

**EUREKA! FUND INVESTS IN THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OF  
2 NEW POC (PROOF OF CONCEPT) PROJECTS FROM IPCB  
(CNR) AND UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA**

**[UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 8.00 AM ON 13.12.2023]**

*Eureka! has signed two further innovation agreements with the **CNR's Institute for Polymers, Composites and Biomaterials (IPCB)** and the **University of Bologna** to promote the **technology transfer** of "science-based" innovations developed by Italian universities and research institutes in the field of **advanced materials** and, more generally, materials science and engineering.*

***Reflex** and **Bloxy** are the new Proof of Concept (PoC) initiatives selected for a total investment of €500,000.*

**Milan, 13 December 2023** - Eureka! TT S.r.l., an innovative start-up acting as an investment company on behalf of the "Eureka! Fund I - Technology Transfer", is investing in two new PoC projects. The projects, submitted by research teams from Italian universities and research centres, are funded by Eureka! TT, which monitors their progress and results with a view to their subsequent valorisation through the creation of dedicated spin-off companies.

The two new approved investments, which join seven other PoCs already funded, are **Reflex** project of the **CNR's Institute for Polymers, Composites and Biomaterials (IPCB)** and **Bloxy** project of the **University of Bologna, Department of Chemistry 'Giacomo Ciamician'** and **Department of Industrial Chemistry 'Toso Montanari'**.

"We welcome two multidisciplinary and complementary teams to the Eureka! Fund's portfolio of proof-of-concept investments with innovative and sustainable solutions in advanced packaging," said **Stefano Peroncini, CEO of EUREKA! Venture SGR and Partner of the Eureka! Fund**: "We are pleased to confirm today the validity of our investment thesis in advanced materials, thanks to which we have so far invested in 21 deeptech projects (12 companies and 9 PoC projects)".

**Reflex** aims to develop an adhesive for laminated films that has a high gas barrier and allows easy delamination and separation of the layers to facilitate recycling of the multilayer film. Multilayer packaging is made by using different materials to form the structure of a package. Plastic used as a mono-material is fully recyclable, the separation processes are simple and well established; therefore, mono-material packaging is efficiently recycled and achieves very high recycling rates. In contrast, the ability to easily recycle multi-material multi-layer films is still a particularly complex challenge. In this context, Reflex's goal is to develop an adhesive that can both separate the different layers by delamination, allowing them to be recycled individually in a circular economy, and reduce oxygen permeability by creating an excellent gas barrier that prevents the packaged product from deteriorating and ensures its quality. Reflex's technology is therefore potentially suitable for packaging applications not only in the food sector, but also in the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries.

*"The material proposed in PoC Reflex addresses an issue that is currently the focus of much attention from institutions, the supply chain and consumers," says **Giovanna G. Buonocore, PoC Reflex manager**. "The issue of environmental sustainability has led packaging manufacturers and users to re-evaluate certain choices with a view to reducing the impact. The adhesive proposed in the Reflex PoC can be of particular interest both to companies operating in the reference sector, because it can bring significant competitive advantages, and to consumers, who are increasingly aware and attentive to the issue of 'end of life' of packaging".*

The **Bloxy** project team has developed and patented an active, sustainable material that, when used as a packaging material, protects oxygen-sensitive foods and beverages from oxidative processes, preserving product quality for much longer than currently used packaging materials. The material developed by Bloxy is environmentally friendly and sustainable. The material is applied as a thin film between two thin packaging films and acts as an active oxygen barrier. The technology developed by Bloxy will be used during the PoC project for food packaging applications, but also has great potential for the storage of cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

*"Packaging is undergoing a huge revolution in order to reduce food waste and packaging waste and to provide high quality food at reasonable costs. We are convinced that we are making a fundamental contribution to this development, by moving the manufacture and testing of our material from the laboratory to the industrial scale."* says **Andreas Lesch, PI of Bloxy project and associate professor at the University of Bologna**. *"This PoC project is a great opportunity to increase the TRL level of our invention and to build and expand the industrial network of potential users of our invention thanks to the support of Eureka!"* adds **Francesco Zerbetto, member of Bloxy team and full professor at the University of Bologna**.

*"We are continuing our efforts to promote the results of Italian scientific research and to define the best valorisation paths. This time the protagonists are two teams with whom we intend to develop solutions, also integrated, capable of responding to one of the main challenges of food packaging: better food preservation,"* comments **Anna Amati, Partner who led the investment for Eureka! Fund investment**.

Eureka! has been assisted by the Law Firm "L&B Partners Avvocati Associati". In particular, by Valentina Bonomo - Partner and Elena Ronda - Managing Associate who covered the intellectual property and technology transfer matters, and by Davide Peloso - Partner who dealt with the corporate aspects of the contractual set.

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#### **EUREKA! Venture SGR**

EUREKA Venture is an independent Venture Capital company authorized by the Bank of Italy. It is focused on deeptech investments, i.e. deep science and digital tech investments. The company manages € 100M: its first Alternative Investment Fund, "Eureka! Fund I - Technology Transfer", was launched in July 2020 and invests in PoCs, spin-offs, startups, and companies aimed at enhancing the results of Italian scientific research activity in the field of Advanced Materials and, more generally, of Materials Science and Engineering. The second Fund, BlackSheep Fund, launched in August 2021, invests in digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data applied to the MadTech (Marketing & Advertising) sector. [www.eurekaventure.it](http://www.eurekaventure.it)

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#### **CNR**

The National Research Council (CNR) is a national public research body with multidisciplinary skills, supervised by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR). Founded in 1923, it has the task of carrying out scientific research projects in the main sectors of knowledge and applying the results for the development of the country, promoting innovation, the internationalization of the "research system" and promoting the competitiveness of the industrial system. The activities are carried out through a wealth of human resources of approximately 8,500 employees operating throughout the national territory, of which over 7,000 are engaged in research and research support activities. The scientific network is made up of 88 Research Institutes and 7 macro-thematic areas Departments. An important contribution comes from collaborations, including international ones, with researchers from universities and companies. [www.cnr.it](http://www.cnr.it)

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#### **University of Bologna**

The University of Bologna has very ancient origins: founded in 1088 it is considered the first University of the Western World. The presence throughout the territory, the international outlook, the research, the programme catalogue, the information services: in these and many other areas, today the University of Bologna paves the way for innovation. It counts over 87,000 students, 260 degree programmes, 107 of which are international, distributed over 5 Campus: Bologna, Cesena, Forlì, Ravenna and Rimini. It has 31 Departments, 51 PhD courses, 59 Postgraduate Schools, 83 first and second level Masters and an average of 11,000 research products per year. The University of Bologna fosters and supports the culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and knowledge valorisation, competences, creative ideas and encouraging innovative businesses. [www.unibo.it/it](http://www.unibo.it/it)

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