

Press Release
27 July 2011

EU project for PVC-free blood bags approved

The EU environmental program Life+ has awarded a grant to the Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry, in cooperation with four European companies and Karolinska University Hospital, for a PVC-free blood bag project.

“The project is a cooperation between industry and healthcare providers, aimed at phasing out hazardous substances from healthcare services,” says project manager Lena Stigh, from the Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry.

The project’s title is *“Public healthcare and plastic makers demonstrate how to remove barriers to PVC-free blood bags in the spirit of REACH”* and it will run for four years, starting in the autumn of 2011. Its purpose is to cooperate on the removal of barriers to a PVC-free blood bag.

At present, blood bags for red blood cells contain a substance that is classified as a reproductive toxin. There is demand for an alternative from the majority of Swedish healthcare providers, but there is no acceptable alternative on the market. This project will demonstrate that it is possible to produce a PVC-free bag that fulfils a requirement specification, including CE-labelling. Introduction of the new bags will be facilitated by cooperation with European healthcare organisations on disseminating knowledge and increasing demand.

The four companies participating in the project are Melitek A/S, Wipak Oy, Totax Plastics A/S and Haemotronic Advanced Medical Technologies SpA. They represent different links in the supply chain for the new bag. Karolinska University Hospital is responsible for evaluating the bag.

“Jämtland County Council also has an important role in the project, as they will perform handling tests on the bags,” says Lena Stigh.

Do you want to know more?

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Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry work in partnerships with consumers, companies and the public sector in order to stimulate demand for and the production of non-toxic products. Jegrelius want to provide inspiration and create the right conditions for environmentally-driven trade and business, based on our vision of contributing to safer environments in people’s everyday lives. Jegrelius is a part of Region Jämtland.