



METabolic EXplorer announces start-up of industrial-scale pilot, the last stage before effective full-scale industrialisation of its technology

Clermont-Ferrand, December 14th, 2009 – METabolic Explorer, a green chemistry company that specializes in the development of bioprocesses for the production of chemical compounds used in a wide range of everyday products such as paints, solvents, animal feed, adhesives, textile fibres and resorbable surgical thread etc., today announced that it had started up its industrial-scale pilot plant at the Saint Beauzire facility in Clermont Ferrand, within the lead time that the company had set itself.

Less than six months after obtaining its building permit last June, the company has completed the construction of its industrial-scale pilot plant. The qualifying water trials of the facility, designed to corroborate pressure measures, resistance tests and other automated procedures, will begin as early as this week. In the subsequent days, the first PDO fermentation processes will be fired up (PDO is one of the three in-house products developed by METabolic EXplorer). For the record, this industrial-scale pilot, which now combines the fermentation stage with the purification phase, will help to develop continuous process operations and confirm the cost price of each product in the METEX portfolio.

Olivier Nore, Vice-President Industrialisation, said: *"Our pilot has a production capacity of several dozen metric tons a year. We will now be able to connect up the different production phases in a continuous process, from the initial bacterial strain to the finished product. Our objective is to provide the manufacturers likely to use our technology with samples so that they can in turn move on to a test phase and validate their own applications"*.

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About METabolic EXplorer - www.metabolic-explorer.com

METabolic EXplorer is a biological chemistry company which was incorporated in 1999. Its goal is to help industrial businesses deal with the heralded "end of oil", so that they can continue to manufacture but in a sustainable way.

Based on the tried and tested principle of industrial fermentation, METabolic Explorer's solutions circumvent the problems posed by today's burdensome and expensive petrochemical processes via the use of a wide range of renewable, sustainable raw materials. By optimizing the metabolic yield of non-pathogenic bacteria in a contained, controlled environment, the company facilitates the production of chemical compounds used in a wide range of everyday goods (paints, solvents, adhesives and textile fibres) and industrial products (such as surgical thread and animal feed).

METabolic EXplorer is currently focusing its alternative biological solutions (implemented by the development of renewable, fermentation-based bioprocesses) on the production of five compounds that together have an estimated, annual, end-market value of \$14 billion. The company's strategy will be implemented worldwide via limited-exclusivity industrial alliances and joint-ventures with key players in the chemicals industry.

METabolic Explorer, based in Clermont-Ferrand, France, is listed on EURONEXT PARIS (EURONEXT C, METEX) and features in the SBF 250 and CAC Small 90 indexes.

Get free financial information on METabolic EXplorer by registering with
www.metabolic-explorer.com or www.actus-finance.com.

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