

## Corporate Communication

### EcoXtract® receives green light from EFSA

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has reported that the biobased solvent behind the EcoXtract® technology (methyloxolane) is safe for producing food. This paves the way for the sustainable use of EcoXtract® technology in the food industry.

This assessment comes as we obtain confirmed results in the industrial-scale use of this alternative extraction solution to hexane.

#### Dunkerque, Wednesday 16 March 2022

EcoXtract® technology makes our food safer and more climate-friendly. It uses a 100% bio-based molecule (methyloxolane) to extract lipid fractions from plant material to produce vegetable oils, protein-rich residues, and natural ingredients. After reviewing the methyloxolane dossier, an EFSA expert panel issued a [positive opinion](#) on the use of methyloxolane in the food industry.

**"To consolidate our strategy and be at the forefront of the decarbonisation of food production, this positive opinion issued by the European reference body for food safety offers an alternative to hexane and an option to eliminate petrochemical residues throughout the food chain. This is a first in over half a century for this industry"** comments Laurence Jacques, Managing Director.

The EFSA's assessment is very timely as we learn more about the up-scaling of the technology in the European Union-funded EcoXtract project.<sup>1</sup> We now know from these pioneering industrial investigations that the solvent is efficient for industrial scale food uses. The process performs well with very high yields of oil. **"These positive results now make it possible to consider the transposition of the technology to larger oilseed processing plants"** says Patrick Carré, oilseeds crushing expert from Terres Inovia. Our process engineering teams are continuing impact studies on industrial sites willing to adopt the solution in the coming months. This team has been strengthened recently with the arrival of new experts and is now operational to support the conversion of existing extraction units or the design of greenfield projects.

Furthermore, a growing number of companies are now offering custom extraction services using EcoXtract® technology that can help players in the food, animal nutrition, cosmetics, and nutraceutical sectors to launch new product developments or demonstrate an extraction process at industrial level.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ecoextract.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/PR-The-European-Union-boosts-innovation-in-the-plant-protein-and-oil-sectors-with-support-for-EcoXtract%C2%AE-from-Horizon-2020.pdf>



### **About EcoXtract®**

EcoXtract® is a technological solution based on a 100% plant-based, recyclable, and degradable bio-based extraction solvent – methyloxolane. This has a powerful combination of environmental and performance features. EcoXtract® has huge potential in the extraction of vegetable oils, plant-based proteins and natural lipophilic molecules, replacing extraction agents such as hexane in growing markets that globally use more than a million tonnes of these petrochemicals per year. For more information, visit <https://ecoextract.com/>.

### **About Minafin Group**

The Minafin Group is a leading developer and manufacturer of fine chemicals with three main areas of expertise: health chemistry, green chemistry, and challenging chemistry. Minafin operates six industrial manufacturing sites across Europe and North America. It provides customers in the pharmaceutical, personal care, and agri-food sectors with a range of proprietary products, custom manufacturing, industrial process development and services, and multi-purpose green chemistry formulations. Minafin invests significantly in research into eco-friendly solutions that bring a competitive edge and create value for customers. Minafin's strong industrial capabilities are consolidated through seven business units: Minakem, Pennakem, Minasolve, Minagro, EcoXtract, Minascent and Pressure Chemicals. These together generated over €235million in revenue in 2021. Founded in 2004 as a privately held industrial company, Minafin is headquartered in Belgium and employs 900+ staff. For more information, visit <http://minafin.com/>.

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