

SYMPHONY ENVIRONMENTAL LAUNCHES DEGRADABLE PLASTICS INITIATIVE WITH NH HOTELES ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP HOTEL GROUPS

NH Hoteles and Symphony Environmental Technologies, the leading specialists in degradable plastics, today launched a joint environmental initiative aimed at promoting eco-friendly, sustainable plastic technology throughout the hotel and catering sectors.

The joint initiative was launched at the NH Harrington Hall Hotel in South Kensington, London, by Gabriele Burgio, Chairman and CEO of NH Hoteles and Michael Laurier, CEO of Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc. It is the first-ever environmental agreement between a major hotel group and a leading degradable plastics company.

NH Hoteles, which is the third largest business hotel chain in Europe with three luxury hotels in London, will co-operate with Symphony to show companies in the catering and hotel sectors the environmental benefits of Controlled-life (oxo-biodegradable) plastic instead of the normal plastic or other forms of degradable plastic currently used. The NH Hoteles Group currently has 392 hotels in 24 countries across Europe, America and Africa providing over 60,000 rooms, with another 45 hotels under construction.

Symphony has developed a special additive - d₂w - which when added to most ordinary plastics alters their behaviour and gives them all the properties of oxo-biodegradable plastic.

Oxo-biodegradable plastic is the plastic that you can literally "tell" when to degrade. It is programmed with a pre-set lifespan during manufacture: from as little as a few months up to five years. It will then degrade automatically, without any human intervention, either on land or water. When it degrades, it does so completely, without leaving any harmful residues. It can also be recycled and re-used like ordinary plastics.

The hotel and catering sectors are heavy users of plastic, and both NH Hoteles and Symphony regard plastic with a short lifespan as an important contribution towards making plastic sustainable and reducing plastic waste in the environment.

NH Hoteles, which aims to be one of the world's greenest hotel groups, is keen to show that plastic can be used in an environmentally responsible fashion. The group (which already allows guests to measure the carbon footprint they generate during their stay) will be converting to Symphony's d₂w plastic in all its hotels.

It will use d₂w plastic for such items as shampoo bottles, laundry bags, carrier bags, bin liners and branded packaging and will be available in all NH hotels by the end of the second semester.

NH Hoteles is the first major hotel group to switch to oxo-biodegradable plastic for all its professional packaging requirements. Michael Laurier, CEO of Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc, commented: "The NH group's decision to specify d₂w for its hotels and offices to launch its Green Initiative is a demonstration of its confidence in this form of degradable technology.

"We are delighted that NH Hoteles, with its far-reaching concern for the environment, is using d₂w technology for all its plastic packaging requirements and has recognised it as an ecologically beneficial form of plastic.

"Gabriele Burgio, Chairman and CEO of NH Hoteles said "as one of Europe's greenest hotel groups, NH Hoteles is already setting extremely high standards of environmental protection. We are very happy to be working with Symphony in this joint environmental initiative."

NOTE TO EDITORS: Information about Symphony:

Symphony Environmental Ltd, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc, specialising in Controlled-Life 'CLP' plastic technology. The technology is branded d₂w and has become popular round the world, so that Symphony now has 59 Distributors covering more than 90 countries worldwide. In the last 12 months, enough of its d₂w biodegradable additive has been supplied to produce thousands of tonnes of plastic products worldwide.

Further information about Symphony is available on: www.d2w.net

To see d₂w plastic degrading go to: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=i3TGqcpWJTM>

For information about Oxo- biodegradable plastic generally see www.biodeg.org

About NH Hoteles

NH Hoteles (www.nh-hotels.com) ranks third among European business hotels. NH Hoteles currently has 393 hotels with 58,848 rooms in 24 countries within Europe, America and Africa. NH Hoteles presently has 39 new projects for hotels under construction, which will provide 7,000 new rooms.

NH Hoteles stands out in quality both as regards services and facilities, with very carefully thought out decoration, intended to please all tastes and making the guest feel comfortable. NH Hoteles' establishments offer the most advanced technologies designed to facilitate the guest's communication as well as his work and leisure.

The restaurants are another priority for hotels in the Chain, offering guest first-rate cuisine. Furthermore, the prestigious restaurateur Ferran Adrià, creator of El Bulli restaurant, has entered into an association with NH Hoteles, launching new concepts such as "nhube" and "Fast Good", pioneering spaces in the hotel sector,.

NH Hoteles is a responsible company in the Tourism industry. The Chain offer hotel services which anticipate present and future needs of both our internal and external stakeholders (Employees, Clients, Shareholders, Suppliers, Environment, etc.), the communities where we operate and future generations with maximum attention to detail and efficient and sustainable solutions.

NH Hoteles is listed on the Stock Exchange of Madrid.

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