
Press Release

Mint-fresh Innovations from the Rhine Valley

plantdustrial – linking plant and industrial biotechnology

Nettetal-Cologne, Germany, October 19th 2007

The 3rd prize in the Research & Innovation Contest arranged by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce „Mittlerer Niederrhein“ awards Phytowelt for new ideas and products in the field of green biotechnology. The award, handed over on occasion of a grand gala by the President of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Wilhelm Werhahn and by the Northrhine-Westphalian Minister for Innovation, Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, emphasizes the increasing importance of innovative concepts and products of agbiotechnological background for the country's economy.

The jury acknowledged the success of Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH especially for creating numerous new mint lines by applying its core technologies, the somatic hybridization, a method to optimize plants avoiding genetic engineering. In this exemplary research project, which was supported by the „Fachagentur für Nachwachsende Rohstoffe“ (FNR, Agency for Renewable Resources – www.fnr.de), Phytowelt demonstrated that the methods applied in this project are simplifying the access to renewably raw materials on the base of plant products for the chemical industry and are increasing the yield of desired compounds in the biomass.

*“The Mint-Project is living prove that our concept **“phytoplus – added value in and from plants”** can generate a multitude of new products ready for the market in the shor-test possible amount of time,.”* comments Dr. Peter Welters, CEO of Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH the jury's decision. Success proves him right, for in a new FNR supported project for breeding new poplar varieties (see press release from Phytowelt, May 31st 2007) the same techniques will be applied. *“Our modular product portfolio **comprizes our methodologies phytochemistry, phyto diversity, phytoengineering and phytomining** and is a totally new approach to contract research in this area. It is not only a considerably faster approach but it also delivers exceptionally interesting results.“*

Based on the techniques mentioned above, Phytowelt develops also new concepts for the sustainable production and processing of raw materials for polymer chemistry. As founding member and partner in the new Northrhine-Westphalian cluster CLIB2021 Phytowelt GreenTechnologies GmbH aims at setting the switches for a more environment friendly and more sustainable industry.

Related links:

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies' Menta Project (en): www.phytowelt.com/en/04mentha.html

Press release about new poplar varieties: http://www.phytowelt.com/en/presse/press2info_meld14.html

Presse release about Cluster 2021: http://www.phytowelt.com/en/presse/press2info_meld15.html

Information about Research and Innovation award: www.ihk-innovationspreis.de

Movie clip relating to award: www.phytowelt.com/de/presse_5pub2.html

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Phytowelt GreenTechnologies

is a worldwide company whose core business is agricultural science and plant biotechnology.

Our tissue culture and genetic engineering know-how assists our clients' plant improvement R&D. For example, we can modify the amount, the quality or the composition of different compounds in a plant for sustained production of renewable primary products or alter other features like the morphology or the colour of flowers. Especially, our core competence - **somatic hybridisation** - is used to generate improved plants for conventional variety registration.

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies has mastered key biotechnologies such as *in vitro* cultivation of plants, cell fusion (somatic hybridisation), cryopreservation, transformation technologies as well as plant analysis and molecular marker assisted breeding (**ISTR**).

Our ability to **link plant science and industrial biotechnology** is reflected in our newly created department "Plant-dustrial Services" which supports the chemical industry. For example, through "**phytomining**", we identify, isolate and express genes encoding plant enzymes to be introduced into microorganisms to provide new enzyme activities for fermentation processes.

Another key capability involves the **transfer of knowledge and technology**. We provide plant biotechnology studies and scientific consultancy, assist our clients in finding appropriate partners for their projects and, as an external partner, offer services in project coordination and in the organisation of plant biotechnology congresses and exhibitions.

Phytowelt GreenTechnologies was founded in January 2006 as a merger of **Phytowelt GmbH**, and **GreenTec GmbH**, which originated as a spin-off company from the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne in 1997. The CEO is Dr. Peter Welters. The head office is based in Nettetal, whereas the R&D facilities are located in the premises of the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne. Shareholders of Phytowelt GreenTechnologies are the directors and leading scientists of the institute.

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