOCHEM Toolbox



**Years 2 - 3**

**Testing of  
Toolbox**

**Co-ordinated  
BBP Investment  
Fund**

# Summary of Project Deliverables

## ● Year One

- Develop toolbox
- Develop delivery processes
- Generate background information to support innovation
- Engage with target SMEs

## ● Year Two

- Test the toolbox with 100 SMEs
- Develop and test crowd sourcing prototype
- Entrepreneurial teaching classes and first major accelerator forum
- Business Plan competitions

## ● Year Three

- Refine toolbox and use with a further 150 SMEs
- Analysis of project output and exit strategy
- Development of BBP investment fund

## ● Throughout project

- Communication, case studies,

# Progress and achievements to date

## ● **Development of toolbox**

- Opportunity assessment questionnaire
- Business support tools, including on-line partnering, funding directory, LCA, Sustainable Design Guide
- Innovation agencies trained in use of audit methodology and toolbox in March 2011

## ● **SME Visits**

- 36 SME visits have been conducted to date versus Year 2 target of 100

## ● **Accelerator Events**

- First event in Milan event, 5-7 October 2011

# Success at the end of the project?

- **A toolbox that is useful to, and used by, SMEs and larger organisations**
- **A community of SMEs and larger companies, together with national and regional innovation agencies, which can collaborate to lower the barriers to innovation in bio-based products**
- **A practical exit strategy to ensure that the legacy continues to live**

# Acknowledgements

- **DG Enterprise and Industry**

- **All the BIOCHEM partners**

- And the regional organisations who are helping to find the right SMEs

# Thank you for your attention !

- For further information on BIOCHEM see <http://www.europe-innova.eu/biochem/>
- From mid October the new BIOCHEM portal will be at <http://www.biochem-project.eu>