



Press release  
Pedrola, 14 september 2022

Sectors : Industry / Household packaging / Green technologies

**OPENING OF SPHERE GROUP'S SPANISH SUBSIDIARY, SPHERE ESPANA'S  
NEW SITE BASED ON CIRCULAR ECONOMY PRINCIPLES,  
ON WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2022 IN PEDROLA - SPAIN.**



Coinciding with its 60th anniversary, SPHERE ESPANA is to open its circular economy industrial complex on the El Pradillo de Pedrola industrial estate (Zaragoza). The complex will be dedicated to the production of biobased and compostable bags and bags with a high post-consumer recycled materials content, and will be the largest and most advanced in Europe for this activities.

With this investment exceeding €32 million, the company expects to increase its turnover to more than €100 million by 2023, creating 35 new jobs to bring its workforce to more than 300 employees.

The arrival in Pedrola of SPHERE ESPANA will also contribute to diversifying the economic activity of the area and of the Ribera Alta del Ebro district, known for its significant involvement in the automotive industry.



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### **Energy efficiency criteria**

The new plant has 32,000 square metres dedicated to production, compared to the 12,000 available at the Utebo site. Located on a 140,000 square-metre site that will allow for future expansion, the production facility is fully based around the principles of the circular economy, and it will incorporate energy efficiency criteria. It has noteworthy features such as the automation of the production process, bays of more than 25 metres high for multi-layer co-extrusion machines, real-time total monitoring, advanced *just in time* dynamic inventory management, and an 8,300 square-metre intelligent warehouse 4.0 with a 12,500 pallet capacity and operated by 10 automated guided vehicles (AGV). The plant will be “zero waste” so post-industrial polyethene and bioplastic will be recycled, reincorporating any leftovers from manufacturing into the production process.



The project also stands out for its significant investment in the most high-tech industrial infrastructure, since the company acquired eight new extrusion machines, nine machines for manufacturing bin liners and four for producing rolls of biomaterial. As a result, annual production will increase from the 32,000 tonnes produced to 38,000 tonnes, representing a current operating capacity of 95%.

SPHERE ESPANA already relies on a qualified team and a dynamic Research and Development and Innovation Sphere in collaboration with different universities and technological centres. These advances position SPHERE ESPANA and the Aragón Region as pioneers in the implementation of new business models based on the circular economy and ecological transformation.

### **Future investments**

The company demonstrates its firm commitment to a sustainable future with several actions to be carried out soon. It plans to install a photovoltaic plant adjacent to the production unit by 2023, saving up to 25% and representing an investment of more than €2.5 million.

The complex will also house another unit that will be used to manufacture aluminium rolls, cling film and baking paper, products that will be distributed in the Spanish and Portuguese markets. This project, which will start in the first months of next year, will involve an investment of close to €2 million and is part of the global investment forecasts that SPHERE ESPANA envisages for the next five years.



For over 45 years, the SPHERE Group has been developing improvements to its products with a focus on sustainability. Already manufactured at several of the group's sites : COMSET in Italy and SPHERE France, cling film, aluminium rolls and baking paper, products that are essential to everyday life, have been the subject of extensively R&D.

SPHERE ESPANA wishes to participate in these product innovations integrating circular economy principles throughout the process, and will include in its product ranges the aluminium trays and freezer bags also manufactured by the Group.



#### **About SPHERE ESPANA**

A market leader in compostable and bio bags manufactured according to Standard EN 13432, SPHERE ESPANA has its headquarters in Utebo (Zaragoza). It designs, manufactures and sells bin liners, reusable shopping bags made from 80% recycled material, aluminium foil for the public and the industrial sector, freezer bags, industrial and food films, and paper bags for retail, professional, catering and local markets.

SPHERE ESPANA originated in Spain back in 1962, the year the family business Manufacturas Biel was founded in Aragón. It was acquired in 1999 by the French company SP Metal France, which is today SPHERE France, subsidiary of the sphere group.

SPHERE ESPANA represents 15% of SPHERE Group's total production.

SPHERE ESPANA is a plastic processing company that is fully focused on the environment, with two main goals: to design products based on their use and their end of life, and to reduce the use of virgin fossil raw materials by using post-consumer recycled raw materials.

Its three strategic lines are the following:

- Biobased and compostable plastics (bioassimilation by living micro-organisms according to Standard EN 13432 and Ok compost HOME and OK compost INDUSTRIAL).
- Plastics with a high percentage of recycled material (circular economy).
- Energy efficiency

SPHERE ESPANA's business plan revolves around replacing materials that come from petrochemical plants with renewable and recycled materials across its entire production process by the end of 2025.



### **About SPHERE**

Founded in 1976, SPHERE is a French family business, a European leader in household packaging and a specialist in professional food and non-food packaging. The Group is a world leader in compostable biosourced materials for films and bags.

With 15 production sites in Europe, and seven of these located in France, in 2021 SPHERE achieved a turnover of €714 million and employs 1,500 members of staff.

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