

## Press release

May 16th, 2006

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### **Sidel: a partner in innovative BioHub™ industry program for new polymers**

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**On April 25, French President Jacques Chirac announced the first six programs selected by France's Agency for Industrial Innovation (All). As a partner in BioHub™, a program intended to make use of agricultural resources through green chemistry, Sidel is helping to research processes, applications and products of tomorrow.**

Producing plastics from cereals. Headed by Roquette Frères, the world's fourth largest producer of starch and a specialist in processing wheat and corn for industrial uses, BioHub™ calls for the construction of a bio-refinery able to process 1.3 million tons of cereal annually into different bio-products. These include monomers and polymers for specialty and commodities markets. Until now, such products had been manufactured from petroleum. Creating these new possibilities will ultimately lead to the manufacture of new materials benefiting markets such as food packaging.

The BioHub™ program aims at developing new avenues for producing chemical products from renewable agricultural sources such as cereals. In this way, the program will help limit the use of fossil fuels and reduce the production of greenhouse gases. With a seven-year timeframe and a 98-million-euro budget (43 million euros financed by the Agency for Industrial Innovation (All) itself), this research program is building on the synergies of chemists, public laboratories, other competitive sectors and manufacturers. Sidel, as a world leader in packages and equipment for packaging liquid foods, will be contributing its expertise in processing materials and developing innovative plastic packages for foods. Ultimately, the goal is to develop new bio-materials in partnership with Roquette Frères, Tergal Fibres and the *Laboratoire de Matériaux Macromoléculaires* at the National Institute of Applied Sciences (INSA) in Lyon.

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