

# CRC for Polymers and bioplastics

**CRC spinoff company Plantic Technologies Limited produces fully biodegradable 'bioplastic' sheet & resin from naturally occurring corn starch for the international packaging materials industry. The award-winning natural replacement for plastics is produced in Altona, Victoria.**

The Plantic story began over a decade ago when the Cooperative Research Centre for International Food Manufacture and Packaging Science (1995-2002) developed technologies for converting corn starch into solid packaging materials.

In 2001, the CRC spinoff company Plantic was incorporated in Victoria to develop the high-amylose corn starch intellectual property and to commercialise it in Australia. Over the next six years, Plantic Technologies began to make inroads in the confectionary and baking market with its product trays used by Australian and international companies.

Plantic then joined the CRC for Polymers (CRC-P) as a partner to expand research and development and to reach a broader packaging industry market.

In 2008, after several years of development with CRC-P's researchers, the company released a new high performance 'sheet' bioplastic Plantic HP1 with higher impact resistance, smoothness and clarity – suitable for showcase and display consumer products such as Easter eggs, cosmetics, razors, and electronic goods such as USB thumbdrives.

Today, Plantic's bioproducts are suitable for a range of processing technologies, including extrusion and co-extrusion, injection moulding, injection stretch blow moulding and extrusion blow moulding.

Marks & Spencer, a leading UK retailer with over 21 million people visiting their stores every week, has recently announced that their entire Swiss chocolate range will be packaged using Plantic Technologies' biodegradable plastic trays for Christmas 2010.

'This is a fantastic step forward for food packaging. We know our customers really want to be responsible, and using Plantic means they can enjoy a delicious box of chocolates without the worry of what to do with the leftover tray,' said Helen Roberts, head of packaging at Marks & Spencer.

From Melbourne, Plantic ships bioplastic sheet product out to packaging companies globally who cut and thermoform to suit various needs. The packaging complies with water dispersion, home composting, and biodegradability standards in Europe and the United States.

Plantic now distributes product through the industry giant Klockner pentaplast. German-based Klockner partnered with Plantic in 2010 to produce films for food and retail packaging.

Plantic's CEO and managing director, Brendan Morris, says: 'We must all begin to live in a smarter materials world. Our innovation isn't the total solution to the problem of plastic waste, but it's a critical start.'

**More information about the CRC for Polymers is available from [www.crcp.com.au](http://www.crcp.com.au)**

Plantic's high-tech biodegradable packaging trays have won prestigious awards globally

