



ARBION



SYLFEED

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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## SYLFEED Consortium reaches its end after four years of collaborative work

*European partnership focused on solving sustainable protein challenge concludes; Successful in advancing first-of-its kind 'Wood to Food' process technology to produce nutritional, sustainable protein*

**Paris, France / Durham, N.C.** – August 31, 2021 – [Arbion](#), an agricultural-biotechnology company developing solutions to convert wood into protein for feed and food applications, today announced the conclusion of the SYLFEED Project, following a final webinar in series of events marking the end of the project. The webinar was focused on the environmental performance of SylPro®, a protein-rich ingredient, which has been at the center of the SYLFEED mission and activities.

SYLFEED was founded with the goal of developing a solution to the challenge of sourcing, producing and securing high-quality, sustainable protein sources due to the growing demands of aquaculture and animal feed producers in Europe, and globally in the future.

The SYLFEED partners' activities have focused on commercializing a first-of-a kind bioprocessing technology, to upcycle abundant, available and underutilized bio-based feedstocks, such as wood wastes and residues, into higher value biobased applications, notably, a protein-rich ingredient for use in aqua and animal feed: SylPro®.

The SYLFEED Project was a partnership of 10 organizations founded in 2017, with the support from The European Bio-based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI JU) under the Horizon 2020 Program, and led by Arbion over the past four years. The SYLFEED Project convened leading organizations from each step in the value chain, from the biomass sourcing ([Norske Skog](#), [Golbey](#)) to the biomass fractionation and conversion into SylPro ([Prayon](#), [Rise Processum](#), [Bioprocess Pilot Facility](#), [Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant](#) and [Arbion](#)), to the fish feed formulation and manufacturing ([Laxá](#), [Matis](#) and [Skretting](#)). Finally, a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) has been conducted by [NORSUS](#) to evaluate the environmental performance of SylPro compared to other protein sources.

"The project success is a testament to the collaboration and diverse expertise contributed from our partners in the SYLFEED project; leaders representing all parts of the 'Wood to Food' value chain came together with a common vision and commitment to success," said Marc Chevrel, Arbion CEO.

"We believe the Wood to Food technology platform represents a game-changing solution to expand food production potential without harming ecosystems or consuming more limited resources, by bringing wood and other undervalued biomass into the food chain. The SYLFEED Project achievements are a valuable contribution to advance biobased solutions to nutrition and sustainability challenges in Europe," said Birgir Örn Smáráson, Project Manager, for MATIS.

“SYLFEED BBI JU project has developed and demonstrated a highly innovative process for the production of protein sources for animal feed using woody biomass. The technology and process have great potential to be scaled up and replicated, thereby contributing to a more sustainable protein supply and food system,” said Pilar Llorente Ruiz De Azua, Project Officer, working on the SYLFEED project, for the BBI JU.

“The collaborative work allowed the consortium to prove that Arbiom’s Wood to Food process is a viable solution to bridge the protein gap in Europe with technology to produce a local, scalable, traceable supply of high-quality protein source from abundant, undervalued biomass sources,” said Charles-Henri Nicolas, PhD, VP Demo Program for Arbiom.

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## About SYLFEED

SYLFEED is an international and multidisciplinary 4-year project aiming at scaling-up Arbiom’s Wood to Food Technology to convert wood residues into a protein-rich ingredient comprised of SCP (Single Cell Protein) and test it in aquaculture applications. SYLFEED gathers 10 partners all along the value chain from wood sourcing to fish feed manufacturing & testing to address the European protein gap. SYLFEED demonstrates Arbiom’s technology at larger scale and prepares for industrial scale-up. More information on <http://www.sylfeed.eu>

*SYLFEED is a European project funded by the Bio Based Industries Joint Undertaking under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement N°745591.*



