

East & North
FINLAND

Bioeconomy Pilot

9:45 – 10:45

Bio-economy pilot: State of play and bio-aromatics demo-case focus

Interregional Conference of the Vanguard Initiative Network

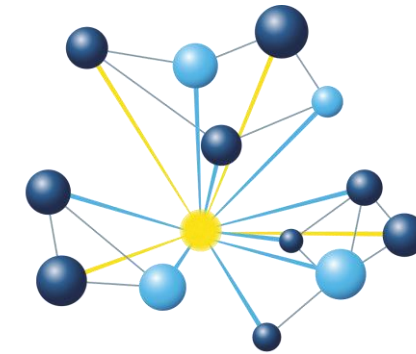
The Next Steps of Interregional Collaboration in Bio-economy

25-26 September 2024

Kajaani, Finland

Ilaria Re, COO at Consorzio Italbiotec, Lombardy Green Chemistry Association, Co-lead of the Bio-economy pilot

Ludo Diels, Portfolio Manager at Processes4Planet and Senior Advisor Sustainable Chemistry - VITO, Bioaromatics demo case leader of the Vanguard Initiative Bio-economy pilot



VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation

Contents

Part I

- Vanguard Initiative introduction
- The Vanguard Initiative's methodology
- The Bioeconomy Pilot mission
- The Pilot's Strategy
- The Regional Commitment
- The Pilot's demo-cases
- The Pilot's key achievements

Part II

- Bioraromatics case

Vanguard Initiative

Supported by Policy, driven by Industry



01

REGIONAL COOPERATION

driven by a political commitment of 40 EU regions

02

S3 SMART SPECIALIZATION

S3 to boost new growth through bottom-up entrepreneurial innovation



03

INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION

multi-level governance for encouraging emerging industries (beyond TRL 5) to reach the market

04

INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENTS

Deliver investments on S3 related priorities and reinforce globally competitive EU value chains



The Vanguard Initiative's methodology

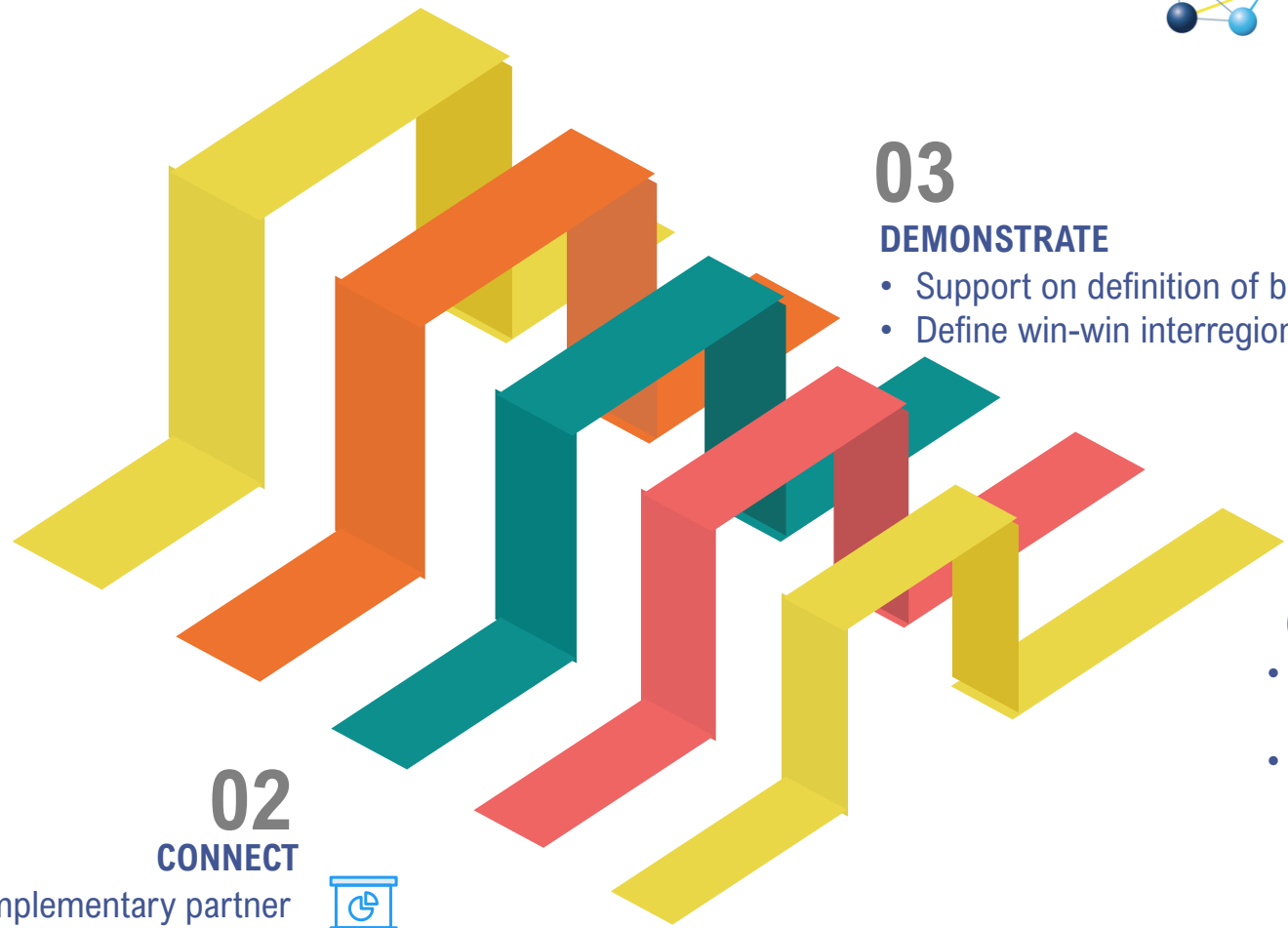
Learn, connect, demonstrate, commercialise



INDUSTRY INSPIRED

01
LEARN

- Mapping promising business models, facilities, projects
 - Identify lead regions and actors



02
CONNECT

- Matching events for complementary partner
 - Identity funding instruments
 - Stimulate interregional dialogues



INDUSTRY DRIVEN

03

DEMONSTRATE

- Support on definition of business plans
- Define win-win interregional business opportunities

04

COMMERCIALISE

- Launch of new ventures, partnerships, start-up
- Create new interregional value chains



INDUSTRY OWNED

The Bioeconomy Pilot mission

Key objectives



Support the creation of **new integrated bio-based value chains** between chemistry, agrifood, bioenergy, and biofuels sectors

Promote **new business opportunities** through interregional cooperation and ideas exchange

Encourage projects at the **demonstration stage to upgrade and exploit business** (beyond TRL 5).

Support investment pipelines based on **industry-driven business cases coherent with the S3** of the participating regions

Promote **political engagement** to position the Smart specialisation agenda at the centre of the EU's drive for a sustainable economy

The Pilot's strategy

Key activities



1 / Build an **interregional bioeconomy alliance** by promoting stakeholder engagement in the Pilot

- Organising **B2B matchmaking events**
- Building **alliances** with funded projects
- Designing **decision-making tools for SMEs** using Big Data and AI

2 / Demonstrate the bioproducts' **large-scale feasibility production** by raising public and private funds

- Boosting **industrial scale validation** of pilot plants in lignin and lignocellulosic sectors
- Demonstrating industrial-scale production of **sustainable bio-based advanced chemicals**
- Encouraging the industrial validation of plants, services and products

3 / Increase **bio-based products market uptake** by accelerating interregional demonstration projects

- Providing business development support, business intelligence and business plan desing
- Identifying promising **industrial models** in the VI regions
- Activating **interregional cooperation** and attracting EU **funding sources** towards demos' validations

The Regional commitment

Participating regions



18 Regions participating from 10 countries

Austria

- Lower Austria

Belgium

- Flanders

Finland

- East and North Finland

Germany

- Lower Saxony
- North Rhine-Westphalia
- Saxony-Anhalt

Italy

- Autonomous Province of Bolzano/Bozen – South Tyrol
- Emilia-Romagna
- Lombardy
- Piedmont

Slovenia

- Slovenia

Spain

- Navarra

Sweden

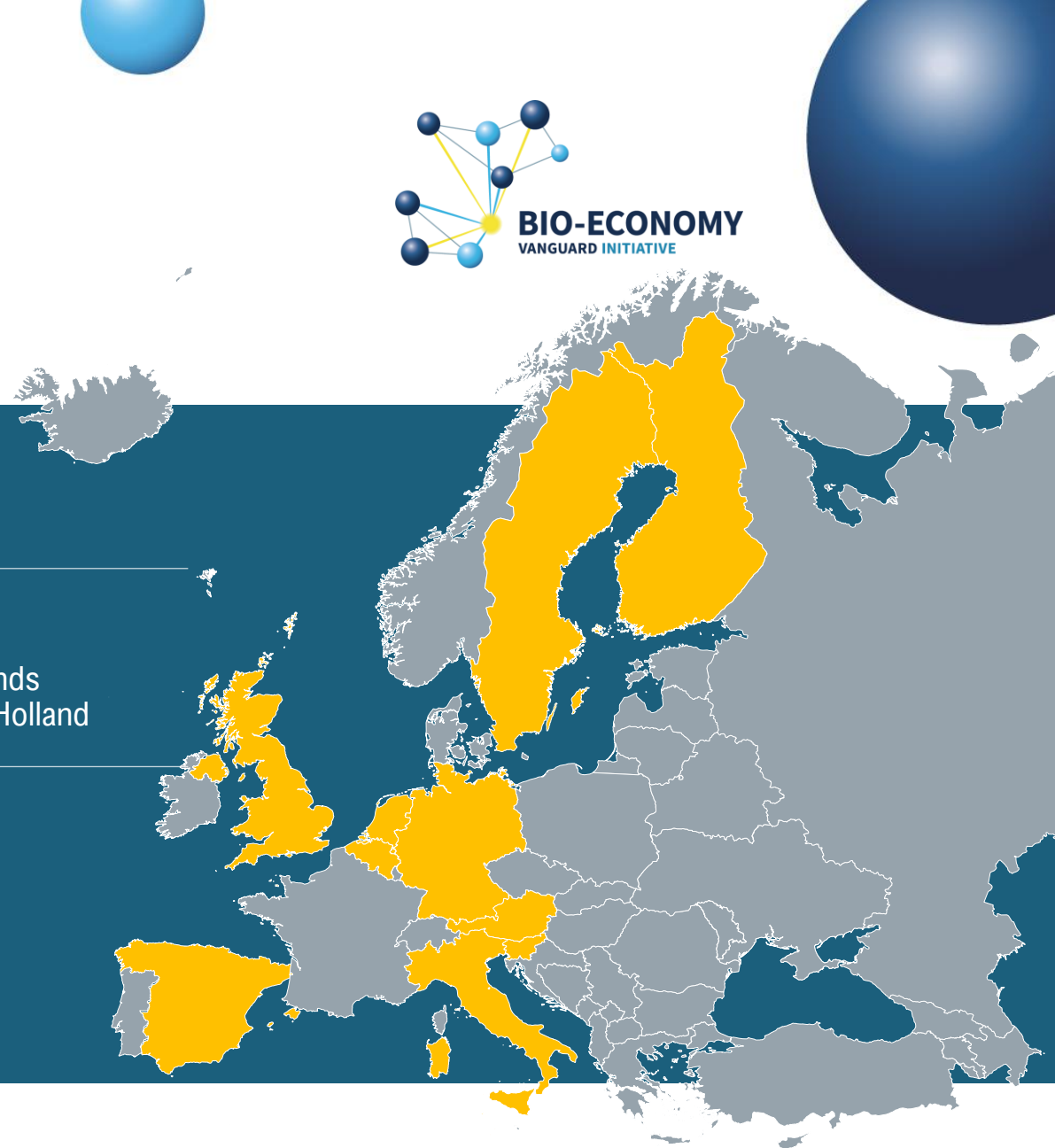
- Värmland

The Netherlands

- South Netherlands
- Randstad/Zuid Holland

UK





- Scotland
- Wales



The Pilot's demo-cases

Interregional cooperation on innovative use of non-food biomass



Bioaromatics demo-case	Lignocellulosic biorefinery demo-case	Liquified Bio-methane demo-case	Biopolymers demo-case
			
