

## 2018 Budget response: reducing plastic needs a focus on science and innovation

31 October 2018: Announcements in the UK Autumn Budget demonstrate renewed pressure on companies to reduce plastic use. But according to Sagentia, a Science Group company, whilst recycling and reuse go some way to addressing the problem, there needs to be a holistic approach with a focus on science and innovation to make breakthrough change.

Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond, announced the new tax on the manufacture and import of plastic packaging that contains less than 30 per cent recycled plastic and reiterated that the UK must become a world leader in tackling “the scourge of plastic littering our planet and our oceans”.

Sagentia has considerable experience in helping consumer industries address the role of plastics in their products and packaging. Its recent white paper ‘Breaking up with plastic’ outlines a three-phase technical framework to facilitate the reduction of plastic packaging and is available for download at <https://www.sagentia.com/insight/breaking-up-with-plastic>

David Pettigrew, MD, Sagentia Commercial comments: “Product development is usually considered separately to packaging development – considering both concurrently can result in significant gains in plastic reduction. Furthermore, the industry needs to find ways to cut plastic waste without compromising important factors such as food safety and consumer enjoyment.”

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### About Science Group plc

Science Group plc (AIM:SAG) provides independent advisory and advanced product development services focused on science and technology initiatives. Our specialist companies, Sagentia, Oakland Innovation, OTM Consulting, Leatherhead Food Research and TSG Consulting, collaborate closely

with their clients in key vertical markets to deliver clear returns on technology and R&D investments. With more than 400 staff worldwide, primarily scientists and engineers, the Group has R&D centres in Cambridge and Epsom with more than ten additional offices in Europe and North America.

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### **About Sagentia**

Sagentia is a global science, product and technology development company. Our mission is to help companies maximise the value of their investments in R&D. We partner with clients in the consumer, industrial, medical and oil & gas sectors to help them understand the technology and market landscape, decide their future strategy, solve the complex science and technology challenges and deliver commercially successful products. Sagentia employs over 150 scientists, engineers and market experts and is a Science Group company.

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