

## Cooperation between the Plastipolis Cluster and three USA partners<sup>1</sup>

### Partners:

- Plastipolis (France, EU)<sup>2</sup>
- The Polymer Ohio (Ohio, USA)<sup>3</sup>
- The Mississippi Polymer Institute (MPI, Mississippi, USA)<sup>4</sup>
- Ohio Bioproducts Innovation Centre (OBIC, Ohio, USA)<sup>5</sup>

### Sectors and subsectors concerned:

- Plastics sector
- Automotive sub-sector
- Production Technology and Heavy Machinery sub-sector



**POLYMEROHIO**



### Context:

- Plastipolis is a French Pôle de compétitivité established in 2005 in the plastic sector and comprised of more than 340 members, including 230 firms (90% SMEs). It has a consolidated turnover of €5.5 billion due to its extensive network (4,000 contacts in both industry and academic). Plastipolis is part of the EC/DG GROW funded WIINTECH2020 ESCP-4i project, which facilitates its international activity.
- The Polymer Ohio is an association based in Ohio aiming at making Ohio companies more competitive and enabling them to grow faster.
- The MPI has the goal of growing high-tech polymer and polymer-related industries in the State. MPI has played a key role in growing the State's multibillion-dollar-per-year, high-tech polymer industry, and has directly assisted in the creation of thousands of jobs.
- OBIC was created by the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the Ohio State University.

### Type of cooperation: Internationalisation of Plastipolis and project partners

- The cluster has signed MoUs with three USA based partners from Ohio and Mississippi regarding polymers, composites and bio-based materials:
- Signed a first MoU with PolymerOhio – June 2011. This partnership was renewed in 2015 for another 3 years.
- Signed a MoU with OBIC within the Wiintech project University exchange – October 2013.
- Signed a MoU with MPI linked to USM – October 2013.
- As next steps, the cluster aims to pursue the collaboration with existing partners, find new partners in other areas within the USA and look for opportunities at the technological, business and training levels.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.clustercollaboration.eu/achievements/inspiring-eu-us-direct-cluster-cooperation-developed-plastipolis>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.plastipolis.fr/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://polymerohio.org/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.thepolymerinstitute.com/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://bioproducts.osu.edu/>

**Objective:**

- The overall aim of the agreement signed by Plastipolis is to set up a permanent representation office in the USA where a staff member will be hosted directly in its partner's premises and working on business and networking opportunities and joint projects between France and the USA, at academic, technological and business levels.

**Policy support:**

- WIINTECH 2020 (an EC funded pilot project between 2012 and 2014 with a group of eight European clusters in the materials and processes fields) is designated as an ESCP-4i since 2016. WINTTECH 2020 promotes the development of a joint inter-cluster cooperation strategy towards international clusters outside of Europe, and as such has supported the cooperation between the Plastipolis and its three USA partners.

**Results/outcomes:**

- Collaboration extended beyond the original partners to include: Plastipolis (EU); PolymerOhio and OBIC (Ohio); Ben Franklin Technology Partners, EEB Hub and University of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania); and University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi Polymer Institute (Mississippi).
- Establishment of business cooperation between Plastipolis and its USA partners, including the expected placement of a permanent representative office in the USA (State of Mississippi) on the thematic areas of waste management and recycling, green transportation and renewable energies. For example, PolymerOhio hosted an intern from Plastipolis during one year. Furthermore, activities within the context of the thematic areas include information exchanges, coordination of respective actions, identification of joint projects for technology development and commercialization and facilitation of partnerships between French and Ohio companies.
- Plastipolis continues its cooperation actions with US clusters. The actions perceived include the housing of a staff member in the premises of the US partner (Polymer Ohio) to work on networking opportunities and joint projects between France and the US<sup>6</sup>.
- In particular, different working sessions have been held between Plastipolis and MPI in 2017 (Le Bourget Paris Air Show- May 2017) as well as in 2018 (NPE trade fair at Orlando – April 2018). Further continued and improved cooperation steps including staff exchanges and industrial visits are in preparation.

**More information:**

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.lyon-communiqués.com/communiqués/plastipolis-fait-le-plein-de-contacts-a-la-foire-de-hanovre-et-pose-des-c148417.htm>