



## PRESS NOTE

Sosnowiec, 15 November 2022

### **SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR: THE INNOVATIVE MADE IN ITALY PROJECT APPRECIATED IN EUROPE AS WELL**

In Poland, the automotive supply chain, consisting of the SAPA group, Stellantis Italy, the Fiat Research Center, and the Sòphia group, contributes to environmental improvement.

The SAPA Group, an Italian supplier of automotive components for major global car manufacturers, will implement the latest type of bio-components at the Sosnowiec facility in Poland to help reduce vehicle weight and thus the environmental impact of the automotive industry.

This achievement is the result of the completion of the European project Life Biobcompo, involving the SAPA Group, FCA Italy, and the Fiat Research Center (Stellantis Group), and the Sòphia Group.

The biocomposites for the production of automotive components for Stellantis Group cars will utilize raw materials from renewable sources and will enable the reduction of component weight. This, in turn, will reduce the overall weight of the car and therefore CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. This innovative technology is the result of the completion of the European LIFE BIOBCOMPO project, which developed new formulations of biocomposite materials based on plastic and cellulose fibers. These allow for a weight reduction of a single component by up to 8% compared to plastics commonly used in current production.

SAPA utilized its consolidated know-how in the project, based on the One-Shot® method - currently the fastest and most sustainable patented method globally for producing automotive components.

"The LifeBiobcompo project aims to have a positive impact on the weight of vehicle components, thus reducing the total weight of the vehicle, with a significant reduction in overall carbon dioxide emissions - states Alfonso Molaro, application engineer of the R&D department at SAPA - During the project, carried out with the help of the



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community financial instrument LIFE17 for climate change mitigation, low-density biocomposite formulations were developed and optimized to replace materials traditionally used in automotive components. The automotive components produced with the new biocomposites have passed all qualification tests and will be installed in Stellantis Group cars. An example is the dashboard of the Lancia Ypsilon, which will be made with a high-performance thermoplastic biocomposite, consisting of 20% by weight of cellulose fiber and 10% by weight of fiberglass," adds Molaro.

"It is a great source of pride that SAPA Polska is leading this project, so important for environmental protection and for the automotive industry in Silesia, which represents a real feather in the cap for Poland. We are extremely pleased to host, at our Sosnowiec plant, Krzysztof Wójcik from CINEA (European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency) and external monitor Zbigniew M. Karaczun for the final monitoring visit of the LifeBiobcompo project," says Sylwia Janas, CEO of SAPA Polska.

"Since the beginning of our existence, the automotive industry has been at the heart of the SEZ of Katowice. Thanks to this, we can say with certainty that Upper Silesia has become the automotive heart of Poland in terms of car and component production for this industry. In this context, we are very proud that our investors, like the SAPA Group, not only continually develop their technologies but also consider them in the context of ESG projects. An example is the Life Biobcompo project, which will reduce the carbon footprint and thus produce pieces created with greater respect for the environment. We sincerely congratulate these initiatives and, of course, will support them in the context of the projects we will develop within the KSSE," states Dr. Janusz Michałek, President of the Special Economic Zone of Katowice S.A.

#### **EVENT PHOTOS:**

[HTTPS://WWW.DROPBOX.COM/SH/0AUS1Q4WOY87FCX/AABOJDK1OZJG60T-MBMALIPPA?DL=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0AUS1Q4WOY87FCX/AABOJDK1OZJG60T-MBMALIPPA?DL=0)

#### **ABOUT SAPA GROUP**

SAPA, founded in 1974 by Angelo Affinita, is an Italian industrial group specializing in the production of cutting-edge components for the automotive industry.

It is a direct supplier to well-known automotive companies such as Volkswagen, FCA, CNH, Iveco, VW, BMW, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Rolls Royce, Porsche, Audi, Skoda, Seat.

The group operates eight plants in Italy, Europe, and Asia, employing over 1,700 people.



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With a turnover of approximately 250 million euros in 2021, the company produces over 61 million car components annually, including interiors, bodywork, and engine compartment. Focused on innovation since its inception, the SAPA Group invests 4.5% of its annual turnover in research and development.

## Website

<https://sapagroup.net/>

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