

PRESS INFO

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The Hamburg-based bioeconomy scale-up traceless® produces a natural biomaterial from plant leftovers to replace plastics at scale and build a net-zero, circular materials industry.

traceless® is a natural plastic substitute derived from plant leftovers of agricultural grain processing. The material is naturally regenerative, fossil-free and completely bio-based on residues. It is certified plastic- and microplastic-free. Thanks to the resource-saving production technology, 91% CO₂ emissions and 89% fossil energy are saved in production and disposal compared to virgin plastic. Due to its natural composition, the material is home- and garden-compostable and harmless to humans and nature.

The company uses agricultural residues from which natural polymers are extracted. These are polymers created by nature, which are biodegradable but in raw form water-soluble, brittle, and lacking the thermoplastic properties needed for industrial use. traceless set out to bridge this gap. With its patented process, the company functionalizes and granulates the natural polymers. In the process, the polymers are arranged in such a way that they acquire thermoplastic properties — making traceless® a unique, plastic-free thermoplastic. The result is a material that can be processed on standard plastics machinery and delivers many of the same functional benefits as conventional plastics: it is grease- and moisture-repellent, heat-sealable, and offers barrier functions and adhesion to paper. This makes traceless® suitable for a wide range of applications — from packaging and coatings for paper and cardboard to films, cutlery, and other disposable items — especially where recycling is not possible or products are prone to end up in the environment.

The company produces the material in granulate form in its own production facilities. Scaling the material innovation has been central from the very beginning. What started with lab samples grew into a pilot plant, and is now moving into industrial dimensions. With commercial market entry planned for later this year, the company is set to deliver several thousand tons of material annually, meeting the growing demand for sustainable materials across Europe and beyond.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Since its founding in 2020, traceless® has grown from a research team to a scale-up with over 100 employees, producing a new class of materials designed to leave no trace. The team led by co-founder & CEO Dr. Anne Lamp, COO Sina Spingler, and CFO Jakob Röskamp aims to contribute to the development of a climate-friendly and circular bio-based industry by rapidly scaling up the resource-saving process to industrial level. traceless® cooperates with leading global brands and processors such as paper and packaging manufacturer Mondi and e-commerce company OTTO. Pilot products from traceless® have

been successfully tested on the market since 2022. The company has already received numerous awards, including the German Entrepreneur Award and the Next Economy Award, has been named winner of the Deutscher Nachhaltigkeitspreis für Unternehmen 2026, and is also nominated for the Deutscher Zukunftspreis 2025.

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