



PRESS RELEASE

CIRCA RECEIVES GREEN LIGHT TO SELL NON-TOXIC, BIO-BASED AND BIODEGRADABLE SOLVENT IN EU

YORK, UK – 10 December 2018 – Biotechnology company Circa Group has received authorisation from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to manufacture or import up to 100 tonnes/year of its bio-based solvent Cyrene™ in the European Union, after receiving REACH Annex VIII approval.

A chiral dipolar aprotic solvent, Cyrene™ was developed in conjunction with the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence (GCCE) at the University of York. Cyrene™ is a two step conversion of waste biomass, produced at Circa's large-scale prototype plant, built in partnership with pulp and paper company Norske Skog in Tasmania, Australia.

Solvent regulation is increasingly focused on restricting hazardous chemicals to manage their risk to people animals and the environment. In the EU, widely used solvents such as NMP, DMF and DMAc are on the candidate list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) due to their reprotoxicity. In addition, a new restriction on NMP was adopted earlier this year, meaning that after May 2020, use will be further restricted and it will not be able to be manufactured or used in the EU unless operational conditions are maintained to ensure that exposure to workers is below specified levels.

Cyrene™ provides a safer alternative to these polar aprotic solvents facing regulatory pressure worldwide and is available through Circa's distributors Merck/Sigma and Will&Co.

Tony Duncan, CEO and co-founder of Circa Group, said, "Annex VIII authorisation is a major milestone for Cyrene™ and we are delighted to have been given the go-ahead to sell Cyrene™ in significantly larger quantities in Europe. Safer solvents are urgently required and with Cyrene™, we are also offering a bio-based solution with a unique property set, including viscosity, surface tension and polarities – making it an exciting new prospect for advanced materials. Our next goal is registration of Cyrene™ in the US and other jurisdictions will soon follow."

**About Circa**

Established in 2006, Circa Group converts waste biomass into advanced bio-based chemicals with its proprietary Furacell™ process at its prototype plant in Tasmania – a joint venture with Norske Skog. Circa's developing product portfolio includes biosolvents, flavours and biopolymers, including Cyrene™, an alternative to traditional polar aprotic solvents. By creating renewable chemicals from cellulose, Circa is extracting value from non-food, waste biomass and addressing a gap in the market by providing bio-based, non-toxic alternatives.

www.circagroup.com.au

Media Contact

Bárbara Mendes-Jorge

Communications Consultant

Sustainability Consult

bmj@sustainabilityconsult.com

+32 2 347 11 01

www.sustainabilityconsult.com