<p>Creating interregional value chains to produce lignin-based aromatic molecules and innovative sustainable materials</p>	<p>Set-up of European value chains from lignocellulose biomass to intermediate and end-products of bulk and fine chemicals.</p>	<p>Enhance wide diffusion of bio liquified natural gas for sustainable transport across Europe, by advancing the state of the art of biogas upgrading</p>	<p>Creating interregional value chains by matching polymer market applications and new biobased technologies</p>

The Pilot's key achievements

1 / Building an interregional bioeconomy alliance

1. Increase Vanguard Initiative regions participation in demo case activities

 - **17 participating regions from 10 countries**
 - **10 annual events** organised on average with over **500 bio-based experts involved**
 - **10 project proposals** supported by new partnerships linked to the Pilot mission
2. Bring together a community of bio-based experts

 - **1 Memorandum of Understanding** signed with the **Bio-based Industry Consortium's (BIC)**
 - Cooperation for the creation of the **BIC Regional funding platform**
 - Over **30 EU projects mobilised in synergic actions** of multi-learning and cooperation, communication and policy influencing
3. Develop a platform based on big data and AI for creating circular value chains

 - **12 new Vanguard regions involved, 70% of biomass, and 100 technologies** mapped
 - **Digital platform** for modelling cross-regional value chains supported (**VCG.AI**)



<https://biconsortium.eu/regional-funding-platform>



<https://vcg.ai/>

The Pilot's key achievements

2 / Demonstrating the bioproducts' large-scale feasibility



1. Bioaromatic applications towards their industrialisation through the **Biorizon program**
 - Several TRL 4/5 **pilot units to demonstrate** the individual steps of the end-to-end process from biomass to aromatics
 - Testing and launch of the **LIGNOVALUE plant** (Mol, Belgium) to produce lignin oil (after depolymerization) and its fractions. The **startup Relement**, founded at the end of 2020, is currently commercialising its first product, MPA.

2. Strengthen biorefining technologies to convert various lignocellulosic fractions into intermediates and building blocks that can be used to produce biofuels and chemicals
 - Development of a 100% fossil-free asphalt thanks to the replacement of bitumen with a bio-base binder (**CIRCUROAD Program**)
 - Design of a **business plan** for the production of Bio-LNG for road transport in Lombardy and a **replicability plan** in Slovenia
 - Design of a **business plan** for the production of biopolymers from agricultural biomass



<https://youtu.be/NTSRazQB9kk>



<https://circularbiobaseddelta.nl/focus-themas/projecten/chaplin/>

The Pilot's key achievements

3/ Boosting bio-based products commercialisation



1. Identify promising industrial business models in Vanguard regions to produce value-added products

- **10 new mature business models (above TRL 5) assessed** as new inter-regional demonstration cases
- **Decision-making index** for resilient and market-ready inter-regional value chains to be incorporated into VCG.AI designed and validated (**Sustainability Assessment Tool** by InnobioVC project and **Business model design tool** by SYMBIO project))

2. Activate inter-regional cooperation and attract EU funding sources

- **5 projects/year in EU programmes** to support the most promising demonstration projects towards industrial and market exploitation
- Promote the **I3 biopolymers partnership** by attracting stakeholders from Vanguard regions
- **Innovation Express Call 2024** (IEC2024) via S3 synchronisation designed and launched
- Develop an IEC2024 expansion and incorporation plan with **Vinnovate**.



Alpine Space

INNOBIOVC

<https://www.alpine-space.eu/project/innobiovc/>



<https://www.symbioproject.eu/index.html>

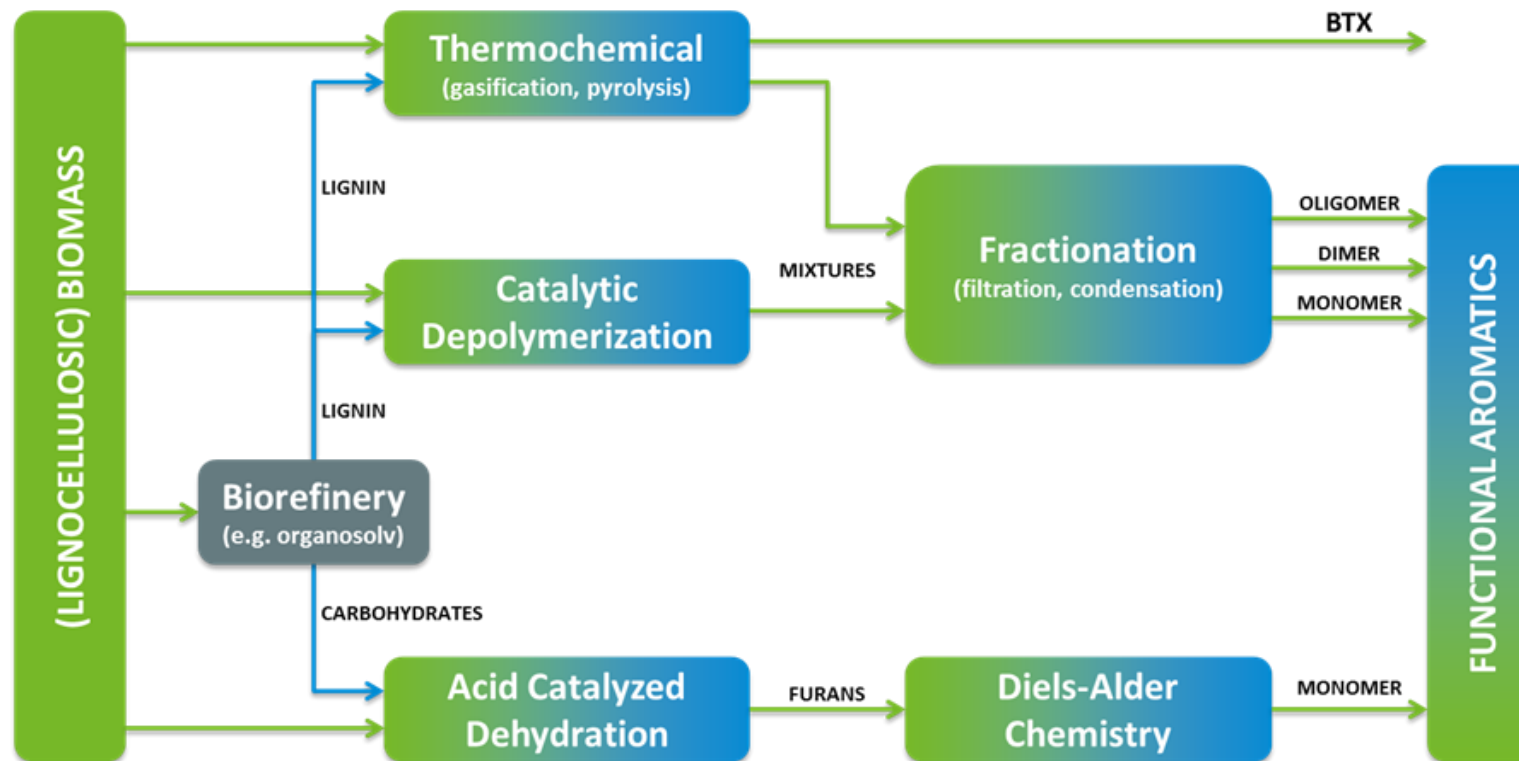


<https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/multipurpose-page/call-2024>

I3 Interregional Innovation Investments **Instrument**

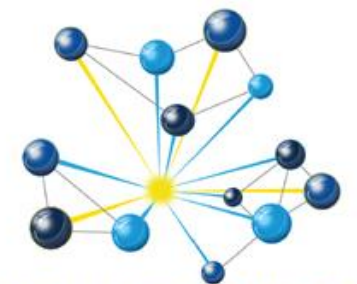
https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument_en

Bioaromatics via the lignocellulose Biorefinery



Byproducts:

- Energy
- Plastic recycling



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New growth through smart specialisation

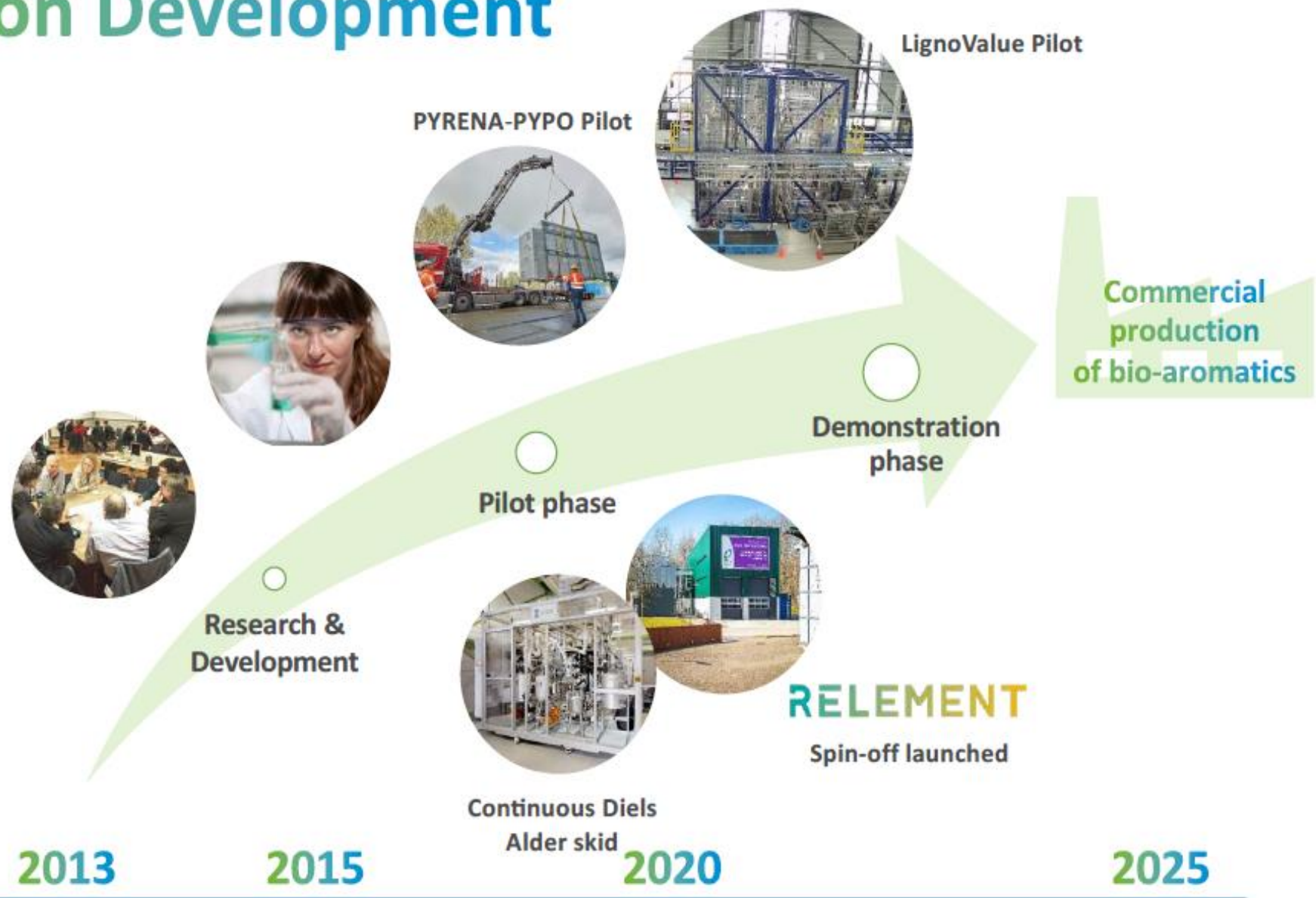
Biorizon

Bio-aromatic on
the agenda of
BIG-C (NL-FL-
NRW)

