



# Our sustainable future with Luminy® PLA bioplastics from TotalEnergies Corbion



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Mr. Olivier De Linares  
Plant Director  
TotalEnergies Corbion Ltd.

TotalEnergies Corbion Ltd. is a global leader in the marketing, sales, and production of Poly Lactic Acid (PLA). PLA is a biopolymer derived from renewable resources, such as sugarcane, making it biobased, recyclable, and industrially compostable. Compared to conventional plastics, PLA significantly reduces carbon emissions by 75%. Thailand Investment Review spoke with Mr. Olivier de Linares, Plant Director of TotalEnergies Corbion Ltd. to hear his thoughts on how the company adapts and evolves their business strategy to respond to global challenges and sustainable development.

## **Q: What potentials and opportunities have been considered as factors for choosing Thailand as a location for investment?**

**A:** TotalEnergies Corbion, a 50/50 joint venture between TotalEnergies and Corbion, aims to lead in Poly Lactic Acid (PLA) and lactide monomers. Headquartered in Europe, the company operates a 75,000 tons per year PLA production facility in Rayong, Thailand. Corbion already has a very important plant producing Lactic Acid integrated from sugar to produce PLA. Leveraging shared resources and synergies, Thailand is an ideal hub for bioeconomy growth.

We believe that Thailand can ensure access to quality and secure key raw materials, namely lactic acid for TotalEnergies Corbion and sugar for Corbion. The country also offers a well-developed infrastructure,



and highly qualified and integrated workforce, from which we have successfully established high quality local management teams with strong leadership.

**Q: What makes your products and solutions different from conventional plastics?**

**A:** Our Luminy® brand Poly Lactic Acid (PLA) is a biobased, recyclable, and biodegradable polymer derived from renewable resources. With a 75% lower carbon footprint than traditional plastics, PLA significantly contributes to our collective climate change mitigation efforts. Already used across a range of diverse industries, PLA is an innovative material with room for further expansion.

One notable advantage of PLA is its recyclability. We collaborate with partners along our value chain for PLA collection and recycling. Unlike traditional plastics, PLA offers both mechanical and chemical recycling options. Chemical recycling of PLA consumes around 90% less energy and reverts to usable PLA for identical purposes as virgin PLA.



**Q: Which competitive advantages make TotalEnergies Corbion the lead in the industry?**

**A:** We focus on creating a diverse range of high-quality bioplastic grades to cater to a wide range of demands and customize solutions for client requirements. Our portfolio covers rigid food packaging, flexible packaging, food serviceware, and durable plastic goods. We're also advancing applications for the growing automotive, 3D printing, and nonwovens industries. Collaborating with brand owners and converters, we refine Luminy® PLA grades and expand the bioplastics offering. Additionally, our competitive edge is amplified by our monomer supplier, Corbion, which is locally establishing a new lactic acid production plant in Thailand.

**Q: What is your vision of the path to future opportunity-driven business development?**

**A:** We remain ambitious in our pursuit of becoming the global leader in PLA bioplastics. We are investing in the optimization of our production plant in Thailand and working to develop new applications and polymer solutions. We also aim to raise the standard of environmental management, quality, and safety as well as the quality of our biopolymer. In production, securing sustainable raw material access is vital for growth. We're intensifying our initiatives to complete the PLA recycling cycle. Our company now actively purchases reprocessed PLA waste to boost collection, sorting, cleaning, and recycling in our plant. This endeavor seeks to establish a PLA recycling marketplace.







**Q: What kind of assistance and incentives do the company receive from the Board of Investment, and how they can facilitate the company's operations?**

The company has been supported by many government agencies for business establishment in Thailand. Among them, BOI is our primary partner and plays a forefront role. The agency's dedicated and professional support has provided the company with remarkable experience throughout the business setup process.

BOI also provides tax and non-tax incentives to the company such as corporate income tax (CIT) exemption. Executives and technicians receive visas and long-term work permits as per BOI's policies. The BOI website

serves as an informative and user-friendly resource. The investor club association further streamlines the engagement with BOI, enhancing convenience. Face-to-face interactions with BOI executives enable valuable discussions, advice, and coordination and contribute to a seamless business partnership process. With BOI's comprehensive support and guidance, our company can effectively establish and grow our business from Thailand.

Engaged in the development of business within the PLA bioplastics market, we consistently generate new ideas and projects. As the business landscape evolves, we maintain our anticipation for a fruitful relationship with BOI, who fosters a business-friendly environment conducive to sustained economic expansion and growth. ■