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# PRESS RELEASE

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## First Industrial Production For Renewable 5-HMF

**Muttenz, Switzerland – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2014** – Commercial-scale production of the high-purity renewable platform chemical, 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF) has started at the Biochem-1 facility operated by AVA Biochem in Muttenz, Switzerland. The Swiss-made 5-HMF is made from renewable feedstock and Biochem-1 will, in a first phase, produce up to 20 tonnes 5-HMF per year.

AVA Biochem offers a sustainable new material for a wide range of applications and sectors, from chemicals and plastics to food and pharmaceuticals. A subsidiary of AVA-CO<sub>2</sub>, AVA Biochem's new, innovative production process for 5-HMF is based on a modified version of the hydrothermal carbonisation (HTC) process. Various levels of purity - up to 99.9% - are available. Commercial-scale quantities are now available for delivery.

In 2010, 5-HMF was identified as one of the top 10 most valuable platform chemicals by the United States Department of Energy. It is intensively being used in the research and development of innovative new materials and products, such as for polymers, resins and additives.

On announcing the start of commercial-scale production, AVA Biochem's CEO Jan Vyskocil said, "AVA Biochem's breakthrough HTC technology is opening new markets for renewable 5-HMF. I am convinced that this will push us to the forefront of the bio-based chemical industry."

### About AVA Biochem

AVA Biochem BSL AG (AVA Biochem) operates the world's first industrial plant for the production of renewable 5-Hydroxymethylfurfural (5-HMF, CAS 67-47-0). A subsidiary of AVA-CO<sub>2</sub> Schweiz AG, Zug, AVA Biochem has a game-changing production process for 5-HMF production. Biochem-1, the first industrial plant for the production of 5-HMF from biomass is located on Clariant's Infrapark in Muttenz, Switzerland where AVA Biochem is headquartered. AVA Biochem delivers high-purity 5-HMF to industrial and research customers around the globe. [www.ava-biochem.com](http://www.ava-biochem.com)

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High-resolution images are available in the Downloads section at [www.ava-biochem.com](http://www.ava-biochem.com).