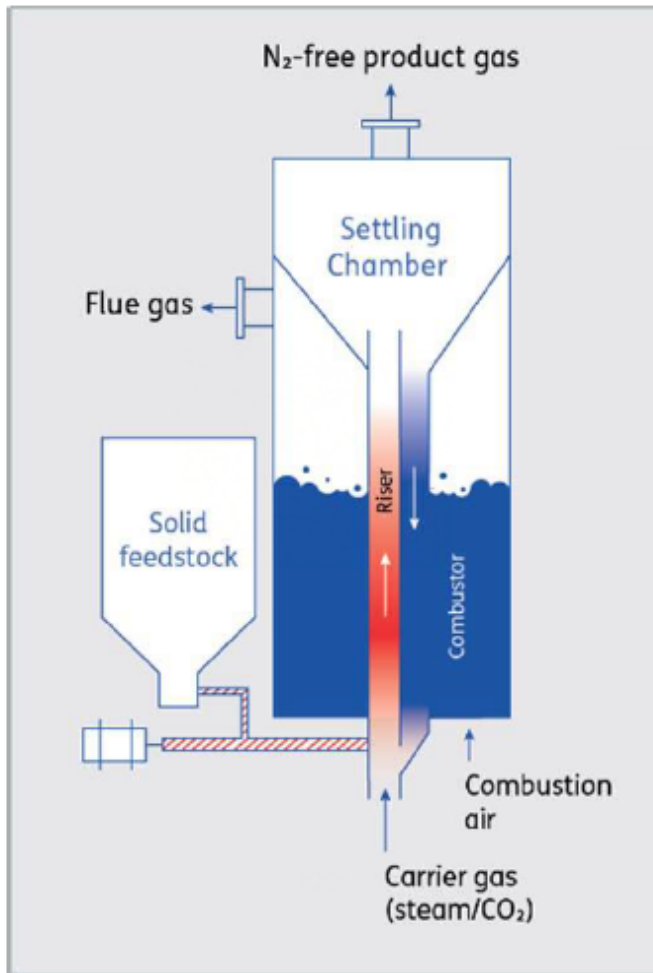
Bio-aromatics
on the agenda
of Vanguard
Biobased (EU)

Thanks to Triple Helix
bio-aromatics is now very
well on the regional, but
also international agenda.
It starts from the strong
chemical region Antwerp-
Amsterdam-Rhein-ruhr
Region
Ideal starting point

► Biorizon Development

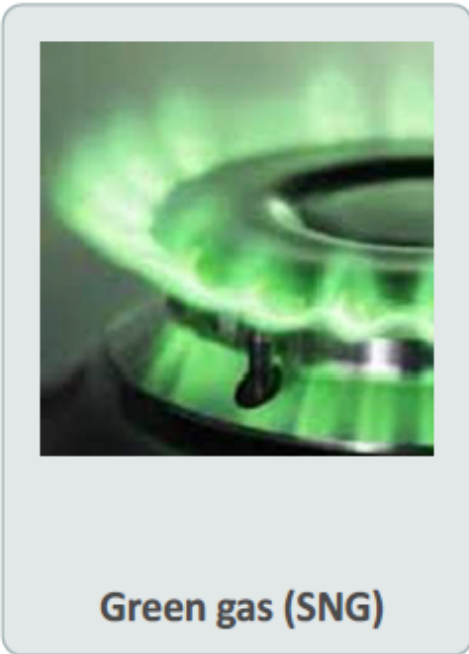
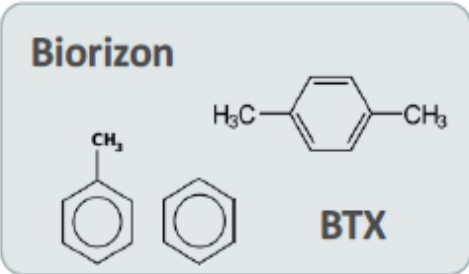


► Gasification: Milena and Olga Technology



Milena gasification

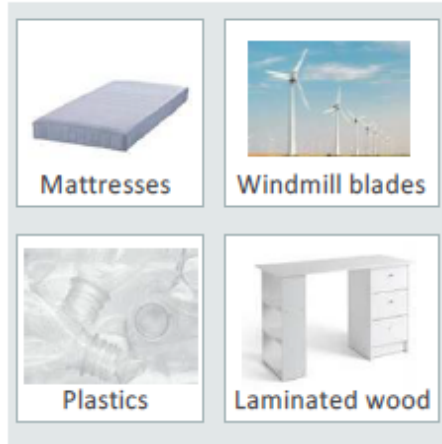
Olga gas cleaning



- ✓ Benzene, toluene and xylene are by-products of gasification and typical drop-in chemicals
- ✓ Increases the value of gasification products
- ✓ TNO is exploring the production, recovery and purification of Benzene and Toluene to industrial grade quality

► Valorisation via Thermochemical Depolymerisation

Pyrolysis and staged condensation



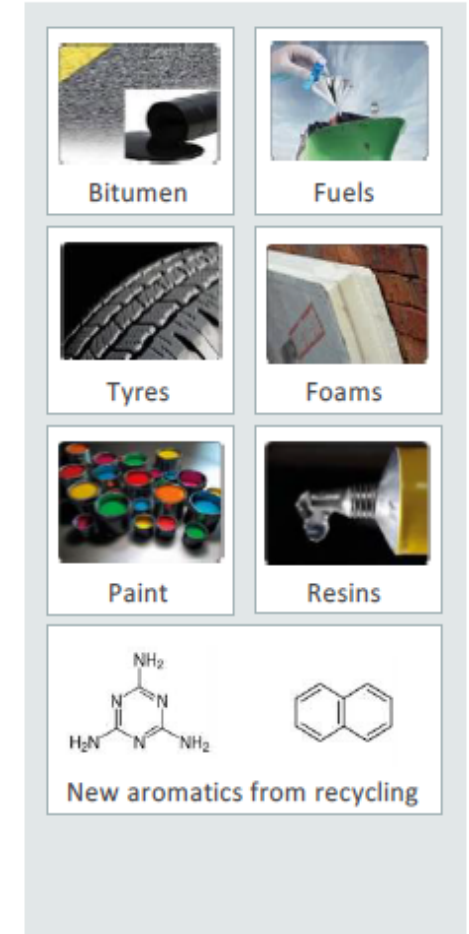
Increased market interest
in recycling of waste
streams



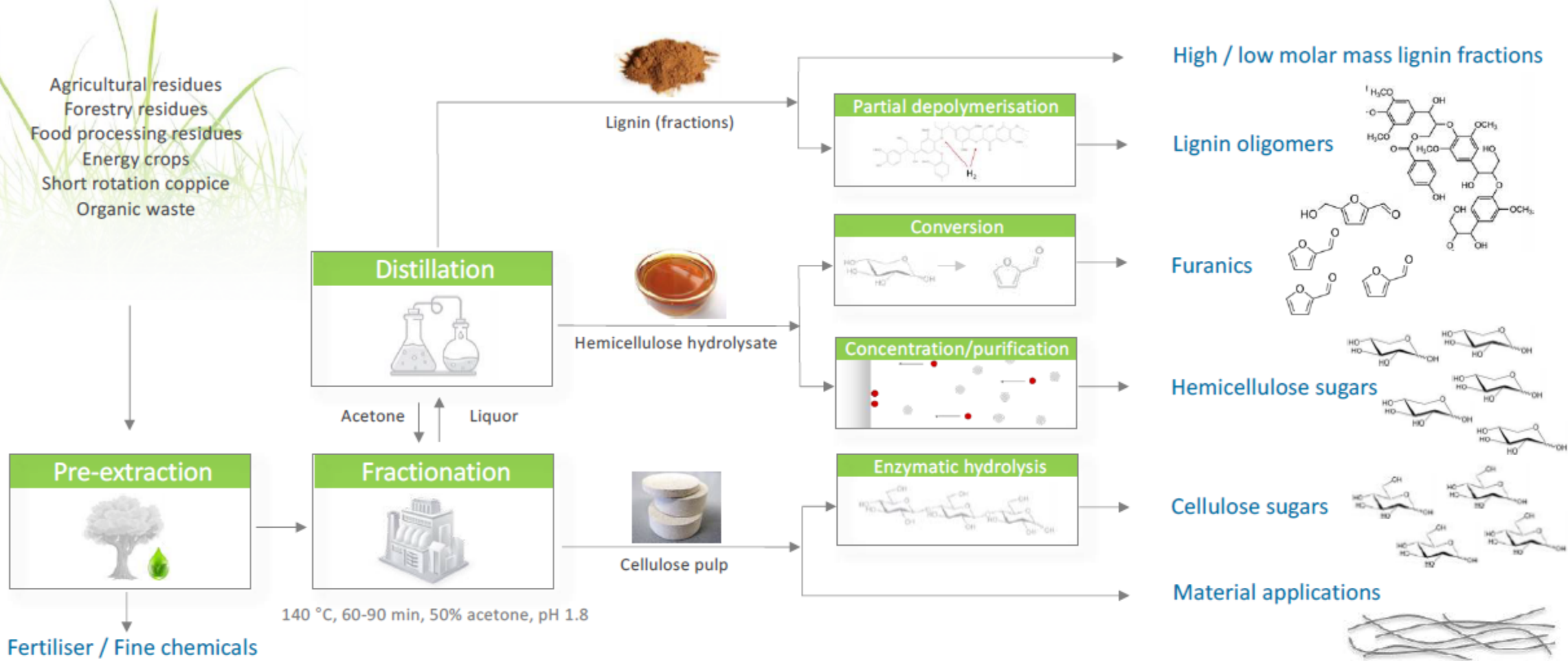
- ✓ Interest from industry in pyrolysis for the production of bioaromatics from lower value waste streams
- ✓ Rapidly growing interest from industry in pyrolysis for recycling of plastics, laminated wood etc.
- ✓ Increased focus on higher-added-value application of the pyrolysis vapour (chemicals / materials instead of fuel)

Projects

Successfully concluded: BIORECEPY (bio-oil application in resins, tyres and biofuels)
Ongoing: PRIMA-2 (aromatics recovery from laminated wood via pyrolysis)
New !: Better Biobased Building Blocks, SLICE and BIO-CAPPP



