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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT OPENS PLAST'LAB®, A LABORATORY DEDICATED TO PLASTIC RECYCLING WITH THE AIM OF DOUBLING ITS PRODUCTION OF RECYCLED PLASTICS IN FIVE YEARS**

#### **PLASTIC RECYCLING, A CHALLENGE FOR THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

**The production of plastics in Europe has multiplied 150-fold over the last 50 years** and is still on the increase, reaching 50 million tonnes a year today<sup>1</sup>. Only 25% of the 25 million tonnes of plastic waste produced is recycled. At the same time, current changes to the rules at both national and Community level are setting ambitious new recycling targets, in particular in relation to household packaging (80%), most of which is made of plastic<sup>2</sup>.

In the face of dwindling natural resources and an increase in raw material prices, **the production of recycled raw materials has become a real challenge for manufacturers**. By integrating these into their production chain, manufacturers can increase their competitiveness, anticipate the dwindling supplies of virgin materials and meet their customers' growing expectations for green product ranges.

**The recycling of plastics has therefore become a major economic and environmental challenge**, due to the fact that the use of recycled plastic reduces energy consumption by 80% to 90% compared to the production of virgin plastic.

That is why **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT** is placing the circular economy at the heart of its strategy and **innovating to speed up the recycling of plastics and meet the needs of manufacturers more effectively**. Through its subsidiary SITA, the Group has already a quality manufacturing tool in Europe capable of sorting and preparing over 400,000 tonnes of plastic waste each year, 135,000 tonnes of which are recycled by its nine specialist plants. In response to the growing demand for secondary raw materials, **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT aims to double its production of recycled plastics in Europe within the next five years** in this rapidly expanding market.

To achieve this objective, the Group is looking to **develop partnerships with industries that are major consumers of plastics** with a view to working together to come up with "tailored" solutions for the provision of high quality recycled plastic. To this end, **SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT is opening PLAST'lab®**, an innovative laboratory dedicated to plastics and their recycling.

#### **PLAST'LAB®: A UNIQUE LABORATORY AT THE HEART OF THE CHALLENGE TO RECYCLE PLASTICS**

At SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT's main Research Centre (CIRSEE<sup>3</sup>), PLAST'lab® makes it possible to analyse, test and classify plastic materials and **formulate new ranges of plastics from recycled plastics that meet the demands of manufacturers**.

**This laboratory is unique in the plastic recycling market because it focuses on the manufacturers' demand** to obtain and secure the necessary plastic materials, optimize their formulation (resistance to

<sup>1</sup> PlasticsEurope, Plastics The Facts 2013

<sup>2</sup> "Circular Economy Package" proposed by the European Commission and draft law on energy transition adopted on first reading by the National Assembly in October 2014

<sup>3</sup> Centre International de Recherche sur l'Eau et l'Environnement (International Research Centre for Water and the Environment) located in Le Pecq (78)

impact, heat, etc.) and produce the high quality recycled raw material that meets a manufacturer's specifications.

*"PLAST'lab will allow us to make greater strides towards improving the quality and quantity of recycled plastics and is entirely consistent with our determination to place the circular economy at the heart of our strategy. By focusing on plastic recycling, we are confirming our role as a key player in the achievement of Europe's targets for the recycling of household waste, set at 50% by 2020<sup>4</sup>"* says Jean-Louis Chaussade, Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT.

#### **ABOUT SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT**

*Natural resources are not infinite. Each day, SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT (Paris: SEV, Brussels: SEVB) and its subsidiaries deal with the challenge of protecting resources by providing innovative solutions to industry and to millions of people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT supplies drinking water to 92 million people, provides wastewater treatment services for 65 million people and collects the waste produced by 52 million people. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT has 79,550 employees and, with its presence on five continents, is a world leader exclusively dedicated to water and waste management services. SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT generated total revenues of EUR 14.6 billion in 2013.*

#### **SITA, a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT**

*SITA, a subsidiary of SUEZ ENVIRONNEMENT, is the leader in France in the supply of waste recycling and management solutions, and an expert in all aspects of the waste cycle. With a staff of 20,000 people, SITA achieved sales of €3.6 billion in 2013, serving 80,000 business and local authority customers.*

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<sup>4</sup> 2008 Framework Directive on Waste