

Siclaé acquires Chamtor and a stake in ARD to take position on the starch-glucose production and green chemistry markets.

Reims, 15th October 2009 – Siclaé has just acquired 100% of Chamtor's capital from the cooperatives Champagne Céréales, Société Coopérative Agricole de la Champagne et Société Coopérative Agricole de Sézanne, and 51% of ARD (Agro Industrie Recherches et Développements), through the reorganization of this research centre's capital.

This double operation is highly strategic. It enables Siclaé not only to take position on the growing markets of starch-glucose production and green chemistry, but also to acquire a cutting-edge agro-industrial research centre.

Chamtor's activity involves the production of starch, glucose, and protein derivatives. Its main markets are human and animal food, chemistry, pharmacy, cosmetics, and paper production.

The company has a factory located in the heart of the Champagne region, in Bazancourt. It has 200 employees, a turnover of 136 million Euros (2008/09 accounting year), and a processing capacity of 400,000 tonnes of wheat per year. Over the last few years, it has widened its scope of activity to include plant chemistry, and has been involved in, among others, bioethanol (Cristanol) and bio-based succinic acid production projects carried out by ARD at Biodémo, its open demonstration centre.

ARD is one of the most dynamic and innovative agro-industrial research centres in France, and is one of the key players of the globally-oriented competitiveness cluster "Industries et Agro-Ressources", and a reference for the industry in Europe. Its fields of activity are plant fractionation, white biotechnology (biofuels, biopolymers, etc.) green chemistry (detergents, emulsifiers, plasticizers, and biodegradable solvents, etc.), and agro-materials (plant resins, green polyesters, etc.).

The centre is located in the Marne *département*, in Pomacle. It has 25 years' experience, a team of 80 people, and portfolio of nearly 50 patents. Its close ties with major institutes, like the CEA, the CNRS, the INRA, and the INSERM, enable it to take part in ambitious international research programmes while working with the laboratories of top engineering schools. Its latest project (Biodémo) is currently being prepared for the finalisation of the production of bio-based succinic acid, the key molecule of green chemistry.

Profile

Siclaé originated from the desire of five cooperatives from the North-East of France - Champagne Céréales, Nouricia, EMC2, Société Coopérative Agricole de la Champagne, and Société Coopérative Agricole de Sézanne – to bring together their interests in the field of bio-based processing within one structure, and to thus create an international group, with regional roots, focused on large-scale farming crops.

It is a holding company at the head of a group of agro-industrial companies, each focused on a specific industry, most of which are leaders in their field. Its main subsidiaries are Malteurop, the world number-one in malt production; NutriXo, one of the biggest millers in Europe; Chamtor, one of France's top starch-glucose processing specialists; Champagne Maïs, one of the biggest corn processors in Europe; Nestal, a leading animal nutrition group in Eastern France; and ARD, a reference in agro-industrial research in France and the rest of Europe.

As well as these subsidiaries, Siclaé also has stakes in Ineos Champlor and LMT Oléagineux, two recently-created companies, specialising in bioenergies.

Key figures

*In the 2008/2009 accounting year, Siclaé recorded a turnover of **1.498 Billion Euros**, an operating profit of **69.4 million Euros**, a net profit of **21.1 million Euros**, and a cash-flow of **55 million Euros**.*