

# Press Release

## Purac joins BE-Basic consortium for bio-based economy

Diemen, 18 February 2010

**CSM's subsidiary Purac signed today a research contract to participate in the research program of BE-Basic; a consortium of international knowledge institutes, the Dutch government, global industry and financial partners. The research program aims at developing an economy based on renewable resources.. Purac is a partner in this consortium as it develops new sustainable building blocks for the chemical industry.**

Purac already has some important initiatives in this area such as Lactides for Poly Lactic Acid (PLA) and Succinic Acid. This initiative will also speed up Purac's program to use alternative biomass such as agricultural byproducts instead of sugars, glucose and tapioca starch as substrates for its fermentation processes.

The Technical University of Delft, The Netherlands is coordinating the initiative that includes, among others, an R&D budget exceeding 120 million Euro, of which 60 million Euro is made available by the Dutch Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs. In this program, BE-Basic also plans for a multi-purpose bioprocess facility for scale-up research, suited to both current and future technologies.

Gerard Hoetmer, CEO of CSM comments: "The participation of Purac in the BE-Basic program will boost the program of Purac in the area of sustainable chemistry. This program gives us a considerable opportunity together with our partners, to grow the market for bio-based chemicals and contribute to a sustainable economy."

### **About BE-Basic**

BE-Basic is a research consortium, coordinated by the Technical University of Delft The Netherlands, supporting the development of clean, robust and competitive bio-based chemicals, materials and energy industries, including responsible monitoring and control of healthy soil and water environments, on the basis of advanced genomics technologies and bioprocess engineering. BE-Basic unifies the capabilities of leading Dutch and international universities, knowledge institutes and advanced industries of various scales.

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### **Background information**

CSM is the largest supplier of bakery products worldwide and is global market leader in lactic acid and lactic acid derivatives. CSM produces and distributes an extensive range of bakery products and ingredients for artisan and industrial bakeries and for in-store and out-of-home markets. It also produces a variety of lactic acid applications for the food, chemical and pharmaceutical industries. CSM operates in business-to-business markets throughout Europe, North America, South America, and Asia, generates annual sales of € 2.5 billion and has a workforce of around 8,700 employees in 23 countries. CSM is listed on Euronext Amsterdam. For more information: [www.csmglobal.com](http://www.csmglobal.com).