



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Tyton BioEnergy Systems and Sunchem Announce Research and Commercial Partnership**

**Danville, Va. - (October 20, 2015)** – Tyton BioEnergy Systems and Sunchem announced today a research and commercial partnership combining Tyton’s research, development and commercial capabilities with Sunchem’s Solaris tobacco variety to establish a globally significant alliance to advance tobacco-based green chemicals and biofuels. The partners are committed to introducing energy tobacco as a feedstock of choice that can compete with the economics of oil while protecting the environment.

This relationship builds on Tyton’s and Sunchem’s existing outside relationships to further the use of tobacco for green chemicals. Tyton is collaborating with Smithfield Foods, the world’s largest pork producer, French chemical company Deinove, a green chemicals leader, and a global tobacco company that is developing non-smoking uses for tobacco. Sunchem is collaborating with SkyNRG, RSB, South African Airways, Boeing, ENI and Alitalia-Etihad to make jet fuel from Solaris together with other green components like paper and biomass both for biogas and power generation. The companies will implement research projects in Tyton’s Virginia laboratories to boost productivity of Sunchem’s Solaris tobacco variety and optimize extraction using Tyton’s patented technology. Further research and development activities will follow.

Tyton BioEnergy Systems president Peter Majeranowski said, “This partnership is a natural next step after working together for several years in the United States. With Sunchem, we will be advancing tobacco technology and commercial operations that can transform the green chemicals and biofuels industries. Tyton’s technology complements and can strengthen Sunchem’s Solaris tobacco variety, and together we can drive commercial activity in the US, South Africa, Brazil and beyond.”

Sergio Tommasini, CEO of Sunchem, said, “We are excited to be collaborating with Tyton and its world-class research and development team. As partners, we will accomplish more and demonstrate that tobacco is the crop of the future, capable of competing with the economics of oil while increasing income for farmers and protecting the planet. We are proud to be leading the transformation of this industry.”

### **About Tyton BioEnergy Systems**

Tyton BioEnergy Systems ([www.tytonbio.com](http://www.tytonbio.com)) is an agricultural biotechnology company that has developed unique tobacco technology to efficiently and economically produce low-cost sugars, oils and proteins for the existing green chemical, feed and biofuel markets. One acre of Tyton’s patented non-smoking tobacco outperforms corn, soy and other cellulosic feedstocks. Through its tobacco technology platform, Tyton is committed to delivering cost-competitive products while protecting the planet. The Company is headquartered in Danville, Virginia.

### **About Sunchem**

Sunchem (<http://www.sunchem.it/>) holds an international patent named “Solaris – Energy Tobacco”, granted in more than 100 countries, which focuses on the plant’s production of seeds instead of leaf. These seeds can be used as a source for tobacco oil for refinement into diesel, jet fuel, bioplastics, feed-cake, and other high value

green chemical components. The biomass can be used to by the biogas and paper pulp industries. Sunchem has extensive experience growing its seed tobacco across the world including Europe, Africa, and South America. It's currently engaged in a major field trial in South Africa in collaboration with SkyNRG, Boeing, and South African Airlines and has received an RSB Certification for Phase I of this project. The company is launching a sustainable value chain in Italy with Alitalia/Etihad, ENI and Boeing Italy. The Company is headquartered in Arma di Taggia, Italy.

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