PRESS RELEASE

Cintech agroalimentaire launching its project Atlas initiative "our support to the Earth", for a low-carbon agri-food sector in Quebec.

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Saint-Hyacinthe, November 9 2021 – As the world looks to the leadership of COP26 in Scotland to deploy a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Cintech agroalimentaire is kicking off the activities of Project **Atlas** - Supporting the Earth. For the CEO of Cintech agroalimentaire, Mr. Jean Lacroix, "**Atlas** represents the logical outcome of the application of 3RV-E model for a low-carbon economy and circular agriculture that the agro-food and agriculture sectors are striving to implement in order to move towards carbon neutrality ". For all the **Atlas** partners, this unifying project, whose main focus will be the low-carbon farm, is a response to the need to provide solutions to the climate emergency for both the agri-food world and society as a whole. **Atlas** is at the heart of the activities of the Quartier des études supérieures de Saint-Hyacinthe with the support of the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec, the Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine - Université de Montréal.

"The **Atlas** project is perfectly in line with our desire to upgrade our facilities, including the Maskita school farm and our greenhouse complex to introduce innovative technologies that will meet the new requirements of agricultural production, and also of the enviorment, " said Ms Aisha Issa, Executive Director of the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Québec. "The Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe is delighted with the announcement of Project **Atlas**, a concrete development initiative that affects a key sector for the Maskoutain region and for Quebec as a whole. This project demonstrates the commitment of the Cégep and partners to protect the environment and fight climate change," said Mr. Emmanuel Montini, Director General of the Cégep. For the educational institutions of the Quartier des études supérieures, while allowing the improvement of some of the courses currently offered, **Atlas**' activities could lead to the development of new academic programs that would be attractive academic training for their current and future student clientele. It would be a multitude of new projects for their teaching staff interested in research as well as for technical research for the technical centers of technology transfer. New collaborations between these institutions should quickly be articulated around **Atlas**. "The University of Montreal stands out for its cutting-edge research in the areas of animal and environmental health, which aims to implement technologies, knowledge and skills that are essential for dealing with climate change and the depletion of natural resources. The presence of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Université de Montréal in Saint-Hyacinthe is a major asset for **Atlas** from a perspective of ensuring that future generations will be able to meet their own needs in a more ecological and sustainable manner," says Christine Theoret, dean of the Faculty.

Innovations, technologies and new approaches to low-carbon farming

The world must act now to "save humanity" from the catastrophic impacts of global warming UN Secretary-General António Guterres told the assembly at COP26. For Sabin Boily, founder of ZeeOne Corporation and Special Advisor to Cintech agroalimentaire for the **Atlas** project, "it is necessary to think globally, beyond borders but to act locally, with quick benefits for everyone at home. This means being able to attract the best technologies here, wherever they come from here or elsewhere, right now, in order to answer the call promptly.

In the implementation of Project **Atlas**, Cintech agroalimentaire will be able to count on ZeeOne and its international collaborators. As part of the many agri-food trends such as the rise in popularity of alternative proteins as well as the valorization of co-products, the **Atlas** project will allow us to forge links and create bridges to innovate differently. In addition to the implementation of a low-carbon farm, many projects will

emanate from **Atlas**. Whether it is the development of new carbon-neutral green fertilizers using Quebec mining by-products, the use of networks of sensors controlled by artificial intelligence to maximize the yields of greenhouse crops and minimizing food waste, or simply for a more judicious use of biomethane products of the Maskoutain biomethanization into value-added products such as green biofuels, fiber and bio sourced polymers, everything is possible.

As Jung Cheol Park, general manager of South Korea's Wintech Energy, illustrates, "Our microwave plasma technology, a collaboration between the Korean National Fusion Research Research Institute (NFRI), the Korea Energy Institute (KIER), Kwangwoon University, Wintech Energy and the Ministry of and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), is a highly efficient way to convert oil residues into hydrogen. We are currently optimizing our technology for 100% green hydrogen production, which means zero greenhouse gas emissions, high energy efficiency and not requiring the use of precious fresh water. Wintech's participation in the **Atlas** project will allow Quebec and Canada to have access to this technology and soon, to synthesize, from agri-food biogas, various carbon neutral products from this biosourced hydrogen cheap and renwable hydrogen.

The **Atlas** project - Supporting the Earth project is now taking off. The next few weeks will be dedicated to defining the project plan, structuring it and developing a plan of action for the partners to define the project plan, structure it and specify its ins and outs. Particular attention will be paid to a realization according to the needs, the competences and the technologies.

"The time is ripe for action and the **Atlas** project is the ideal opportunity to act from here, now! If you wish to join us in our indevour we are open to collaborations that will allow us to achieve carbon neutrality," says Mr. Lacroix.

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About Cintech agroalimentaire :
Since 1986, Cintech agroalimentaire has been offering its expertise and technological support to agri-food companies seeking to improve their performance. Located in the heart of an agri-food technopole, Cintech agroalimentaire manages a technology transfer center affiliated with the affiliated with the Cégep de Saint-Hyacinthe and the Institut de technologie agroalimentaire du Quebec. Cintech agroalimentaire relies on its multidisciplinary team to help a variety of variety of companies to innovate in the agri-food field. This innovation is felt through through the development of new products, the improvement of current products, the choices the safety and regulatory compliance of finished products as well as the optimization of organoleptic attributes to organoleptic attributes to assess consumer appeal.

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