



PRESS RELEASE

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Sectors: Industry / Household Packaging / Green Technologies
Supermarkets / Wholesalers / Distributors /
Small Shops / Grocery Shops

**THE SPHERE GROUP IS EXPANDING ITS COMPOSTABLE BIOPLASTICS ACTIVITY
BY BUYING THE ITALIAN COMPANY FLEXOPACK (Liguria), SPECIALISED IN MANUFACTURING
AND DISTRIBUTING PRODUCTS FOR ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN SUPERMARKETS**

Development in the compostable bioplastics sector is a strategic challenge that the SPHERE group has been pursuing since the 2000s.

SPHERE is in effect ensuring it has the means to begin moving away from traditional markets (petroleum based) towards using renewable resources. It is involved at all stages: in manufacturing granules, transforming, marketing, and in some cases distributing packaging products.

On 27 February 2019, the SPHERE group acquired one of the largest producers of compostable bags in Italy, with a state-of-the art plant facility suited to work with biodegradable and compostable polymers that can be used to offer product lines with optimal mechanical and functional properties which comply with the European environmental regulations.

This purchase thus allows SPHERE to extend its compostable bioplastics business into Italy but also into Europe thanks to FLEXOPACK's geographical location as regards logistics and sea, road or multimodal transport.

The acquisition of FLEXOPACK by the SPHERE group aims to:

- Better meets its customers' needs,
- Export its expertise in the biodegradable and compostable products sector.

"What unites SPHERE and FLEXOPACK is our same entrepreneurial spirit. We are two family companies which understand each other because we have the same DNA. In 2017, we acquired the AEF group. With the arrival of FLEXOPACK into the group, we will develop tremendous and ambitious industrial and commercial synergies which will enable us to grow in Europe", John Persenda stated, President and CEO of the SPHERE group.

About SPHERE

SPHERE is a family-owned French group founded in 1976. It is the leading European company of household packaging and a producer of bioplastic resins.

With 15 production sites in Europe, of which 8 are located in France, the group has an annual production of 150,000 tonnes. Turnover of 600 million euros with more than 1400 employees is forecast for 2019.

SPHERE has grown, in particular through a policy of external growth and the purchase of production sites. The Group is present in three markets: general public, professional and local authorities.

The SPHERE group has full control over all its products which include research, production and sales: refuse bags, fruit and vegetable bags, freezer bags, food-safe films and papers, aluminium trays and foil.

In order to reduce its dependence on oil and reduce atmospheric, terrestrial and aquatic pollution, SPHERE has set itself three goals in its general environmental strategy:

- ✓ Reduce the volume of virgin plastic materials used in its products and replace them with recycled materials;
- ✓ Develop new biodegradable and compostable materials;
- ✓ Using biobased raw materials.

About FLEXOPACK

Flexopack is a family business founded in 1985 by Nicola Trimboli.

With 53 employees, it transforms 11,000 tonnes of biobased raw materials for the supermarkets' market to make the following products:

- Check-out bags
- Fruit and vegetable bags
- Refuse sacks

In 2018, Flexopack recorded turnover of 44 million euros. The company plans to reach 60 million by 2020.

P r e s s C o n t a c t s

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