



## PRESS RELEASE

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### SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY: THE INNOVATIVE MADE IN ITALY PROJECT CONQUERS EUROPE

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

The SAPA Group, an Italian supplier of automotive components for the main global automotive manufacturers, will implement the latest type of bio-components at the Arpaia plant in Italy. This initiative aims to reduce the weight of vehicles and thereby lessen the environmental impact of the automotive industry, fostering increasingly sustainable mobility.

The implementation is the result of the completion of the European project Life Biobcompo, involving the SAPA Group, FCA Italy, the Fiat Research Centre (Stellantis Group), and Sophia high tech, presented at Stellantis' Motorvillage in Naples on February 23, 2023.

Present at the event were Valeria Fascione, Regional Councillor for Research, Innovation, and Startups of the Campania Region, and Eva Milella, President of IMAST, who also moderated the day's proceedings.

The biocomposites for the production of automotive components for Stellantis Group vehicles will utilize raw materials from renewable sources, helping to reduce component weight.

This, in turn, will decrease the overall weight of the car, thereby reducing CO2 emissions into the atmosphere. This innovative technology is the outcome of the completion of the European LIFE BIOBCOMPO project, which developed new formulations of biocomposite materials based on plastic and cellulose fibres. These materials allow for up to an 8% reduction in the weight of a single component compared to plastics commonly used in current production.



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SAPA leveraged its established know-how in the project, based on the One-Shot® method – presently the fastest and most sustainable patented method globally for producing automotive components. This project was implemented in Italy and Poland and is ready to expand into SAPA group's Spanish plants, following the recent acquisition of two facilities in Spain and one in Morocco.

"The LifeBiobcompo project aims to have a positive impact on the weight of vehicle components, thus reducing the total vehicle weight with a significant reduction in overall carbon dioxide emissions," says Alfonso Molaro, application engineer of the R&D department at SAPA. "During the project, carried out with the help of the LIFE17 community financial instrument 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 polypropylene reinforced with 20% cellulose fibre by weight and 10% fibreglass by weight," adds Molaro.

"It is a source of great pride that SAPA is leading this project, so important for environmental protection and the automotive industry of Campania, representing a true feather in the cap for Italy," says Antonio Affinita, Executive Director of SAPA SpA.

#### **EVENT PHOTOS:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uskhkh6eflnozyd/AAA3IElv11Jh-s0I9msF5cypa?dl=0>

#### **ABOUT SAPA GROUP**

Founded in 1974 by Angelo Affinita, SAPA is an Italian industrial group specializing in the production of cutting-edge components for the automotive industry. SAPA is a direct supplier to renowned automotive manufacturers such as Volkswagen, FCA, CNH, Iveco, BMW, Ferrari, Aston Martin, Rolls Royce, Porsche, Audi, Skoda, Seat, DAF, and Caterpillar.

The group operates eleven plants in Italy, the rest of Europe, Africa, and Asia, employing over 1,800 people. With a projected turnover of approximately 290 million euros in 2023, the company produces over 85 million car components annually, including interiors, bodywork, and engine compartments. Committed to innovation



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since its inception, the SAPA Group records over 80 million euros in turnover each year, thanks to its patents and internally developed know-how.

## Website

<https://sapagroup.net/>

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