

Thursday, 12 September 2019

## **RE: Norner signs deal to build new Polymer Exploration Centre and enters Future Materials Catapult**

It is a pleasure for Norner to announce two very important news which are key to our future;

- Norner have signed an agreement with R8 Property on the construction of our new Polymer Exploration Centre
- Norner becomes part owner of Future Materials Catapult Centre - a national test center for the materials of the future

The new Polymer Exploration Centre will be a modern international research and technology centre for the plastics industry and provide research services throughout the value chain. With more than 40 years in the industry, Norner today has customers in more than 60 countries and has experienced a strong growth in recent years. The creation of this new centre, together with us entering the Catapult centre, will ensure that Norway develops a leadership in the development of future sustainable plastic solutions.

Norner and R8 Property signed, in 2017, an agreement for Norner to move all activities from Bamble to the new Powerhouse and a nearby application centre in Telemark. Due to increased space requirements, an nearly 5000 square meter technology centre will now be established at the bank of the Porsgrunn river and neighbouring the Powerhouse Telemark.

“We will get a significantly more efficient building and have consolidated all our operations into one house. Construction work will start at the turn of the year and will be completed in the spring of 2021. Norner is investing long-term, and a 20-year lease has been signed between the parties.”, says Kjetil Larsen CEO of Norner and continues “Our owners, Thai SCG, have a long-term strategy and commitment with Norner. They are strengthening their position as a significant player in the plastics industry through this investment.”

“This is a very exciting project for Porsgrunn as a city, but also for Grenland, Telemark and the entire region.”, says R8 Property Development Director Tommy Thovsland. He says construction starts in December this year.

The centre was designed by architects Borve and Borchsenius from Porsgrunn and is expected to be completed in April 2021.

The Future Materials Catapult Center is a national test centre for the materials of the future, established in the fall of 2017 by Arendals Fossekompagni, Elkem, Mechatronics Innovation Lab, ReSiTec and the University of Agder. The catapult will make the path from idea to market shorter for Norwegian business by offering test facilities, expertise and networks to develop sustainable advanced materials and production processes.

“The initiators behind Future Materials are very pleased that Norner AS is joining as a partner and part owner in the catapult.”, says Chairman Håvard Moe and continues “Norner's world-leading expertise in polymers and the plastics industry strengthens the Future Materials' material broadness, while at the same time the company's philosophy of innovation, strategic consulting and circular economy is fully in line with the focus areas of the catapult centre.

“We look forward to being part of such a strong team that Future Materials already is, and we have good faith that we can further develop Future Materials together as a leading centre for future materials both nationally and internationally. Plastics and composites are an important part of the materials of the future, and we believe that existing and future customers will have great pleasure and benefit from the fact that the catapult centre will now cover such a wide area, says Kjetil Larsen CEO of Norner.

Siva, who appoints the national catapult centres in Norway, warmly welcomes Norner into the catapult family.

“We are building a comprehensive national structure with catapult centres to assist companies across Norway. With Norner as partner, Future Materials Catapult can assist with expertise, networks and testing facilities within a larger portfolio of future materials. It will be crucial for many companies' competitiveness and value creation in Norway.”, says Siva CEO Ingrid Riddervold Lorange.

For more information, please contact:

- Kjetil Larsen, Norner: +47 91 64 08 74, mail: [kjetil.larsen@norner.no](mailto:kjetil.larsen@norner.no)
- Ole Jan Myhre, Norner: +47 90 75 67 25, mail: [olejan.myhre@norner.no](mailto:olejan.myhre@norner.no)
- Aslaug Hagestad Nag, Future Materials: +47 93 20 33 43, mail: [ahn@futurematerials.no](mailto:ahn@futurematerials.no)

With best regards  
Ole Jan Myhre  
Market Manager

## About Norner

Norner is a Global market leader of industrial polymer R&D services based in Norway where we operate an advanced technology centre for development and testing. We strive to fulfil our vision of being the Polymer Explorers for our clients through a full service-portfolio of R&D, laboratory and strategic advisory based on 40 years of industrial experience. Our key customer segments are petrochemicals, oil and gas, packaging, building and infrastructure and green technology. We contribute to increased profitability and improved sustainability for our clients.

Attachment: Illustration of Norner's new Polymer Exploration Centre



Attachment: photo of Håvard Moe, chairman of the board of Future Materials, Aslaug Hagestad Nag, managing director of Future Materials and Kjetil Larsen, CEO of Norner

