Brussels, 29 October 2015

At the European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology and the Bioeconomy (EFIB) in Brussels today, GFBiochemicals was presented with the John Sime award by DSM Board member Stephan Tanda. The John Sime award is given each year to the best presentation of the most innovative new technology presented in the Innovation Track at EFIB. This year for the first time, the audience voted. The award is dedicated to John Sime, who played a pivotal role in the early development of EFIB.

GFBiochemicals’ Chief Commercial Officer Marcel van Berkel's presentation on ‘Making levulinic acid happen’ outlined how GFBiochemicals is producing levulinic acid direct from biomass at its plant in Caserta, Italy.

On receiving the award, Marcel van Berkel thanked EFIB and said, “We are both honored and humbled to receive this endorsement from our peers in the industry.”

**GFBiochemicals**

Founded in 2008, GFBiochemicals uses breakthrough technology to commercialize levulinic acid – a valuable biobased building block for specialty chemicals and materials. With offices in Milan, Italy and Geleen, the Netherlands, its commercial-scale production plant is based in Caserta, Italy. Personnel have decades of proven experience in innovation, production and business development of biobased chemicals.