Memorandum of Understanding

SPRING
Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster

CLIB
networking biotechnology
creating sustainability

This MoU describes the intent of

- ✓ **SPRING**, the Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster, based in Milano, Italy

and

- ✓ **Cluster Industrielle Biotechnologie**, hereinafter referred to as **CLIB**, based in Düsseldorf, Germany

to work together in the field of innovation on bioeconomy.

Article 1. Introduction

Recognizing the key elements of the Italian and German government's Bio-Economy strategies SPRING and CLIB have decided to explore the possibilities of collaboration as partners in order to accelerate the industrialisation and commercialisation of "biobased" innovative ideas.

CLIB is an international open-innovation cluster based in Düsseldorf, Germany. Its membership comprises large companies, small- to medium-size enterprises (SMEs), start- ups, academic institutes, and universities, as well as other stakeholders active in biotechnology and the circular- and bioeconomy as a whole. As a non-profit association, its members shape the cluster's interests and activities, and work to promote industrial biotechnology in sustainable processes and products. The cluster is active since 2008 and has built a strong and trustworthy network since then. Together with its members it is putting its mission into practice – networking biotechnology, creating sustainability.

SPRING is the Italian Circular Bioeconomy cluster. It gathers approximately 130 members across the value chain: Italian and multinational companies of all sizes, universities, private and public research centers, investors, regional clusters, industrial associations, farmers associations, etc. SPRING, officially recognized by the Italian Ministry of Research, works on all themes related to the production and valorisation of bio-based resources (agriculture, forestry, marine resources or co-products and residues) for food, feed, industrial and energy purposes. It is a member of the National Coordination Group on Bioeconomy set up within the Italian Presidency of Council.

Article 2. Subject of collaboration

SPRING and CLIB agree to work together to exchange information, to establish business relations between their networks, to promote the human capital agenda and to develop research, development and demonstration projects for technologies that convert sustainable feedstock into food, industrial and energy applications.

Priority thematic areas for collaboration have been tentatively identified as biobased products and industrial biotechnology. Other priorities could be added at a later stage.

Article 3. Approach to collaboration

To ensure further development of this collaboration, the parties will work together with their partners and members to identify opportunities within the determined priority areas.

Relationships between industrial, academic or governmental organisations will be established in order to initiate joint projects in research, development, demonstration or commercial partnering. SPRING and CLIB will support the initiation of these projects and support the acquisition of private and/or public funds to finance the projects. It is the parties' wish that organisations from both networks will find partners for international collaborative research projects (e.g. funded under Horizon Europe or CBE JU) via this collaboration.

This collaboration will also contribute to building enablers for scientific community development, including sharing of knowledge and best practices, organizing seminars and scientific conferences, attracting and developing of young talents, development of joint educational programs in the field of novel bio-based processes and products and wide communication of scientific results.

The partners agree to promote each other's main conferences, the CIC and IFIB, within their respective networks.

Article 4. Information exchange

The parties agree to be open and exchange extended non-confidential information about their organizations, participants and their cooperation networks for the purpose of the joint projects. They also agree to act professionally vis-à-vis received information and to preserve confidentiality of the other party.

Article 5. Responsibility for costs

The two parties will be responsible for their own costs for establishing and conducting the cooperation, including their own expenses for visits, business trips, participation in meetings, etc.

Article 6. Working group

Parties agree to create a working group, which will lead and coordinate joint activities and interactions between CLIB and SPRING. The working group will consist of representatives from both parties and meet (online) at regular intervals to identify possible areas of collaboration and exchange information.

This Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) is written in English. Each Party shall keep the original copy.

Article 7. Duration and Termination

(a) The term of this M.O.U. shall commence on the effective date set forth below and shall continue for a period of 3 years.

(b) Either party may terminate this M.O.U. by providing written notice not less than two (2) months in advance of its desire to do so. Unless otherwise agreed, the termination of this M.O.U. shall not affect the implementation of projects or programmes established under it prior to such termination. This M.O.U. may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties in writing.

Article 8. Confidentiality

The exchange of the confidential data between specific partners needs a separate confidentiality agreement.

Article 9. Non-binding nature of the M.O.U.

The parties acknowledge that the provisions of this M.O.U. represent their common intentions to explore business linkages between SPRING and its participants with the CLIB and its participants. Except for article 7, this M.O.U. is not intended to create a legally binding contractual relationship between Parties.

Article 10. Non-Exclusive

The Parties may work on and participate in any projects with other potential partners. However, such participation shall not be detrimental to the spirit of this M.O.U.

Article 11. Effective Date

The effective date of this M.O.U. shall be 14 February 2023.

Signed:

SPRING
Mario Bonaccorso
Director

Signed:

CLIB
Karl-Heinz Maurer
Chairman

Signed:

CLIB
Roland Breves
Vice-Chairman