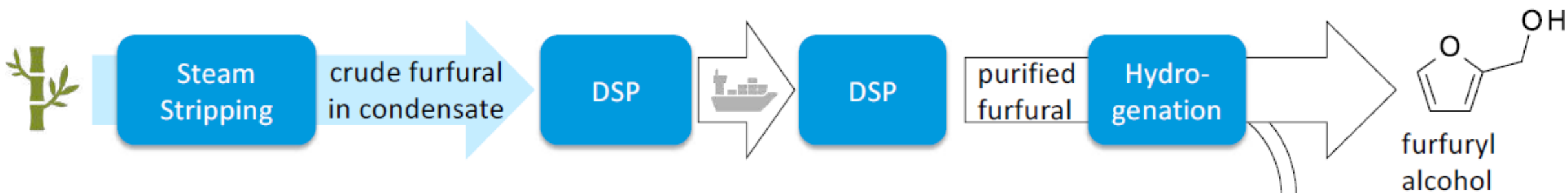
The Fabiola Process



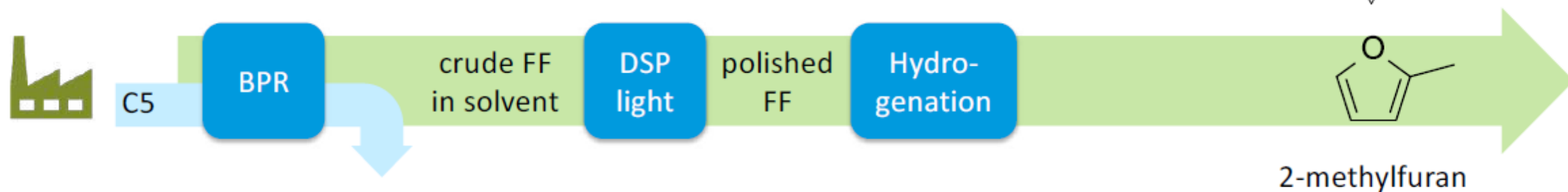
▶ Enhancing Access to Sugar-Derived Platform Molecules

React-EU – Bright Coatings

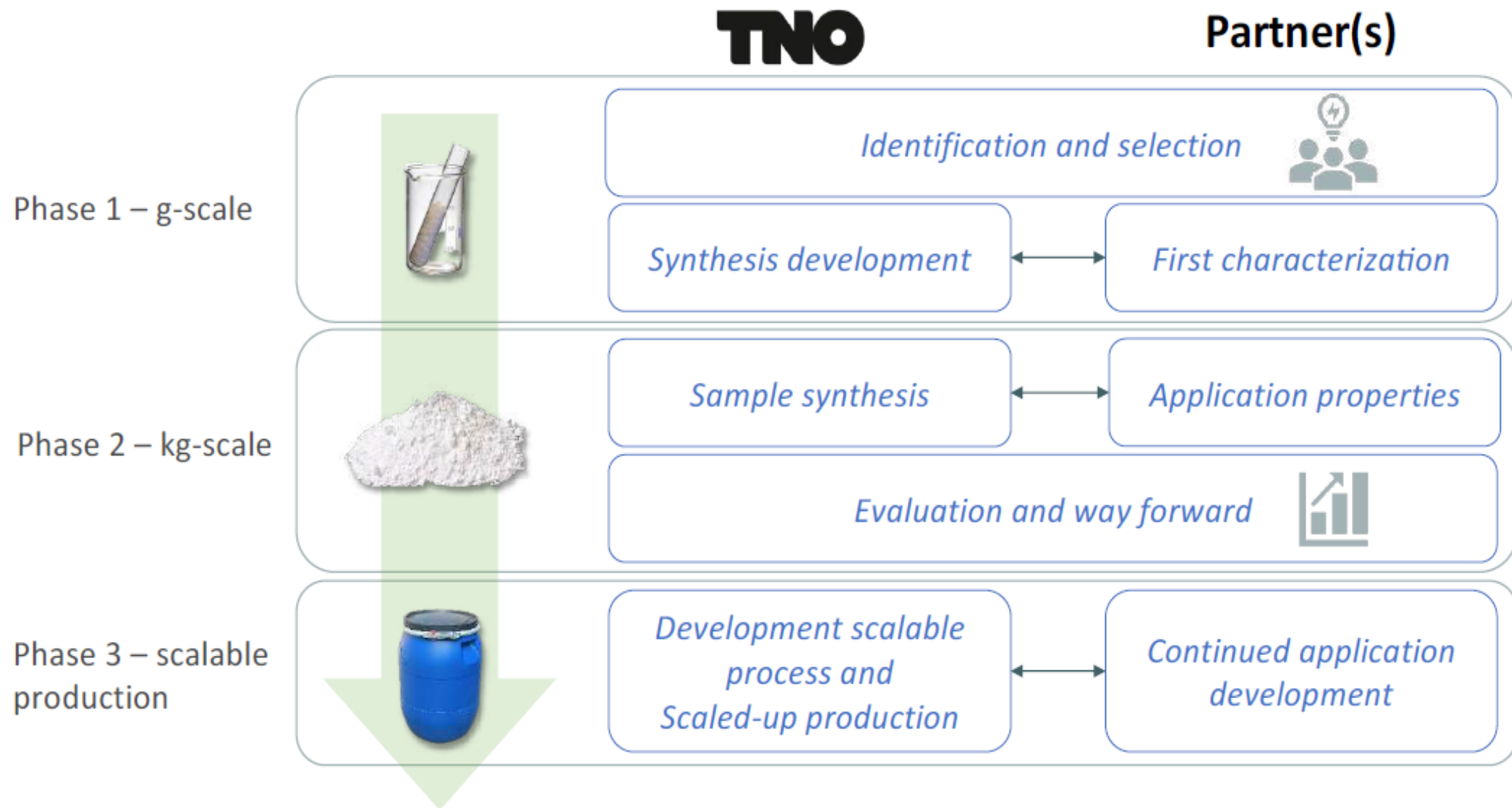
Industrial Standard



TNO's Telescoping Approach



▶ Developing Novel Biobased Building Blocks – Together

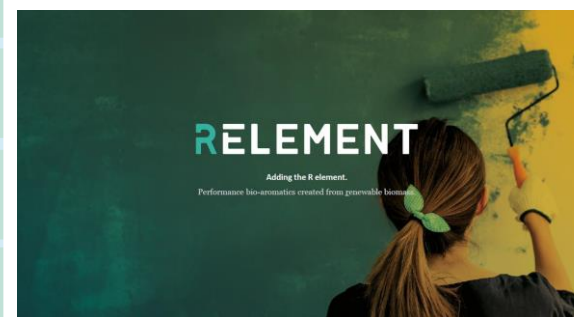


Ability to offer a bioaromatics platform

Spin off: Relement

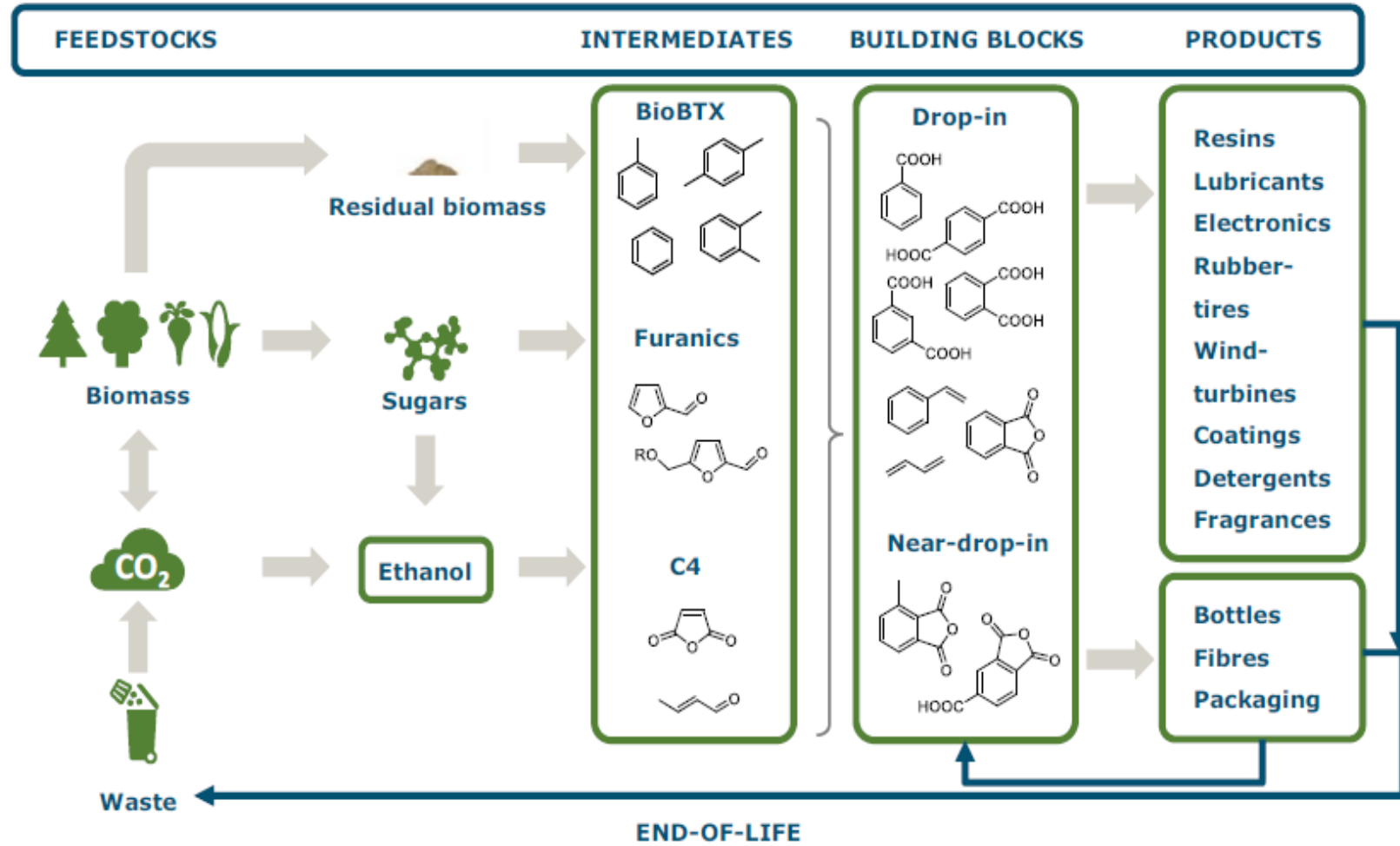


	Hemimellitic Acid	Phthalic Anhydrides	Hexahydro Phthalic Anhydrides	Epoxy-Hexahydro Phthalic Anhydrides
Targeted Markets	Polyurethanes Specialty lubricants Plasticizers	UV resistant coatings Monomer	UV resistant coatings Plasticizers Epoxy Curing agent	Novel coatings Other innovative applications
Volume Possible	10's of kgs	10's of kgs	10's of kgs	10's of kgs
Performance	Dimensional stability High Temperature Stability	Higher UV resistance	Super UV resistance Electrical insulator	To be explored
Derivatives Available	1	2	3	3



Process Development to Expand the Renewable Carbon Horizon

MOOI - AROMATICS





Metsä Group and ANDRITZ plan a lignin product demonstration plant at Äänekoski

Metsä Group Press release 29 May 2023

Press releases | 29.05.2023 09:00 CET | Metsä Group



Metsä Fibre, part of Metsä Group, is planning to build a demonstration plant for a modified lignin product in cooperation with ANDRITZ. The aim is to develop the process to separate lignin from black liquor in pulp production and to further process it for new end-uses.