## About Europe Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI-JU)

The BBI JU is a public-private partnership (PPP), part of the EU’s plan to move its economy to a post-petroleum era. It is expected to help make the EU’s economy more resource-efficient and sustainable, while supporting growth and employment. The BBI is dedicated to realising the European bioeconomy potential and contributing to a sustainable circular economy, by turning biological residues and wastes (from agro-food, forestry and municipal) into greener everyday products, through innovative technologies and biorefineries, which are at the heart of the bioeconomy. €3.7 billion will fund the BBI JU between 2014 and 2024, with €975 million coming from the European Commission and €2.7 billion from its private partner, the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). The BBI JU initiative focuses on using Europe’s biomass and wastes to make high value products and bring them to market. Advanced biorefineries and innovative technologies are at the heart of this process, converting renewable resources into sustainable bio-based chemicals, materials and fuels, allowing the EU to reduce its dependence on finite fossil resources. The BBI projects bring the researchers from the European centres of excellence – being companies, research institutes or universities - together to develop new technologies and products, and bring them to maturity or even commercial level. This novel structure means that the bio-based sector can work more coherently through measures that bring in feedstock suppliers as partners in the value chains, develop biorefinery

technologies and processes, raise business-to-business demand, and promote customer awareness about innovative products and applications. To learn more, visit: <https://www.bbi.europa.eu/projects/sylfeed>

## **About Arbiom**

Arbiom is committed to meeting the sharp increase in global food and resource requirements with technology that transforms the most sustainable and readily available carbon source in the world – wood – into intermediate materials for a range of applications in the feed, food, and chemicals industries. Arbiom's technology platform integrates the company's proprietary biomass processing and fermentation expertise to convert wood into a nutritional, sustainable protein source. Arbiom is partnering with biomass stakeholders and leading firms in aquaculture, biotechnology and bio-based industries to continue developing and scaling up its technology. Headquartered in Durham, North Carolina, Arbiom also has an office in Paris, France. To learn more, visit [www.arbiom.com](http://www.arbiom.com)

## **About Norske Skog Golbey**

Norske Skog is a world leading producer of publication paper with strong market positions and customer relations in Europe and Australasia. The Norske Skog group operates four mills in Europe, of which two will produce recycled containerboard following planned conversion projects. In addition, the group operates one publication paper mill and one wood pellets facility in Australasia.

Norske Skog aims to further diversify its operations and continue its transformation into a growing and high-margin business through a range of promising conversions, energy, and fibre projects. The group has approximately 2 300 employees in five countries, is headquartered in Norway and listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange under the ticker NSKOG. One of those sites is located at Golbey, in the east of France. To learn more, visit <https://norskeskog-golbey.com/>

## **About Prayon**

With more than a century of industrial experience, the Belgium-based Prayon Group is a worldwide leader in phosphate chemistry. The Prayon Group is owned jointly by OCP SA. and Société régionale d'Investissement de Wallonie (SRIW). With manufacturing operations in Belgium, France, and the United States, Prayon serves a global customer base. Prayon manufactures and markets an extensive range of purified phosphoric acids, phosphate salts and fluorine products. The Prayon products are used in food (bakery, meat, processed cheese, fish and seafood, cereals, fruits and vegetables), drinks, healthcare products (toothpaste, oral hygiene products and excipients), horticulture and a wide range of industrial applications (paper, ceramics, glass, metal). The Prayon wet processes for phosphoric acid production are marketed throughout the world and are used to produce over 50% of the world's merchant grade phosphoric acid. To learn more, visit <https://www.prayon.com/en/>

## **About Rise Processum**

RISE is Sweden's research institute and innovation partner. Through their international collaboration programs with industry, academia and the public sector, we ensure the competitiveness of the Swedish business community on an international level and contribute to a sustainable society. Our 2,800 employees engage in and support all types of innovation processes. RISE is an independent, State-owned research institute, which offers unique expertise and over 100 testbeds and demonstration environments for future-proof technologies, products and services. Processum is a subsidiary of RISE

which focuses on biorefinery development from laboratory to demonstration scale for a sustainable growth and in close cooperation with the industry. Processum is also the hub of an innovation platform that spans both borders and industries, nationally and internationally. Through their large network of contacts, they can bring together entrepreneurs with established business, social actors and academia. To learn more, visit <https://www.ri.se/en/processum?refdom=processum.se>

