

## **METabolic EXplorer news release on 100% bio-based L-methionine program**

### **New step forward with the securing of €1.5m in financial aid from Bpifrance**

**Clermont-Ferrand, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015** – METabolic EXplorer, a biological chemistry company that specialises in developing manufacturing bioprocesses for bio-based compounds used in a wide range of everyday products, including textile fibres, animal feed supplements and resins - is issuing a news release on its L-methionine program.

METabolic EXplorer has today received a financial aid of €1.5 million from Bpifrance to pursue its L-methionine industrial development program.

METabolic EXplorer reminds the four phases under way as part of the roadmap communicated on 23 March aiming at the industrial development of its proprietary technology:

- 1) Nutritional efficiency tests: the objective is to clearly quantify the nutritional, health and economic benefits of the company's natural L-methionine.

The support from Bpifrance, in the form of a repayable advance, will enable the company to:

- produce samples of L-methionine on an industrial pilot scale by adapting its pilot facility at its Saint-Beauzire site;
- assess the nutritional efficiency of its L-methionine samples at a specialised test station (INRA) and in industrial livestock conditions with a panel of livestock breeders for the main target species, i.e. poultry and piglets.

METabolic EXplorer is confirming that the initial results of these tests are expected for the end of 2015.

- 2) Customized engineering: working with a leading partner in industrial engineering, METabolic EXplorer is to launch a study on optimising the size and design of future L-methionine production units.

This phase is now under development following the signature of a memorandum of understanding in April with Technip.

- 3) Global regulatory approvals: wherever strategically relevant, METabolic EXplorer will submit applications for regulatory authorisation so as to optimise the worldwide coverage of its technology. As a reminder, the global L-methionine market is worth over €3.5 billion.

This phase is under way and will be the subject of new press releases as and when authorisations are obtained.

- 4) Licence agreements: discussions aimed at the signature of one or several non-exclusive licences.

In light of the negotiations under way with a number of players in the L-methionine market, METabolic EXplorer is able to confirm that the signature of a limited-exclusivity licence agreement can be envisioned before the end of 2015.

Lastly, in financial terms, the aid from Bpifrance for L-methionine strengthens METabolic EXplorer's financial visibility, following its agreement with SK Chemicals for PDO and with UPM for MPG.

-ENDS-

### **About METabolic EXplorer** - [www.metabolic-explorer.com](http://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 rise in oil prices, so that they can continue their production, in a different, sustainable way.

Based on the tried and tested principle of industrial fermentation, METabolic EXplorer's solutions replace today's petrochemical processes with the use of a wide range of plant-based 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 (textile fibres, plastics, resins, solvents or animal feed supplements).

METabolic EXplorer is currently focusing its alternative processes on the production of three compounds that together have an estimated, annual, end-market value of €7 billion. The company's strategy will be implemented through industrial partnerships in the shape of licenses and joint ventures, as well as own-account production units.

METabolic EXplorer, based in Clermont-Ferrand, France, is listed on NYSE Euronext in Paris (Compartment C, METEX) and is part of the CAC Small index and EnterNext Tech40 label.

*Get free financial information on METabolic EXplorer by registering with:  
[www.metabolic-explorer.com](http://www.metabolic-explorer.com) or [www.actus-finance.com](http://www.actus-finance.com)*

### **About Bpifrance**

**Bpifrance**, a subsidiary of the French state and the Caisse des Dépôts and the entrepreneurs' trusted partner, finances businesses from the seed phase to IPO, through loans, guarantees and equity investments. **Bpifrance** also provides operational services and strong support for innovation, export, and external growth in partnership with Business France and Coface. **Bpifrance** offers to businesses a large range of financing opportunities at each key step of their development, including offers adapted to regional specificities. With its 42 regional offices (90 % of decisions are made locally) **Bpifrance** represents a strategic tool for economic competitiveness dedicated to entrepreneurs. **Bpifrance** acts as a back-up for initiatives driven by the French State and the Regions to tackle 3 goals:

- Contribute to SME's growth
- Preparing tomorrow's competitiveness
- Contributing to the development of a positive entrepreneur ecosystem.

With **Bpifrance**, businesses benefit from a powerful, efficient and close representative, to answer all their needs in terms of financing, innovation and investment.

More info: @ [www.bpifrance.fr](http://www.bpifrance.fr) – <http://investissementsdavenir.bpifrance.fr/> – Follow us: @bpifrance

## **METabolic EXplorer**

### **Media and individual shareholder relations**

#### **ATTITUDE Corporate**

Eric de Lambert

E-mail: [edelambert@attitude-corporate.com](mailto:edelambert@attitude-corporate.com)

Tel.: +33 (0)1 4970 4341 / +33 (0)6 2529 0658

## **Bpifrance**

### **Press contact**

Vanessa Godet

E-mail : [vanessa.godet@bpifrance.fr](mailto:vanessa.godet@bpifrance.fr)

Tel. : 01 41 79 84 33

### **Investor and analyst relations**

#### **ACTUS Finance et Communication**

Jérôme Fabreguettes-Leib

E-mail: [jfl@actus.fr](mailto:jfl@actus.fr)

Tel: +33 (0)1 5367 3678

*This communication includes forward-looking information which is subject to risks and uncertainties. The potential development of the company could be substantially different from that anticipated in this press release because of the various risk factors which are described in the company's Listing Prospectus.*