The demonstration plant would have a capacity of about two tonnes per day and would be located within Metsä Group's Äänekoski bioproduct mill. An investment decision on the plant is expected to be made during the course of this year.

In pulp production, lignin that acts as a binder for wood fibres, is removed from fibres. It has traditionally been used for bioenergy production, but it also has a number of other potential uses. The technical assessment and development of the product for end-use applications is being driven by leading material science company, Dow. The high-performance bio-dispersant products produced in the demonstration plant could be used, for example, as bio-based concrete and gypsum water reducer used in construction markets.

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OPEN THE FORM

Latest news

Metsä Group and Quant Finland agree on a common goal to reduce fossil oil consumption...

MERCER

Lignin pilot plant opens in Germany / Bio-based feedstock material for PU, thermoplastics

US timber group Mercer (New York, New York; www.mercerint.com) has opened Europe's first pilot plant for lignin in Rosenthal, Germany. The new Mercer Lignin Center in the immediate vicinity of the local pulp mill has a production capacity of 300 t/y on an area of 1,000 m². No details were given on the amount invested.

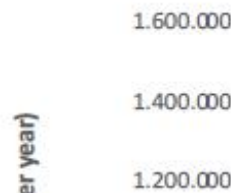


Stora Enso and Valmet collaborate to develop next-generation lignin

Feb 16, 2023

Stora Enso and Valmet have started collaborating on next-generation lignin product and process development to drive Stora Enso's lignin-based businesses and further improve the performance of the Valmet LignoBoost technology. The objective of the partnership is to further develop the quality and customer value of lignin, increase the supply by optimized process machinery and asset design, and to accelerate the speed of meeting the growing lignin demand of the future.

Europe



Bio-aromatics from lignin

Biorizon partner VITO opens LignoValue pilot plant in Flanders



In Mol (Flanders, Belgium), LignoValue was officially opened on 6 October. It is the first and only pilot plant for bio-aromatics from lignin: bio-based chemicals that replace fossil products and perform even better in high-performance applications, such as paints, coatings and composites.

- stopped
- planned
- pilots
- operational

Quantity

600.000

CONFIGURATOR - TYRES

HOME - TECHNOLOGIES - SMARTGRIP+

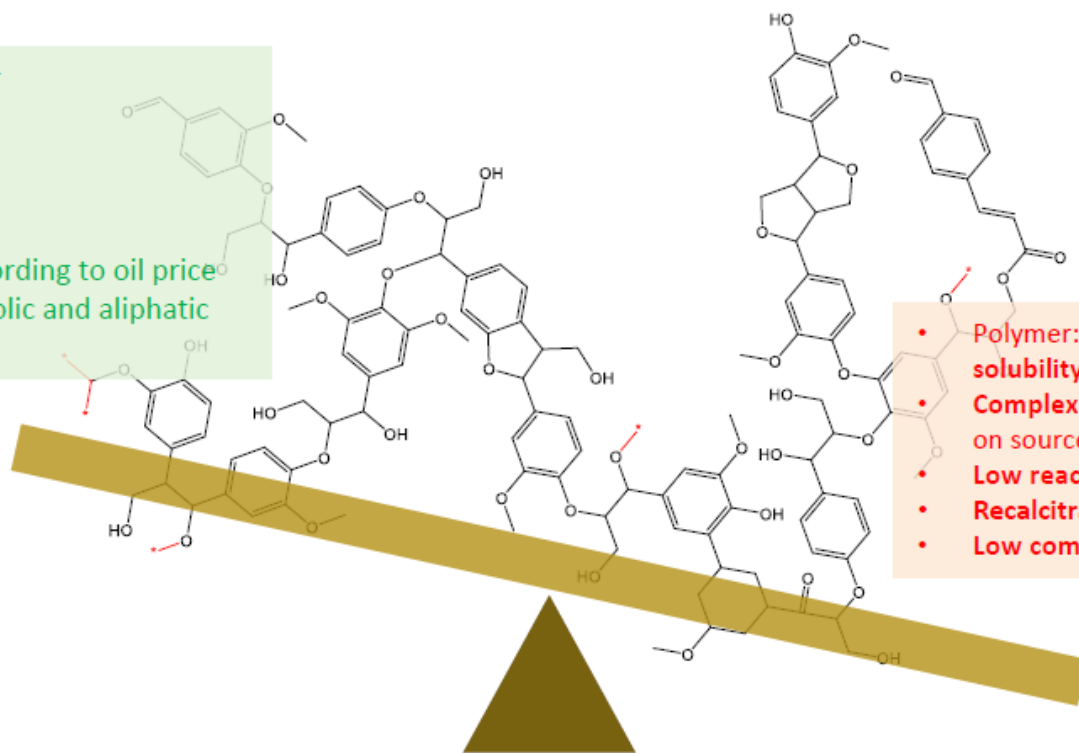
SmartGRIP+ Compound

The SmartGRIP+ Compound is a special chemical formulation specifically designed for e-bike use, it features the characteristics of the Lignin - a natural chemical element derived from the production of paper. The Lignin is an additive with low environmental impact that enhances the mechanical strength of the rubber, laboratory tests certified a 10% improvement in tear resistance which is a crucial feature for modern e-bike use. The enhancement of the tear resistance comes without compromising on the main features of the original SmartGRIP Compound, including chemical grip and durability. The SmartGRIP+ features a superior grip on every terrain and a predictable behavior in every weather condition along the whole lifespan of the tyre.

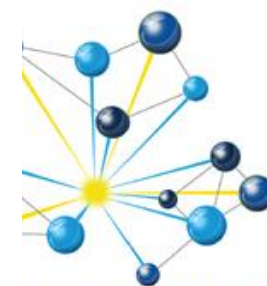
60 kton k

Lignin as resource for bioaromatics

- Phenolic natural polymer
- High availability
- Sustainable
- Non-toxic
- Low cost
- Price not fluctuating according to oil price
- Functional groups (phenolic and aliphatic OH)



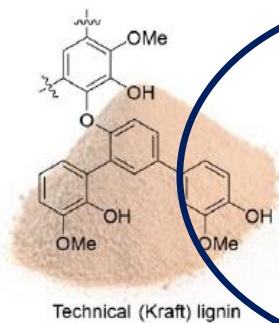
- Polymer: **polydisperse, heterogeneous, solubility** issues
- **Complex chemical structure**, also depending on source
- **Low reactivity**
- **Recalcitrant**
- **Low compatibility** with conventional polymers



JARD INITIATIVE
through smart specialisation

Analytics & polymer design

- Need to map complex mixtures and functionality

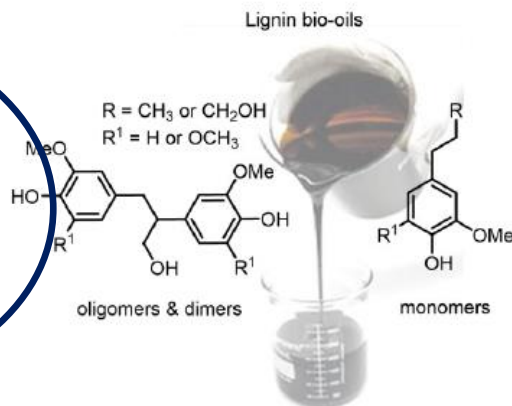


Lignin bio-oils are more

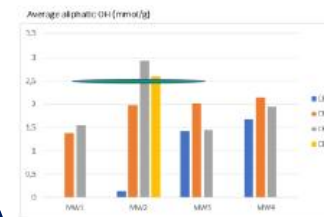
- reactive
- homogeneous
- soluble

than technical lignins and therefore more suitable for polymer development.

E. Feghali; K. M. Torr; D. J. Van de Pas; P. Ortiz; K. Vanbroekhoven; W. Eevers; R. Vendamme
Topics in Current Chemistry 2018, 370, 22




Lower MW & PDI



Bio-based polyol with original features for polymer development
 ex. PU



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17/05/2022

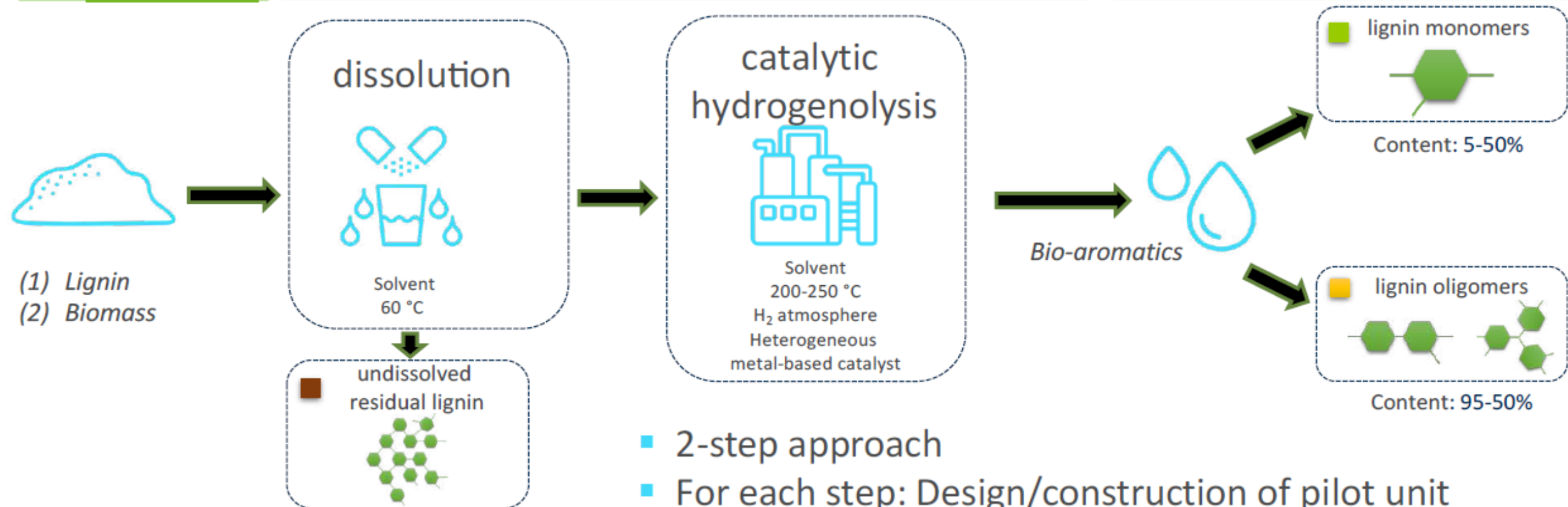
©VITO – Not for distribution

VITOs technology platform

FEEDSTOCK

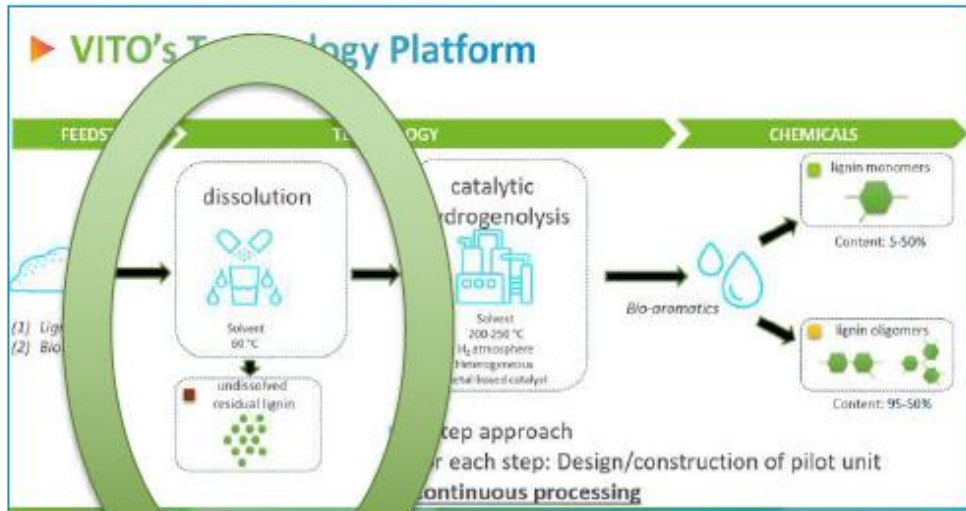
TECHNOLOGY

CHEMICALS



- 2-step approach
- For each step: Design/construction of pilot unit
- **Continuous processing**

