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Metabolix To Showcase Advances In PHA Performance Modifiers For PLA

Metabolix Develops New PHA Biopolymer Modifiers to Improve Performance of PLA While Retaining Clarity, Biobased Properties and Compostability; Developments to be Presented at Innovation Takes Root 2014

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 18, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Metabolix, Inc. (NASDAQ: MBLX), an innovation-driven performance biomaterials company delivering sustainable solutions to the plastics, chemicals and energy industries, today announced recent advancements in the development of the Company's PHA (polyhydroxyalkanoate) biopolymer technology. Rubber modifiers are introduced for improving the performance of PLA (polylactide) biopolymers. Metabolix Vice President, Biopolymers, Bob Engle will present these developments at the [Innovation Takes Root 2014](#) Conference, taking place February 17 - 19 in Orlando, Florida.

(Logo: <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20140218/NE65695LOGO>)

Metabolix has developed new amorphous PHA biopolymers with the physical characteristics of a low Tg rubber. These new rubber modifiers have been shown to improve the ductility and flexibility of PLA, while also retaining clarity and compostability. In PLA extrusion applications, Mirel™ rubber modifiers lower stiffness and brittleness and improve tactile feel. In PLA film applications these rubber modifiers also increase tear resistance. PHA and PLA biopolymers are both biobased and compostable, making them attractive for sustainability and performance-driven business opportunities.

"Metabolix continues to make great progress in the use of our core PHA technology as a performance-driven modifier in applications where improved performance of both biobased and conventional polymers such as PLA and PVC is desired," said Joseph Shaulson, president and CEO of Metabolix. "In this case, Mirel rubber modifiers have the potential to expand the application space for PLA which may lead to new business opportunities."

"These innovative Mirel rubber modifiers are an exciting extension to the Metabolix PHA technology platform. Their capability to modify and improve PLA demonstrates performance that is comparable to traditional non-renewable rubber modifiers without compromising the renewable nature of PLA or key features of clarity and compostability," added Bob Engle, vice president, biopolymers of Metabolix. "We look forward to presenting our new biobased rubber modifiers for PLA at Innovation Takes Root."

"Overview of Innovation Takes Root 2014 Panel Presentation:

"Metabolix Launches PHA Modifiers for PLA in 2014," part of "Broadening the Application Space for Ingeo Films" Panel

Tuesday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m., Grand Ballroom 1-2

Engle will present data showcasing Metabolix's extended range of PHA compositions into the amorphous regime to offer a unique way to compound PLA. The Metabolix bio-elastomers modify PLA, improving physical properties without compromising clarity. In PLA films, Metabolix modifiers lower the modulus and improve tear resistance. In extruded and molded parts, the PHA modifiers improve ductility and reduce brittle fracturing. Distinctly high bio-content and biodegradability set Metabolix PHA modifiers apart from traditional non-renewable counterparts.

About Metabolix

Metabolix, Inc. is an advanced biomaterials company that is well positioned to address growing market demand for sustainable solutions in the plastics, chemicals and energy industries. The Company is developing and commercializing a family of high-performance biopolymers targeted to the markets for film and bag applications, performance additives and functional biodegradation. Metabolix's biobased chemicals platform is focused on high-value segments and applications using its novel "FAST" recovery process. The Company also is developing a platform for co-producing plastics, chemicals and energy from crops. Metabolix has established an industry-leading intellectual property portfolio that, together with its knowledge of advanced industrial practice, provides a foundation for industry collaborations.

For more information, please visit www.metabolix.com.

Safe Harbor for Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The forward-looking statements in this release do not constitute guarantees of future performance. Investors are cautioned that statements in this press release which are not strictly historical statements, including, without limitation, statements regarding expectations for market demand and Metabolix product development, constitute forward-looking statements. Such forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated, including the risks and uncertainties detailed in Metabolix's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Metabolix assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking information contained in this press release or with respect to the announcements described herein.

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