

## Press release

nova-Institut GmbH ([www.nova-institute.eu](http://www.nova-institute.eu))  
Hürth, 26 February 2018



## Diversity of the Bioeconomy: Market leaders meet at the 11th International Conference on Bio-based Materials, 15-16 May 2018 in Cologne (Germany)

The final programme of one of the biggest conferences in the European bioeconomy has been published and presents leading companies from Europe, the US and China. Companies can now apply for the innovation award “Bio-based Material of the Year 2018”

The bioeconomy is developing in many directions: New bio-based chemicals, building blocks, polymers, solvents and fibres for an increasingly wide range of applications are constantly entering the market. No wonder that the International Conference on Bio-based Materials is once again in high demand: 250 participants, mainly from the industry, and 30 exhibitors are expected. “For the conference, we always invite the worldwide leading companies to present their recent activities and innovations – a unique opportunity for the participants to meet the pioneers in the field all at one place”, says Michael Carus, Managing Director of organizer nova-Institute.

The programme features major topics like policy and strategy, first and second generation feedstock, bio-based building blocks and polymers, and environmental solutions. In each session, international experts will cover the latest technology trends, market data and strategies:

AkzoNobel (NL) and BASF (DE) will present their latest bio-based strategies and concepts, and LMC (UK) will report the recent biomass feedstock trends. New pathways to existing and new bio-based building blocks will be presented by Avantium (NL), DuPont (USA), Haldor Topsoe (DK), Reverdia (NL), UPM (FI/DE) and VTT (FI). Doris de Guzman from Tecnon OrbiChem (UK) will give an update on current market trends.

Bio-based polymers and their applications are presented by Arkema (FR), Braskem (BR/NL), Covestro (DE), Eastman (USA), FKuR (DE), Neste (FI/CH), PolymerFront (SE) and Total Corbion (NL).

Borregaard (NO), KaiCell Fibers (FI) and WUR (NL) will present innovations in wood-based chemistry and fibres. Two presentations from University College Cork (IE) and Biopetrolia (SE) show the potential of yeast as platform technology for bio-based chemicals. Finally, four presentations will focus on environmental solutions by bio-based pathways: Jan Ravenstijn Consulting (NL), RWTH Aachen University (DE), University of York (UK), Fraunhofer IFAM (DE) and AIMPLAS (ES).

The established innovation award “Bio-based Material of the Year 2018” will be elected and presented in the framework of the conference. The award will be granted to the young, innovative bio-based chemicals and materials industry for finding suitable applications and markets for bio-based products. Former award recipients include companies like BOLUTIONS (DE/IN), Covestro (DE), Fischerwerke (DE), FKUR (DE), Ecovative Design (USA), Evonik (DE), Hib Trim Part Solutions (DE/CN), Omodo (DE), Orineo (BE), Paptic (FI), QMilch (DE), NewLight Technologies (USA), Phytowelt (DE) and Staedtler Mars (DE). Former winners and their innovations can be found at [www.bio-based-conference.com/media/files/2018/innovation%20award/18-01-29-Innovation-Award-Winners.pdf](http://www.bio-based-conference.com/media/files/2018/innovation%20award/18-01-29-Innovation-Award-Winners.pdf)

More information on how to apply for the award: [www.bio-based-conference.com/award](http://www.bio-based-conference.com/award)

The nova-Institute would like to acknowledge InfraServ GmbH & Co. Knapsack KG (DE) for sponsoring the renowned Innovation Award “Bio-based Material of the Year 2018”. BASF SE (DE) and UPM (FI/DE) are supporting the conference as Silver Sponsors and Neste (Suisse) S.A. (FI/CH) as a Bronze Sponsor.

All information, registration and the conference programme at: [www.bio-based-conference.com](http://www.bio-based-conference.com)

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

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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 €.