

**PRESS RELEASE**

**BANCO BPM ALONGSIDE SIRMAX**

**The banking group supports Sirmax Group's activities with a 10 million loan as part of its 'Sustainability Objective'**

*The Cittadella (Padua)-based company, which produces thermoplastic granules for all kinds of applications, launches innovative green training projects for its staff.*

Verona, 2 January 2023 - Sirmax Group, a company from Padua specializing in the production of thermoplastic granules for a wide variety of applications, has received a EUR 10 million loan from Banco Bpm.

The operation is linked to a series of sustainability objectives. In particular with regard to staff training: on the one hand, for the next five years, the hours provided in the green area, to employees and managers, will increase exponentially, to increase management's awareness and vision on how to operate within their divisions in an increasingly sustainable way (the operation is part of the Governance part of ESG policies); on the other hand, starting this year, the 'Green Force' project will begin, which will involve the supply chain on sustainability issues, with specific training hours for the purchasing function and all other subjects involved in the supply chain. The aim is to raise awareness of the minimum requirements that a supplier must have to meet ESG parameters, which Sirmax already complies with. That's not all: the 'Green Force' is a broader project that will also cover training on the collection of data, from individual employees, necessary for the drafting of the Sustainability Report.

Also testifying to Sirmax's attention to its personnel is the achievement of EcoVadis Silver certification - for companies that take concrete action on the environment, labor and human rights, ethics and sustainable purchasing - and the recognition, obtained last year, of 'Best workplaces for blue collar 2023', which saw the Padua-based company among the top ten in Italy in this special ranking.

Sirmax Group, with headquarters Cittadella (PD), is the leading independent European manufacturer, and among the top global manufacturers of polypropylene compounds, engineering polymers, post-consumer compounds and bio-compounds used across all sectors: automotive, household appliances, power tools, electrical, electronics, construction, furniture. Active since the 1960s, today Sirmax boasts 13 production plants: six in Italy - Cittadella (PD), Tombolo (PD), Isola Vicentina (VI), San Vito Al Tagliamento (PN), Salsomaggiore Terme (PR), Pianiga (VE) -, two in Poland, one in Brazil, two in the USA, two in India, a sales office in Milan, and foreign branches in France, Spain and Germany. Sirmax has acquired significant market shares in Europe, the Americas and Asia, thus becoming a global reference for the international market. The total number of employees is 850, the 2022 consolidated turnover stands at EUR 501 million.

Banco BPM, with almost 20,000 employees, more than 1,400 branches and around 4 million customers, is today Italy's third-largest credit group in terms of assets, with a deep-rooted presence in the regions of northern Italy, among those with the highest industrial concentration in Europe. A widespread network serving households and businesses, an in-depth knowledge of the market and innovative solutions are at the basis of Banco BPM's strength, which is active in various areas of the banking sector - private and investment banking, asset management, bancassurance - also through the Group's investee companies. Banco BPM's business model focuses on its people and their skills, enhanced by constant training. The Group operates in

the tradition of local banks, generating profitability for its shareholders and creating value for all stakeholders, to play a leading role in the country's sustainable and inclusive development.

'Investing in sustainability is making us stronger and more competitive every day,' says Roberto Pavin, Cfo of Sirmax Group. 'Just as we have invested so much to make our product sustainable, we are also investing in our personnel to make them better prepared for the challenges of the future. We are also with Banco BPM in the path undertaken to make the economy of our territory more and more responsible, and we appreciate the institute's willingness and trust on issues that have become essential for Sirmax.'

"Our bank strongly believes in the entrepreneurial project and in the long and consolidated history of the Sirmax Group, a company capable of innovating itself by investing deeply in sustainability, a value that has always characterized it in the actions undertaken for business growth," says Enrico Lemmo, Head of Banco BPM's North-East Corporate Market." This is one of the reasons why this important operation was structured, aimed at allowing a further boost to the development of Sirmax, which in the ESG sector already starts from a very important base, being one of the best workplaces in our country, as certified by a recent ranking. This result, however, is only a new stimulus for them to continue along the path already marked out, while for Banco BPM it is one more reason to support this great company on its path towards excellence."