



PRESS RELEASE

CIRCA GROUP'S COMMERCIAL DEMONSTRATION PLANT COMES ONLINE AND PRODUCES FIRST BATCH OF 99% PURE CYRENE®

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA – 12 February 2019 – Biotechnology company Circa Group has announced that its FC5 commercial demonstration plant is now online, paving the way to a regular supply of Circa's bio-based solvent Cyrene®.

A joint venture between Circa and Norwegian pulp and paper company Norske Skog, the FC5 plant is located in Tasmania, Australia. Now successfully commissioned and operated end-to-end, FC5 is starting to produce a steady stream of 99% pure Cyrene®, a non-toxic solvent made from certified and renewable cellulose waste.

Cyrene® is an alternative to traditional dipolar aprotic solvents, which are used in large volumes – over one million tonnes per year – and are under intense regulatory pressure due to their toxicity. In the EU, Circa is a partner on BBI project ReSolve, which specifically aims to replace NMP – a fossil-derived solvent which has been categorised as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) under European REACH regulation. Safer solvents are urgently required and Cyrene® is a bio-based solution with a unique property set, including viscosity, surface tension and polarities. Cyrene® is sold worldwide through Circa's distributors Merck/Sigma Aldrich and Will&Co.

Tony Duncan, CEO and co-founder of Circa Group, said, "Scaling up new technologies is always a challenge. After years of hard work, we're delighted that FC5 is now online as this allows us to provide Cyrene® reliably and in larger quantities for product testing worldwide, particularly in Europe. Circa is now focused on supporting the development of FC6 – a larger, commercial-scale plant."



About Circa

Established in 2006, Circa Group converts waste biomass into advanced bio-based chemicals with its proprietary Furacell™ process at its prototype plant in Tasmania – a joint venture with Norske Skog. Circa's developing product portfolio includes biosolvents, flavours and biopolymers, including Cyrene™, an alternative to traditional polar aprotic solvents. By creating renewable chemicals from cellulose, Circa is extracting value from non-food, waste biomass and addressing a gap in the market by providing bio-based, non-toxic alternatives.

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