Pilot units



PILLAR II dissolving/extraction unit

semi-continuous processing

Delivery at VITO Sustainability Park January 2024



VLAIO CATALISTI

2019-2024 voor #watergroen



FLANDERS
INNOVATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

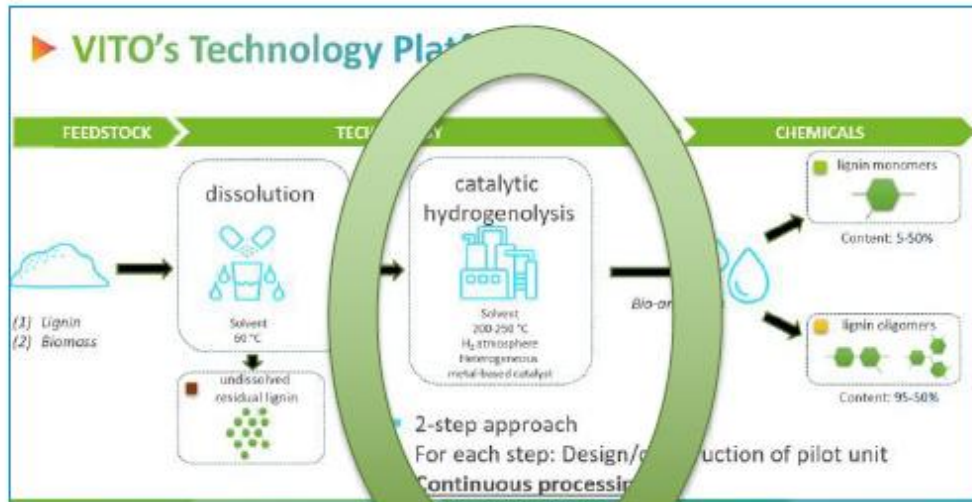


Guiden HJ Group



INITIATIVE
specialisation

Pilot units



LignoValue Pilot catalytic reactor

Continuous processing

Already on-site at VITO Sustainability Park

New infrastructure project:

LigninPLUS

Additional equipment under development

- Handling of feedstock
- Downstream processing of products

VLAIO



EFRO
EUROPEES FONDS
VOOR REGIONALE
ONTWIKKELING



AGENCIJA ZA
INDUSTRIJU I
POSREDOVANJE



EFRO
EUROPEES FONDS
VOOR REGIONALE
ONTWIKKELING



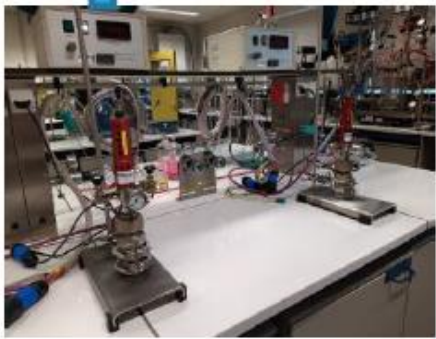
Provincie
Antwerpen



INITIATIVE
port specialisation

Lignin depolymerization From lab scale to pilot plant

2 - 5g/day output
Timing: operational



4-20 g/h output
Timing: feb 2022



1-4 kg/h output
Timing: Q1 2023



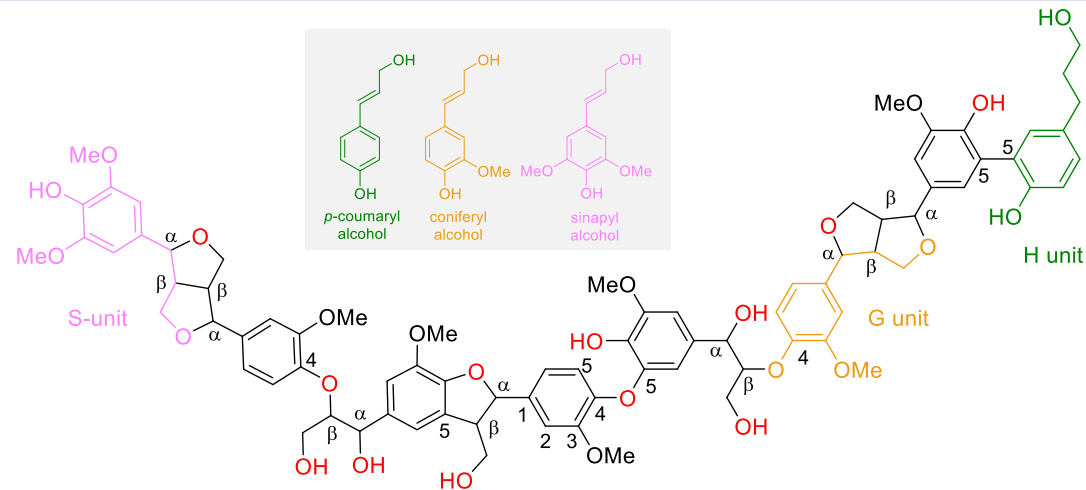
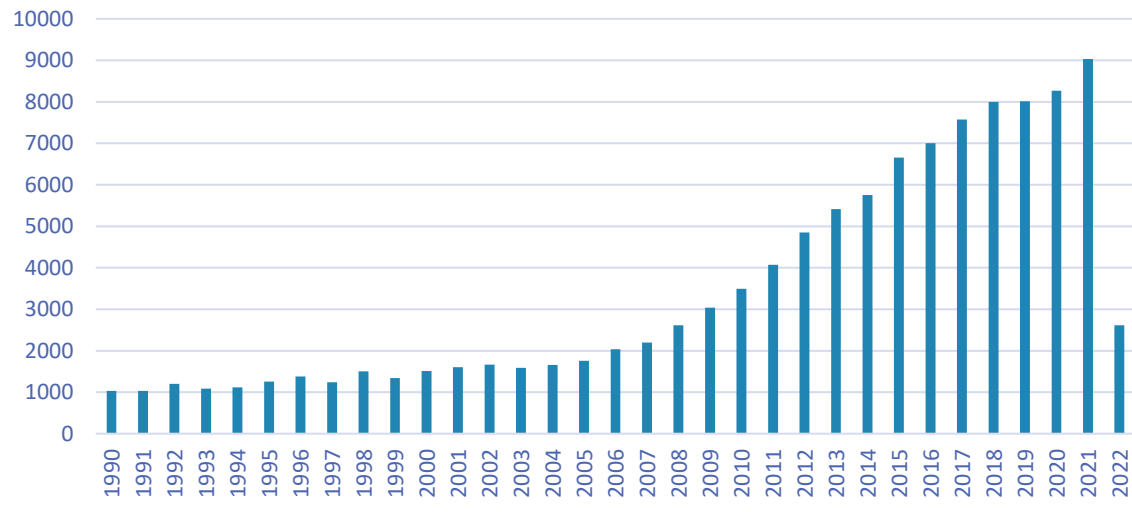
Pilot continuous
depolymerization

Lab batch
depolymerization
system

Lab continuous
depolymerization
system

► LIGNIN materials, close to market?

Publications mentioning lignin per year 1990-2022



Avantium and Roelofs construct the world's first test road with lignin produced in the Netherlands



Bio-bitumen: Stora Enso + Poab → Road in Sweden



Photo credit: Peab

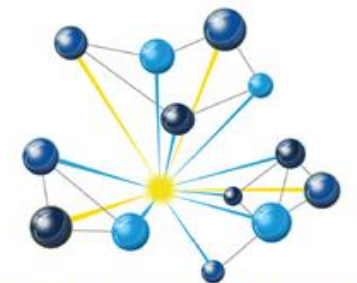


Latvijas Finieris → Industrial production of biobased glue in plywood

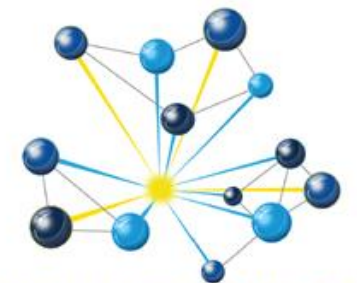
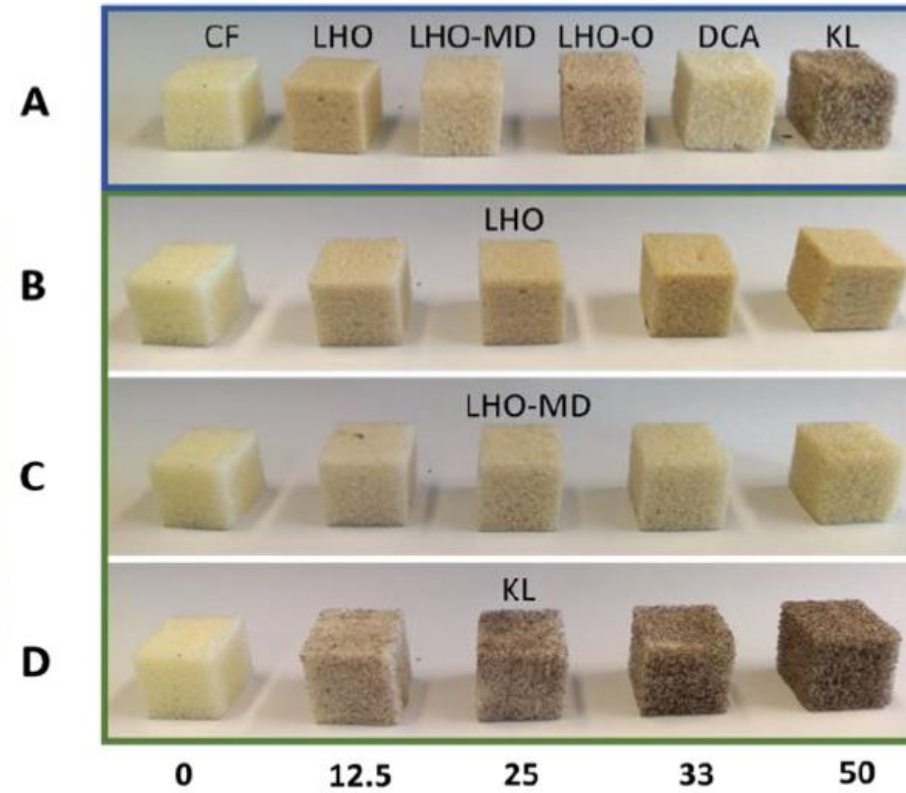
“ Lignin as a coating material is **actually very promising** with its many benefits compared to the synthetic and bio-based coatings currently used. It has excellent anti-corrosion, anti-bacterial, anti-icing, and UV-shielding properties. ”

