

## Press release

nova-Institut GmbH ([www.nova-institute.eu](http://www.nova-institute.eu))  
Hürth, 28 February 2018



# Succinic acid: New bio-based building block with a huge market and environmental potential?

## nova-Institute has published a new report on markets and trends for succinic acid as building block for the bio-based economy

The U.S. Department of Energy classified succinic acid (SA) as one of the twelve most promising bio-based building blocks for the future – for good reasons. Succinic acid is very versatile, it delivers new sustainable options for a wide range of applications in food, cosmetics, pharmaceutical and the chemical, plastic and textile industry. It is one of the most important chemical building blocks for the bio-based economy – nova-Institute has now published a market and trend report on one of the most important new bio-based building blocks.

Because of its versatility, succinic acid is expected to develop as a platform chemical with a broad range of applications. Possible uses range from high-value niche applications such as personal care products and food additives, to large volume applications such as bio-based polymers like polybutylene succinate (PBS) and other polyesters. It also has strong potential in new applications such as polyester polyols for polyurethanes, alkyd resins, coatings and plasticizers. Moreover, bio-based succinic acid can replace phthalic anhydride and adipic acid in plasticizers and polyurethanes.

Another reason for the fast-growing demand for this bio-based building block is its cost. Succinic acid is cost competitive to conventionally produced alternatives.

The total succinic acid market demand is estimated around 50,000 metric tonnes in 2016 and is expected to reach 94,000 metric tonnes at the end of 2025 with an annual growth rate of 6.5%. Looking at the various applications, the demand in the PBS application in 2016 is estimated at 17,000 tonnes and is expected to reach 44,000 tonnes by the end of 2025 with a growth rate of 10% per year. The expected growth in other sectors is not quite as high but still noteworthy. In the food and pharmaceuticals industry, the demand for succinic acid is estimated at 10,000 tonnes (2016) and is expected to reach 15,000 tonnes by the end of 2025 with a growth rate of 4% per year. Other applications show similar developments. In 2016, the demand in coatings is estimated at 14,000 tonnes and is expected to reach 21,000 tonnes by the end 2025, also with a growth rate of 4% per year. Putting metal coatings, lubricants and personal care together, the succinic acid demand here is estimated at 7,000 tonnes (2016) and is expected to reach about 10,400 tonnes by the end of 2025.

nova-Institute's new trend report "Succinic acid: New bio-based building block with a huge market and environmental potential?" covers all aspects of succinic acid (SA): Overview on existing technologies and corresponding feedstock, the wide range of applications, and the key advantages of succinic acid and PBSX in the different applications. All producers of succinic

acid are presented in detail with their technology platforms and production capacities. The report is 35 pages long and includes 11 figures and tables.

**In summary: All the technology and market data you ever wanted to know about succinic acid are completely covered by the report.**

**For more information, such as the complete table of contents, and to order the report for 600 €, please visit [www.bio-based.eu/reports](http://www.bio-based.eu/reports)**

Responsible for the content under German press law (V.i.S.d.P.):

Dipl.-Phys. Michael Carus (Managing Director)

nova-Institut GmbH, Chemiepark Knapsack, Industriestraße 300, DE-50354 Hürth (Germany)

Internet: [www.nova-institute.eu](http://www.nova-institute.eu) – all services and studies at [www.bio-based.eu](http://www.bio-based.eu)

Email: [contact@nova-institut.de](mailto:contact@nova-institut.de)

Phone: +49 (0) 22 33-48 14 40

nova-Institute is a private and independent institute, founded in 1994; nova offers research and consultancy with a focus on bio-based and CO<sub>2</sub>-based economy in the fields of feedstock, techno-economic evaluation, markets, sustainability, dissemination, B2B communication and policy. Today, nova-Institute has 30 employees and an annual turnover of more than 2.5 million €.