## **About Matís**

Matís is a leading research and development organisation focused on servicing the food and biotechnology sectors. Matís is a government owned, non-profit, independent research company, founded in 2007 following the merger of three former public research institutes. We pursue research and development aligned to the food and biotechnology industries as well as providing Iceland's leading analytical testing service for public and private authorities. For years, Matís has been considered a valuable partner in multiple, miscellaneous projects and taken part in successful cooperation with our partners around the world. Our success would not be possible without our firm belief in integrity. Matís' vision is to increase the value of food processing and food production, through research, development, dissemination of knowledge and consultancy, as well as to ensure the safety and quality of food and feed products. To learn more, visit <https://matis.is/>

## **About Laxá**

Fóðurverksmiðjan Lax hf (e. Laxá fish feed inc.) is a feed mill that has been in business since 1987. Laxá produces fish feed from natural ingredients, mainly for land-based aquaculture in Iceland. Laxá participates in most of feed related research in Iceland alongside Matís. Laxá is always seeking further knowledge in sustainability regarding feed production. While some raw materials are getting harder to come by it is essential to be able to use other alternatives. Sustainability is key in modern industry. To learn more, visit <https://www.laxa.is/>

## **About Skretting**

Skretting is the global leader in providing innovative and sustainable nutritional solutions and services for the aquaculture industry. Skretting has production facilities on five continents and manufactures and delivers high quality feeds from hatching to harvest for more than 60 species. The total annual production volume of feed is more than 2 million tons. The head office is located in Stavanger, Norway. Skretting is the aquaculture division of Nutreco. Their purpose is Feeding the Future. To learn more, visit <https://www.skretting.com/>

## **About NORSUS**

Norsus is a Norwegian research institute with the vision of contributing to knowledge for sustainable development through innovation. Norsus is Norway's leader in life-cycle assessment (LCA) for analysis of the environmental performance of products and services. With a team of 28 advanced research professionals, the institute develops and deploys theories and methods for understanding and implementing sustainability in society. Much of the organization's research is related to LCA, which is a



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framework for the environmental analysis of products, systems and services. An LCA examines all material and energy flows required to deliver a particular function, and analyses how they affect the environment in different ways. LCA can thereby form the basis for product development, green procurement, policymaking, among many other decisions. For example, the choice of alternative products or waste management systems. Norsus strives to develop the most accurate yet broadest methods of analysis, and also explore and identify how LCA methods can be used in innovation processes. To learn more, visit <https://norsus.no/en/>

## **About Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (BBEU)**

Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant (BBEU) is an independent, state-of-the-art facility that operates from a laboratory level to a multi-ton scale. BBEU is a service provider for process development, scale-up and custom manufacturing of biobased products and processes. A wide and flexible spectrum of modular unit operations combined with a team of highly trained and experienced engineers and bioprocess technicians enable the facility to translate companies' biobased lab protocol into a viable industrial process. To learn more, visit <http://www.bbeu.org/pilotplant/>

## **About Bioprocess Pilot Facility (BPF)**

The BioProcess Pilot Facility B.V. (BPF, [www.bpf.eu](http://www.bpf.eu)) bridges the gap between development and commercial scale production. With first-rate facilities and over 40 years of fermentation, downstream processing and bio-process piloting experience, BPF helps ensure companies' next innovation hits its commercial targets. BPF's scaled-down commercial plant in Delft, The Netherlands, has been specifically designed to enable the transition from laboratory to industrial scale, allowing companies and knowledge institutions to combine separate production technologies to investigate and develop their own processes. To learn more, visit <https://www.bpf.eu/>