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First plant based on patented PLAneo® technology starts production in China. Process lowers CO2 emissions and reduces use of fossil raw materials. Production capacities for bioplastics expected to grow.

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# thyssenkrupp commissions first commercial bioplastics plant in China

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To reduce reliance on petroleum-based plastics, thyssenkrupp has developed a manufacturing process for the bioplastic polylactide (PLA). The world's first commercial plant based on the patented [PLAneo® technology](#) recently started production in Changchun, China. It is operated by the Jilin COFCO

Biomaterial Corporation, a subsidiary of COFCO, China's largest food and beverage group. The new plant produces all standard PLA types, among other things for the production of eco-friendly packaging, fibers, textiles and engineering plastics.

Polyactide (PLA) is a 100% bio-based and compostable plastic which thanks to its physical and mechanical properties can replace conventional oil-based polymers in many areas. The starting material for PLA production is lactic acid, which is recovered from renewable resources such as sugar, starch or cellulose.



The COFCO bioplastics plant based on PLA (polylactide) technology from thyssenkrupp's polymer specialist Uhde Inventa-Fischer

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**The bottom line:** Sami Pelkonen, CEO of the Electrolysis & Polymers Technologies business unit of thyssenkrupp Industrial Solutions: “The bioplastics market will continue to grow in the coming years, not least due to the increasing environmental awareness of industry, governments and consumers. With our PLAneo® technology we want to do our bit to make the plastics sector more sustainable and resource-friendly. With it we enable our customers to produce high-quality bioplastics with a wide range of properties – at a price that is competitive with conventional plastics.”

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