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ROBERTET AND INTERSTELLAR LAB JOIN FORCES TO REVOLUTIONIZE PRODUCTION OF PLANT-BASED NATURAL INGREDIENTS

Robertet is pursuing its strategy of innovation in the natural ingredients with the acquisition of a first BioPod, AI-controlled biofarm developed by Interstellar Lab, which accelerates plant growth and optimizes plant molecular composition, while minimizing environmental impact of soil-less cultivation.

This initiative aims to further agronomic research in the industries of fragrance, flavors, and well-being.

Robertet, world leader in natural raw materials, is the first industrial player in fragrances and flavors to acquire a BioPod. This first contract with the biotech startup Interstellar Lab, a visionary player in biofarming, will enable Robertet to accelerate its knowledge of the living, while reducing its environmental footprint for precision agriculture. Thanks to a triple expertise in controlled environment, artificial intelligence and biology, BioPod accelerates production cycles, increases production of bioactive compounds in plants, while offering a sustainable cultivation tool that anticipates the challenges of sourcing plants and the environmental impact of producing natural ingredients.

BioPod is a 11m long, 5m wide and 6m high deployable greenhouse, which can be installed without a foundation and offers up to 100m² of highly-controlled growing space. This autonomous cocoon, a terrestrial adaptation of a system originally developed for NASA, operates in a semi-closed circuit, optimizing the water cycle and capturing ambient CO². Its transparent membrane captures sunlight and reduces the energy consumption of artificial light. Equipped with sensors and its own artificial intelligence, BioPod recreates climates autonomously, enabling the production of high-value-added plants and natural ingredients in a sustainable and replicable way. Thanks to cutting-edge technologies and automated control using an algorithmic approach, BioPod maintains ideal conditions for plant growth and molecular composition, while significantly reducing cultivation surface, water and energy consumption.



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This investment comes in addition to the 14 research and creation centers dedicated to exploring the world of natural ingredients to offer products and solutions to Robertet Group customers.

Jérôme Bruhat, CEO of Robertet, explains: *"The arrival of this BioPod in Grasse illustrates Robertet's innovation strategy: using cutting-edge technologies to offer our customers the best natural products for a more sustainable industry. We are doing this with a recognized pioneer in biofarming."*

"We are looking forward to kick-off our collaboration with Interstellar Lab, an exceptional partner. We are already engaged in several research programs to prepare the future of aromatic plants agronomy, and we are excited to accelerate this research thanks to the remarkable performance of the BioPod. We are determined to continue transforming our industry," explains Julien Maubert, Director of the Raw Materials Division and in charge of the Interstellar project.

"We are delighted to be bringing BioPods to market with Robertet, as our first partner, a leading French, natural ingredients group with unrivalled experience and expertise in cultivating Earth natural resources. We share many common values, such as the preservation of biodiversity. With the BioPod, we are offering a solution to the industry's ecological transition. We harness technology to benefit the living." adds Barbara Belvisi, founder and CEO of Interstellar Lab.

About the Robertet Group

Robertet S.A. was founded in Grasse in 1850 and is the world leader in natural products. Based in France and majority family-owned since its creation, the Robertet Group is still controlled by the Maubert family and is the only fragrance, flavour and ingredient company that is fully integrated throughout the entire creative process, from source to final fragrance or flavour. Today, the Robertet Group is represented in more than 50 countries, has more than 2,200 employees worldwide and offers its customers a range of more than 1,350 natural materials and products created in one of its 14 global creation centers. In 2022, the Robertet Group will have achieved a global net turnover in excess of 700 million euros.

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About Interstellar Lab

Interstellar Lab is a American-French startup founded in 2018 specializing in bio-technologies that develops, builds, and operates biofarming solutions to optimize plant cultivation and molecular composition on Earth and also in space. The highly controlled environment modules developed by Interstellar Lab enable sustainable, high-precision cultivation of high-value-added plants used by the Natural Ingredients, Cosmetics, Pharmaceuticals and Food industries. The company has also developed strategic partnerships with NASA and ESA for plant cultivation and research in microgravity. Based in Ivry-sur-Seine (France) and at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida (USA), Interstellar Lab today has over 30 employees from SpaceX, Airbus, Trimble and Agricool, and is backed by institutional investors including BPI and France 2030.

<https://interstellarlab.earth/>