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PRESS RELEASE 01-2020:

COMERIO ERCOLE and DIRECTA PLUS take on the challenge to find INDUSTRIAL GRAPHENE APPLICATION IN JOINT R&D PROJECT FOCUS ON TIRE TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPO IN HANNOVER

The two companies have signed an agreement to pursue a joint research and development project in the plastics and rubber field and specifically in the tire manufacturing process

Comerio Ercole is proud to announce the signature of an important strategic agreement with **Directa Plus**, a world-leading producer and supplier of graphene nanoplatelet based products for consumer and industrial markets. The R&D agreement is based on the companies' common goal to pursue a joint research and development project using the **Directa Plus G+** technology to develop products in the plastics and rubber field and specifically in the tire manufacturing process.

Comerio Ercole is a leading Italian engineering and manufacturing company, founded in 1885, specializing in rubber and composite material processing and in the machinery used to manufacture such products. The company is well known globally for its focus on innovation, quality and environmental protection. The partners will use **Comerio Ercole's** own brand new R&D laboratory, with mixing and calendaring machinery, to explore prototype processes using polymers and elastomers that could in future be useful to produce and improve compounds containing **Directa Plus's** G+ graphene products. **Directa Plus** is interested both in testing its **G+** technology in polymer and elastomer manufacture and in promoting its activity and products to end customers and users of **Comerio Ercole** machinery and plants related to the tire manufacturing process.



Commenting, **Giulio Cesareo, Founder and CEO of Directa Plus**, said:

*“Working with selected partners who share our vision for product development is a great way to bring graphene enhanced products to market in partnership with established Italian, European, and global companies. Combining **Comerio Ercole's** deep expertise in materials and machinery with our world leading knowledge and understanding of graphene, will help create new market opportunities for both our companies to the benefit of the tire manufacturing industry.”*



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Riccardo Comerio, CEO of Comerio Ercole, added: “Comerio Ercole has always been a pioneer in the field of industrial innovation for mixing and calendering in tire manufacturing processes. With Directa Plus we are now taking on an exciting new challenge to identify the most promising uses of graphene in our machinery and plants for selected, qualified customers. Based on our mixing and calendering laboratory experience, our target is to develop, tailored industrial machinery for specific graphene applications.”



During the upcoming global **Tire Technology Expo in Hannover from 25 to 27 February**, a dedicated area for **G+** graphene additives mixing and calendering technology for tire manufacturing will be included on **Comerio Ercole's booth, 8006 in Hall 21**. Directa Plus representatives will be available to consult during the period of the **Tire Technology Expo** with a special, invitation only **G+** event for tire manufacturing at **12.30 on 26 February at Comerio Ercole's booth 8006**.

For more information or to register for Tire Technology Expo 2020, please contact **COMERIO ERCOLE** drsa. Valentina Airoidi on +39 0331488486 info@comercole.it

About Direct Plus

The Directa Plus Group consists of Directa Plus Plc, Directa Plus Spa and Directa Textile Solutions Srl. Directa Plus Plc has been listed on the AIM market of the London Stock Exchange since May 2016 and is the publicly listed holding company. Directa Plus SpA, established in 2005 and based in Lomazzo (Como, Italy), holds the operational role, including research, production, intellectual property management and sales. Directa Textile Solutions Srl is a Directa Plus Spa subsidiary, dealing with the commercialization of functional and graphene-based textile membranes. Directa Plus is the majority shareholder of Directa Textile Solutions, partnered with Novaresin, a specialist membrane company.

About Comerio Ercole

The Comerio Ercole Group consists of Comerio Ercole Spa and other ancillary industrial companies focused on machine and plant manufacturing mainly for rubber and tire processes. Comerio Ercole was founded in 1885, with an artisan heritage. Comerio Ercole is now a strong company with more than 200 technicians which operates on an holistic integrated production process from initial design to the start-up of plant and machinery, compliant with UNI EN ISO 9001:2015 TQA standards. In addition, a brand new laboratory with an integrated mixing and calendering process is now available as well as an innovative Industry 4.0 technical department for customer project support.



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