

Press release

RHODIA TO CONTRIBUTE TO TWO PROJECTS FINANCED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR FUNDING INITIATIVE "LE GRAND EMPRUNT"

Paris, June 1st, 2011 ---- Rhodia announces that the *Factory of the Future* "INDEED" and *Chimie du Végétal* "PIVERT" projects have been chosen by the French government from among the 19 projects submitted under the "Institutes for Excellence in Carbon-free Energies" program. Identified as "Investments of the Future" financed by the major borrowing package, they will enjoy financial backing from the French Ministry of Research.

In its capacity as a founding shareholder and partner of INDEED and PIVERT, Rhodia will provide each project with its financial support, industrial expertise and innovative capacity in the area of renewable raw materials, low environmental footprint processes, formulation, innovative materials and recycling.

"INDEED", the *Institute of the Factory of the Future*

Launched by the innovation cluster Axelera, INDEED Institute (National Institute for the Development of Eco-technologies and Carbon-free Energies) Located in the heart of the "Chemistry Valley" in Lyon aims to develop a campus of technological and industrial innovation devoted to the carbon-free factory of the future. The factory of the future will be compact in size, will boast a reduced energy and environmental footprint, and will design and produce sustainable products. The Institute will focus its activities on three key areas:

- the development of new processes designed to replace fossil fuels with renewable sources of energy, notably using biomass solutions,
- the reduction in the amount of energy and raw materials used per unit produced, the recovery of energy in industrial processes,
- the design of new products using renewable raw materials; the reuse of products at the end of their useful lives and the consideration of the need to recycle products from the initial design stages.

"PIVERT", institute for excellence in plant chemistry

Supported by Sofiproteol and based in Compiègne, the PIVERT Institute (Picardy Plant Science Innovation, Teaching, and Technological Research) will be a research center specializing in innovation, experimentation and training devoted to plant chemistry based on oleaginous biomass (colza, sunflower, etc.).



As such, it will be the No.1 European center focused on transforming oleaginous biomass into renewable chemical substances developed for a wide range of applications: foodstuffs, health products, cosmetics, building materials, etc.

PIVERT will be founded on the principle of industrial ecology: the by-products from certain activities will be used as raw materials for other activities; energy and water will be recycled. This future biomass refinery will make use of local farming and forestry resources in the Picardy region, making it possible to strengthen the local farming and industrial fabric.

For further information about INDEED, please visit the website axelera.org

For further information about PIVERT, please visit the website investissementsdavenir.picardie.fr/Le-projet-P-I-V-E-R-T

***Rhodia** is an international chemical company resolutely committed to sustainable development. As a leader in its businesses, the Group aims to improve its customers' performance through the pursuit of operational excellence and its ability to innovate. Structured around 11 Global Business Units (GBUs) within 5 business clusters, Rhodia is the partner of major players in the automotive, electronics, flavors and fragrances, health, personal and home care markets, consumer goods and industrial markets. The Group employs around 14,000 people worldwide and generated sales of €5.23 billion in 2010. Rhodia is listed on Euronext Paris.*

For more information, please visit our website www.rhodia.com

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