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Aquapak Appoints New Advisory Board Member to Support Firm's New Phase of Development

Aquapak Polymers Ltd, which specialises in polymer-based material technologies which deliver both performance and environmental responsibility at scale, has today announced the appointment of Adrian Whyle to its Advisory Board, which comprises business leaders and experts in material science and the environment.

The Advisory Board provides advice and input to support Aquapak's management team as they embark on an exciting phase of global growth and innovation. This includes bringing its innovative Hydropol™ technology to full-scale commercialisation, developing a portfolio around it, as well as focusing on a range of other bio-based and traditional polymers and other coatings.

Adrian brings over 30 years of highly relevant international experience gained working in the speciality chemicals industry in a number of roles ranging from pure R&D to new product development and manufacturing. Most recently, he was responsible for shaping, promoting and implementing Plastics Europe's strategy to increase the circularity of all plastics to achieve the plastic industry's vision of a robust resilient plastics Circular Economy that maximises plastics reuse and recycling while minimising waste and resource use.

Commenting on Adrian's appointment, Mark Lapping, Chief Executive Officer, Aquapak, said:

"Adrian is joining Aquapak's Advisory Board at a very exciting time in the growth of the business as we take the commercialisation of Hydropol™ to the next level. His extensive technical expertise and understanding of Europe's complex and often disjointed waste infrastructure is hugely valuable as we seek to promote recyclability, compostability and biodegradability as priority end of life options."

Commenting on the role, Adrian Whyle said:

"Aquapak has developed an exciting proposition in Hydropol™ which genuinely does have the potential to transform the use of conventional plastics in packaging. I look forward to working with the management team and Advisory Board members to help accelerate the development of the product portfolio and applications."

Adrian is joining Aquapak's other Advisory Board members:

- Dr Marijn Dekkers, former CEO OF Bayer AG and former Chairman of Unilever
- Charlie Crew, former CEO of SABIC Innovative Plastics,
- Frankie Hobro, Director and Owner of Anglesey Sea Zoo and Marine Resource Centre
- Simon Weston, Former Director of Raw Materials, Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI)
- Paul Jenkins, MD, ThePackHub
- Professor Gary Critchlow, Surface & Interface Science, Loughborough University

Aquapak has successfully developed and commercialised Hydropol™, a high-performance polymer that enables product design to provide its much-needed functionality whilst increasing recycling and reducing plastic pollution. When extrusion coated or laminated onto paper, Hydropol™ adds strength and barriers to oxygen, oil and grease, and its solubility allows 100% paper fibre recovery through paper recycling mills. As well as being biodegradable and compostable, it is non-toxic to the environment and marine-safe, so it still has a safe end-of-life if it is not disposed of as intended. It is already being used in products such as reusable, heat sealable paper mailing bags.



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Notes to editors

Aquapak develops and manufactures a range of adaptive polymer-based material technologies that deliver both performance and environmental responsibility at scale. For example, it has developed Hydropol, an enabling technology for the circular economy, which is biodegradable, compostable and marine-safe, and used in a range of packaging materials. Aquapak's HQ and manufacturing centre is in Birmingham, UK, with its main geographical markets in the US, EU and Asia.

About Hydropol™ - Accelerating the transition to the Circular Economy

Hydropol™, developed and produced by Aquapak, is a highly functional, specialty environmental polymer that allows product design to support the circular economy – by enabling recycling and delivering multiple end-of-life options. It is designed to be an alternative to traditional plastics, offering their versatility and functionality but without harming the environment.

Hydropol™ is soluble, non-toxic and marine safe. Products made with Hydropol™ are safe for existing recycling processes and are fully biodegradable, leaving no trace or plastic pollution should they enter the environment.

As an enabling technology, Hydropol™ can be used on its own or in combination with other materials to enhance recyclability, compostability and end-of-life options. Its material properties allow for scalability into diverse types of products and its solubility makes it easy to separate from other materials when recycling. For example, it can be extrusion coated and laminated onto paper or board giving strength and barrier properties against oxygen, oil and grease then made into alternative mailing bags, dry pet food sacks, window patch boxes and packets etc.

To dispose, consumers can simply put the packaging into their household paper waste. The Hydropol layer is formulated to 'wash off' (dissolve) during the paper repulping process and then either biodegrades in the waste water system or turned into clean energy if the plant has an AD system.

Who is using Hydropol?

Consumers and businesses are increasingly concerned about plastic pollution and environmental sustainability. Packaging producers need solutions. Aquapak has partnered with a growing base of clients in apparel, fashion, hospitality, healthcare, food packaging, logistics packaging, industrial, nonwovens, and other packaging.

What is Hydropol made from?

The base plastic is currently used for dishwasher tablets, ingestible pill casings and soluble stitches. Hydropol™ 's resistance to low temperature solubility and high barrier to elements adds functionality, providing a wider range of uses. It can be recycled, re-pulped, composted and is distinctively compatible with anaerobic digestion. Furthermore, if unintentionally released into the natural environment, Hydropol™ – which is non-toxic and marine safe - will dissolve and subsequently biodegrade, leaving no trace.

What is Hydropol being used for?

Extrusion coatings and laminates for paper/board applications are commercially available and in customer production trial stages, including a number of home delivery and ecommerce applications, packaging for dried pet food, snacks, cooked meat and convenience food applications.

Blown film products commercially available and made from Hydropol™ include garment bags, ESD bags, organic waste disposal bags and laundry bags for infection control. These can be disposed of at home by the consumer in hot water or added to the recycling where they dissolve during the recycling wash processes.

Other applications under development with customers and development partners include injection moulded parts such as golf tees, nonwoven fibre for applications such as flushable wet wipes and cellulose combinations for thermoformed trays.

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