

## Joint Press Release

### VERBIO to commence EU-funded project for the production of biofuel from straw

Leipzig, January 23, 2014 – In December 2012, the European Commission committed to provide funding in the total amount of up to €22.3 million for the innovative VERBIO technology for the production of biomethane entirely on the basis of straw. This funding is to be granted in the context of the European Union's NER300 initiative to provide funding for demonstration projects for innovative technology with respect to renewable energy over a 5-year period. The European Commission's decision underscores its intention to provide greater funding for the use of particularly sustainable types of biofuel in the future and acknowledges VERBIO's pioneering achievements in producing biomethane entirely from straw. The Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (German Agency for Renewable Resources – FNR) will provide administrative support for this EU project, which has been designated "DE BIOh Verbiostraw", on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

The project has now officially been launched, following the execution of the grant agreement by Dr. Andreas Schütte, Managing Director of the FNR, and Dr. Oliver Lütke, CEO of VERBIO AG. It is intended that biomethane produced entirely from straw will be fed-in at the VERBIO plant in Schwedt in the second half of 2014.

Claus Sauter, CEO of VERBIO AG, emphasizes that, "This funding is a great honor for VERBIO and an incentive to increase the share of biomethane in the biofuel market. Biomethane is a real all-rounder amongst the renewable sources of energy; it is easy to store and can therefore be deployed at all times irrespective of its point of origin."

Dr. Andreas Schütte, managing director of the FNR, points out that, "Theoretically, Germany could use up to 10 million tons of the straw produced each year for energy production without compromising soil fertility, and thus significantly and economically increase the proportion of energy sources represented by renewable energy. The processing of straw into biomethane provides an attractive solution in this regard and does not in any way compete with the production of foodstuffs or animal feed."

Biomethane as a form of biofuel already plays a role in powering climate-friendly mobility in Germany, and this role is likely to increase. Funding from the European Commission plays an important part in continuing this development.

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Source: VERBIO AG, VERBIO straw facility, Schwedt

Released for publication free of charge subject where VERBIO AG is cited as the source.

### Information about VERBIO Vereinigte BioEnergie AG (VERBIO)

VERBIO is one of the leading independent producers and providers of biofuels and is at the same time the only large industrial producer of biodiesel, bioethanol and biomethane in Europe. The production capacity is at a rounded 450,000 tons biodiesel, 270,000 tons bioethanol and 480 gigawatt hours biomethane per year. In the production of its highly efficient fuels, the company uses energy-saving production processes and innovative technologies of own development. The biofuels of VERBIO achieve CO<sub>2</sub> reductions of up to 90 percent compared to petrol or diesel. VERBIO delivers its products directly to the European mineral oil conglomerates, mineral oil trading companies, independent gas stations, freight forwarders, municipal utilities and vehicle fleets. In addition, VERBIO markets high-quality pharma glycerine for the consumer goods and cosmetics industry (glycerine is gained as a by-product in biodiesel production). Within the group, VERBIO Vereinigte BioEnergie AG acts as Management Holding. The operative business is exercised by the subsidiaries, VERBIO Diesel Bitterfeld GmbH & Co. KG, VERBIO Diesel Schwedt GmbH & Co. KG, VERBIO Ethanol Schwedt GmbH & Co. KG, VERBIO Ethanol Zörbig GmbH & Co. KG and Märka GmbH. The VERBIO stock (ISIN DE000A0JL9W6 / WKN A0JL9W) has been listed at the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt stock exchange since October 2006.

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### **Information about Fachagentur Nachhaltende Rohstoffe (Agency for Renewable Resources, FNR)**

Fachagentur Nachhaltende Rohstoffe (Agency for Renewable Resources, FNR) was founded in 1993 by the German Federal Government with the aim to coordinate research, development and demonstration projects in the area of renewable resources. The framework of FNR's activities is the funding programme "Renewable Resources" of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. All funding for this programme comes from the federal budget. In addition, FNR manages the part of the Energy and Climate Fund (EKF) which is earmarked for bioenergy-related R&D. FNR's main task is the scientific and administrative support of research projects on the use of renewable resources. However, the agency also collects up-to-date knowledge on this topic and makes it available to scientists, decision-makers in politics and industry, media representatives and the interested public. Apart from own publications, FNR also communicates the potential renewable resources offer via trade fairs and exhibitions. Last but not least, FNR coordinates German activities related to renewable resources at the European level, e.g. through participation in EC-funded projects. The project management activities of FNR are certified according to ISO 9001 standard.

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