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SIG ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR RESEARCH AT LEADING INSTITUTION

Partnering to support breakthrough research on sustainable materials

SIG announced today that it will fund breakthrough research into more sustainable materials at EPFL, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, Switzerland, as part of a joint initiative with Nestlé, Logitech and other industry partners to tackle environmental challenges associated with plastic waste.

„Sustainable product innovation is at the heart of SIG’s commitment to go Way Beyond Good for society and the environment,” said Klaus Andresen, Senior Vice President Global Technology at SIG. “We already offer

customers some of the most sustainable aseptic packaging solutions on the market. But we want to go further and that's why we're partnering with Nestlé and others to drive progress towards the sustainable packaging materials of the future."

Driving research into sustainable materials

Together, the corporate partners have committed to provide 5 million Swiss francs over 10 years. The funding will support a new Chair for Sustainable Materials research within EPFL's Institute of Materials.

The Chair, to be appointed as a tenure-track Assistant Professor, will be responsible for developing and implementing a new research programme on sustainable materials at EPFL, one of Europe's most vibrant and cosmopolitan science and technology institutions.

Research areas of interest will address critical questions such as the overall environmental impact of materials, the exploration of bio-based, bio-degradable and recyclable materials, including high-performance paper-based barrier materials, that could help to address environmental concerns about plastic packaging.

Stefan Palzer, Nestlé Chief Technology Officer said: "Tackling plastic pollution is a top priority for Nestlé. We continue our efforts to pilot novel approaches for re-use packaging, while also evaluating new recycling technologies and sustainable packaging materials. The development of high performing, environmentally friendly materials requires a fundamental understanding of material structures and properties, which is why we are collaborating with our innovation partners to invest in sustainable material research at EPFL."

Supporting customers with sustainable solutions

Beverage cartons are fully recyclable and have a much lower environmental footprint than many alternatives for long-life food and beverages such as milk, juice or soups. They are made mainly from renewable paperboard, but small amounts of polymers and aluminium foil are usually needed as barrier layers to contain and protect liquid food products, and for caps and closures.

SIG already offers an innovative aluminium-free aseptic packaging for dairy products, known as combibloc EcoPlus, and its **SIGNATURE PACK** solution uses a mass balance approach to link the polymers used in the carton to 100% renewable, forest-based feedstock. The company is now working to create an aseptic pack made out of 100% renewable materials – without mass balancing or aluminium – that can be used for a range of products, including juices that are more sensitive to light and oxygen.

Supporting research into more sustainable, high-performance barrier materials will help SIG drive progress towards this goal as it works in partnership with customers to bring food products to consumers around the world in a safe, sustainable and affordable way.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SIG'S WAY BEYOND GOOD COMMITMENT:

<https://www.sig.biz/en/responsibility/way-beyond-good>

About SIG

SIG is a leading systems and solutions provider for aseptic packaging. We work in partnership with our customers to bring food and beverage products to consumers around the world in a safe, sustainable and affordable way. Our unique technology and outstanding innovation capacity enable us to provide our customers with end-to-end solutions for differentiated products, smarter factories and connected packs, all to address the ever-changing needs of consumers.

Founded 1853, SIG is headquartered in Neuhausen, Switzerland. The skills and experience of our approximately 5,500 employees worldwide enable us to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of our customers in over 60 countries. In 2019, SIG produced 38 billion carton packs and generated €1.8 billion in revenue. For more information, visit www.sig.biz

PICTURE CAPTION:

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Photo: EPFL/SIG

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