Lignin roles in polymer systems

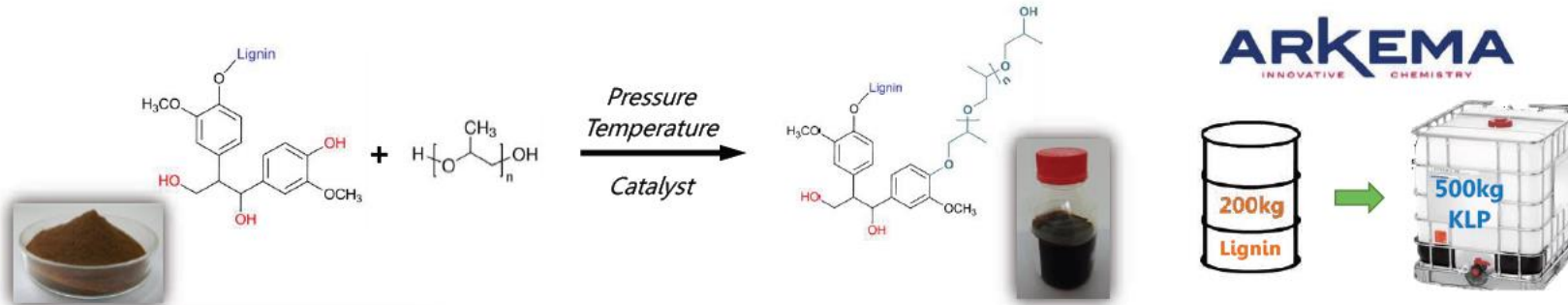
- Lignin as building block for polymers
 - Polyurethanes
 - Polyacrylates
 - Epoxy resins
 - Phenolic resins
- Lignin as additive
 - Chemical modification of lignin
 - Specific function of bioaromatic additives
 - Antioxidant
 - Antimicrobial
 - UV blocking
 - Adhesion
 - Thermal resistance



Lignin derived polyurethanes



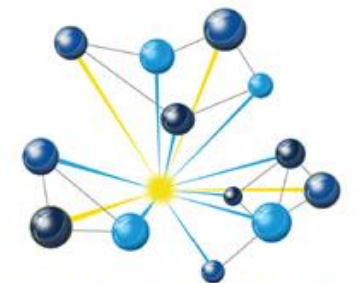
Polyurethane foams with lignin as polyol



PU Panels
Industrial production



1000+ m²
Commercial product



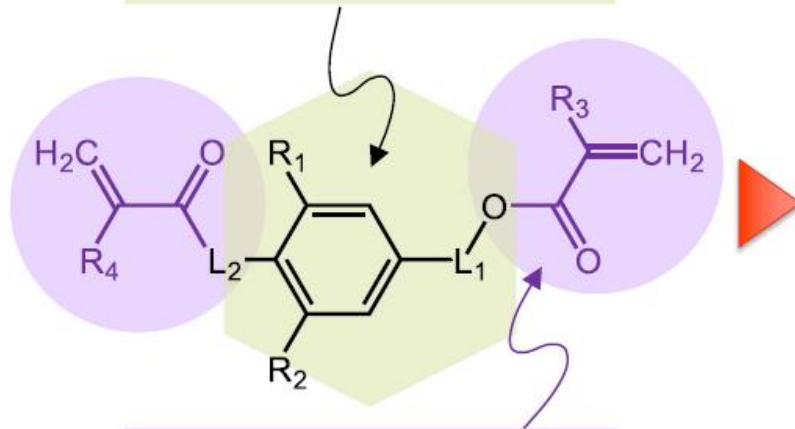
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Acrylates

- **Previous work:** Integration of tailored lignin fractions in PU, PF, epoxies...
- **New development:** Demonstration of lignin-derived acrylic systems



Tailored lignin (oil) fraction



Meth(acrylic) functions

On-going research

- Functionalization;
- Formulation and curing;
- Basic properties

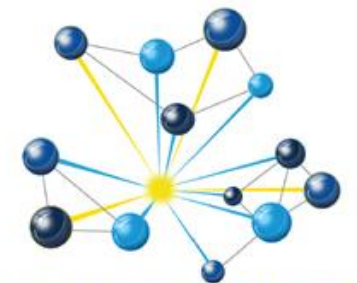


Future opportunities

Collaborations with industry

New applications from acrylated lignin fractions:

- Coatings
- Inks;
- Adhesives
- ...



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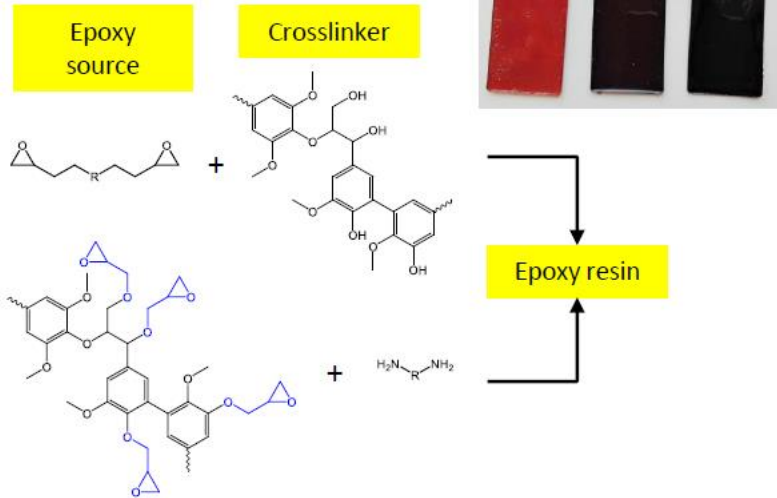
Lignin applications

Epoxy resins

Role of lignin in epoxy resins:

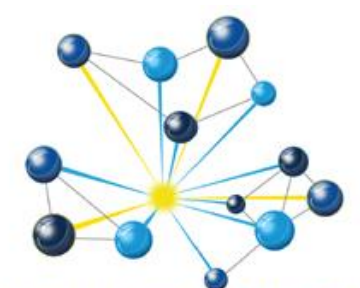
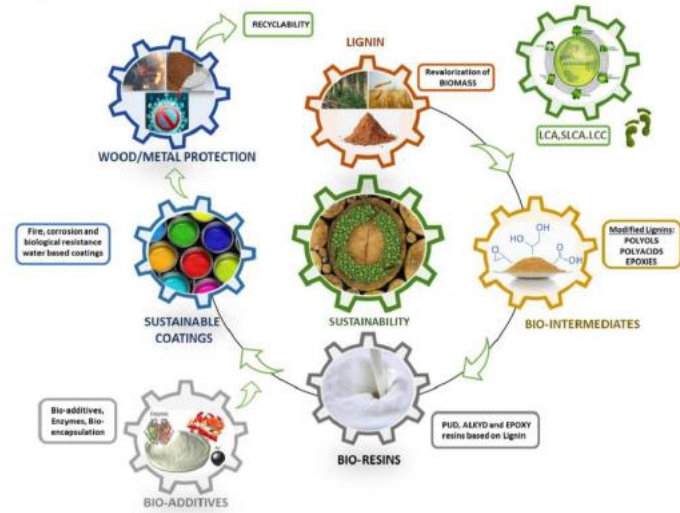
Lignin as an epoxy source (after epoxidation)

Lignin as a crosslinking agent



BBI LIGNICOAT – Epoxy resins

BIO-BASED INDUSTRIES
Bio based Industries Consortium



VANGUARD INITIATIVE
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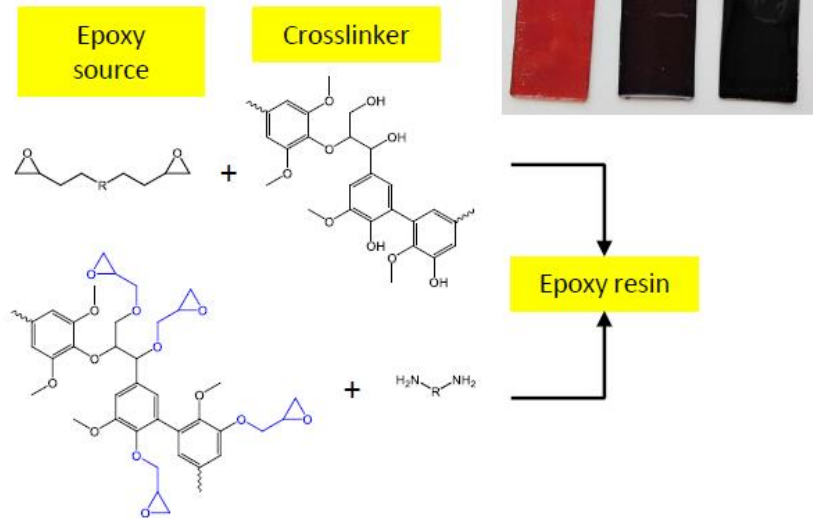
Lignin applications

Epoxy resins

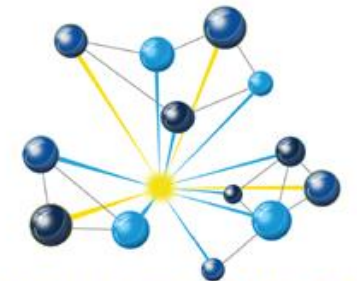
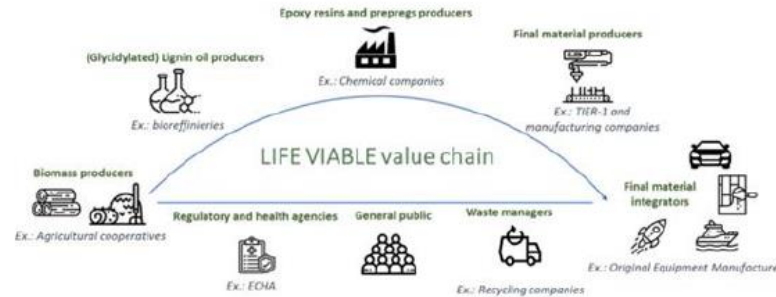
Role of lignin in epoxy resins:

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Life Viable – Epoxy resins

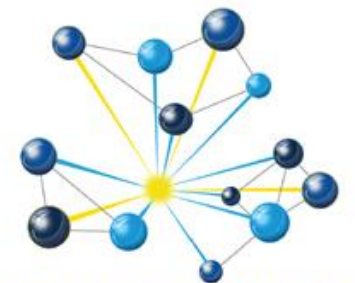


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Resins in collaboration with Westlake

- BIORECEPY
 - Biomass after thermochemical depolymeriation and fractionation by TNO
- LIGNICOAT
 - Lignin after catalytic depolymerization by VITO + glycidation
- LIFE VIABLE
 - Eposyresins to make large composites

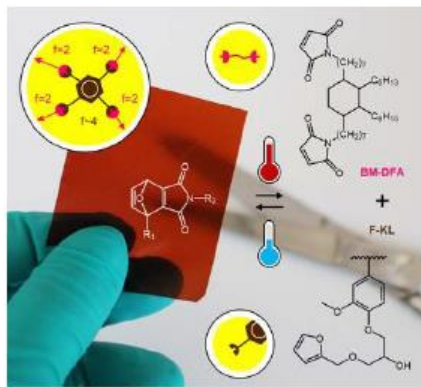
Westlake
Epoxy



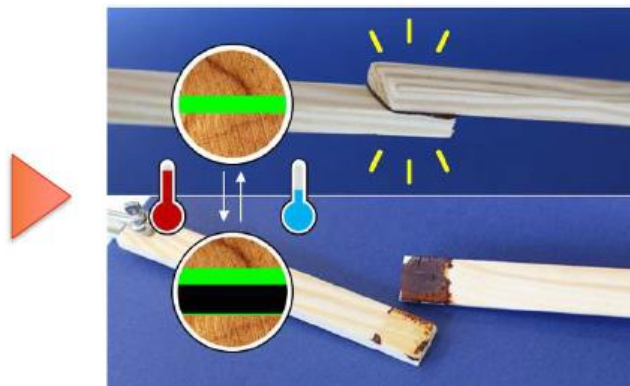
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Adhesives

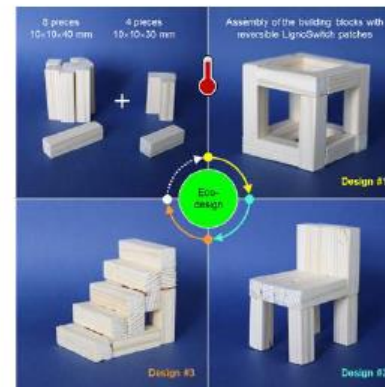
- **Previous work:** Demonstration of lignin-based adhesives using various chemistry platform (PU, epoxies...)
- **New development:** Lignin-based adhesives with additional functionalities: reversible bonding and debonding on-demand



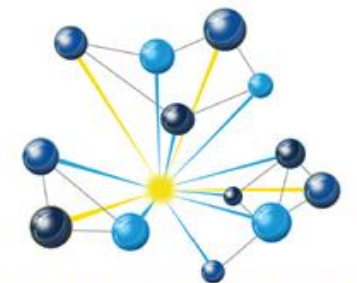
LignoSwitch™



Reversible gluing and ungluing



Eco-design



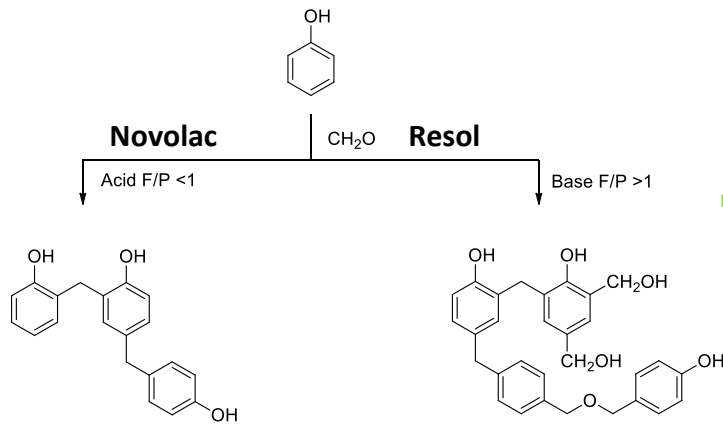
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► BIORESAL project

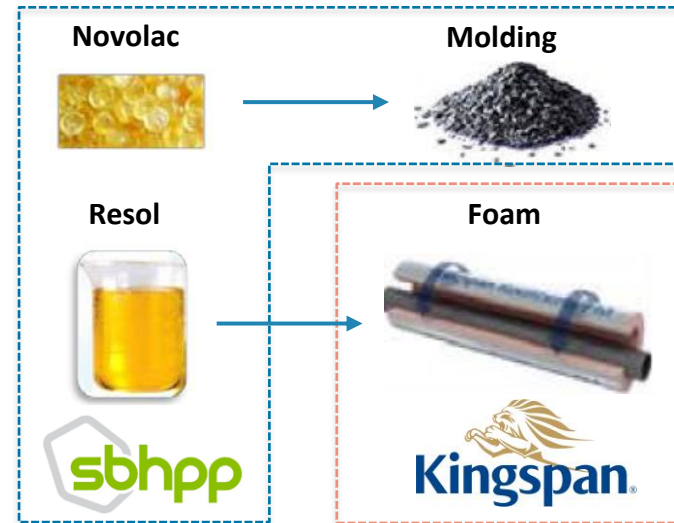
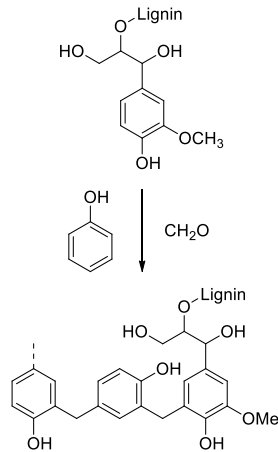
BIORESAL (BIObased RESins from Aldehydes and Lignin) Project aims to valorize technical lignins and depolymerized lignins to produce Lignin based phenolic resins for foam and molding applications → **Replacement of phenol by lignin.**



PF resins



(L)PF resins



TEA
Process design
INEOS
THE WORD FOR CHEMICALS

Chem. Modification
HCOH replacement

UNIVERSITEIT
GENT

Chem. Modification
Tailoring lignin fractions



CATALISTI
WE MEAN BUSINESS

BIORESAL

- **LPF Foam evaluation with technical, purified and modified lignins**

The thermal conductivity } on target ✓
Friability }
The compressive strength ✓

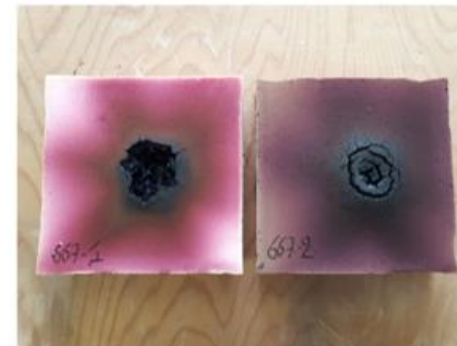
Specifications of LPF improved after adapting the resin procedure and after formulation development of the foam at lab scale.



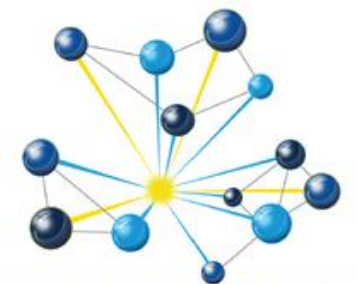
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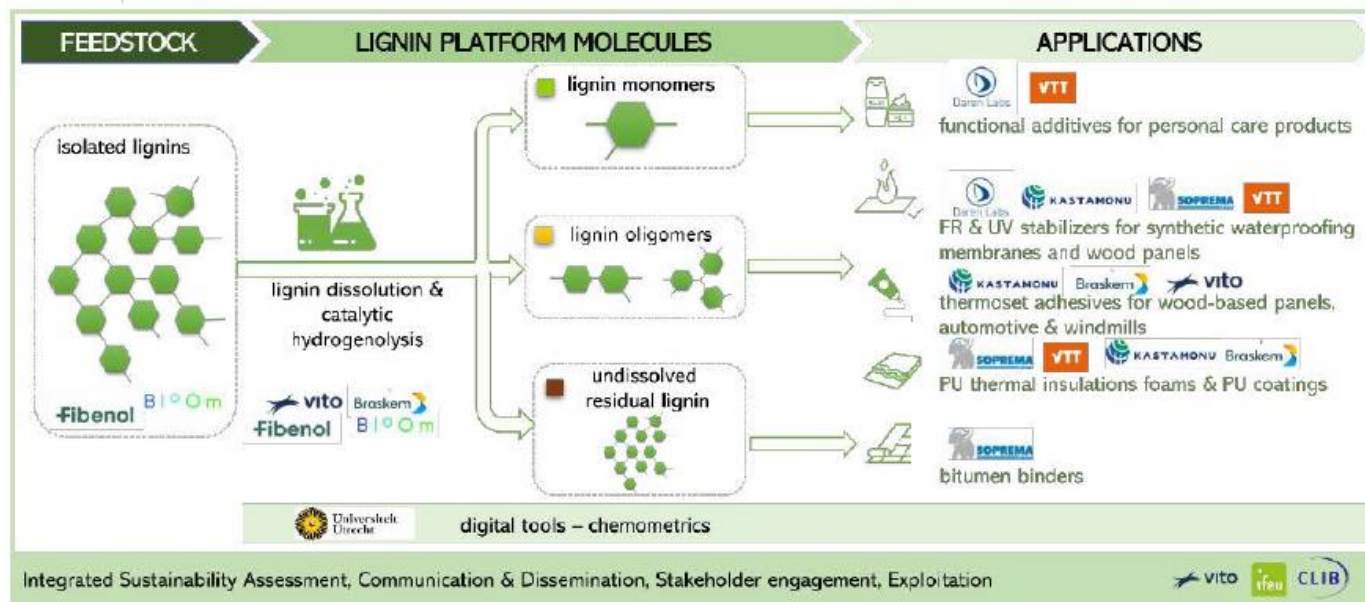
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growth through smart specialisation

COUNTLESS



Cost-Effective production of lignin platform chemicals extending the biobased ChEmicals portfolio

HORIZON-JU-CBE-2022-IA-03



► Coordinator: vito

Contact: kelly.servaes@vito.be

- Overall goal is to demonstrate the **cost-effective and environmentally sustainable production of novel dedicated lignin-based platform chemicals**, in an industrially relevant environment (TRL 7), via the use of a catalytic hydrogenolysis technology to convert isolated lignin into platform chemicals for several applications in the **construction industry and cosmetics sector**.

- Duration:** 4 years (2023 – 2027) – start 01/09/2023

- Total budget:** € 6,9 MEUR – EC Funding: €5,4 Meur; BLOOM associated partner (€1,34 Meur)



Bio-based Industries Consortium



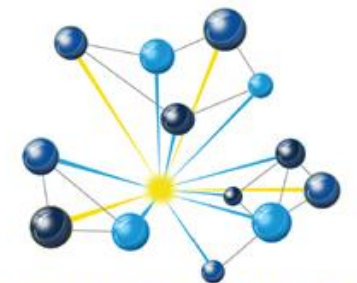
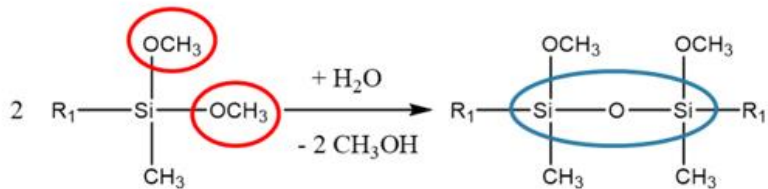
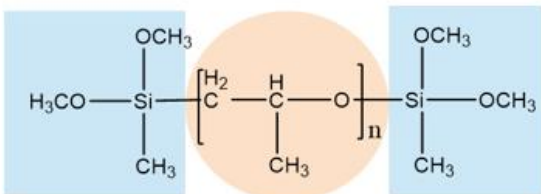
The project is supported by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and its members



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Cambium project

- Liquid Polymers (MS Polymer)
 - Sealants, adhesives and coatings
 - Construction, transportation and industry

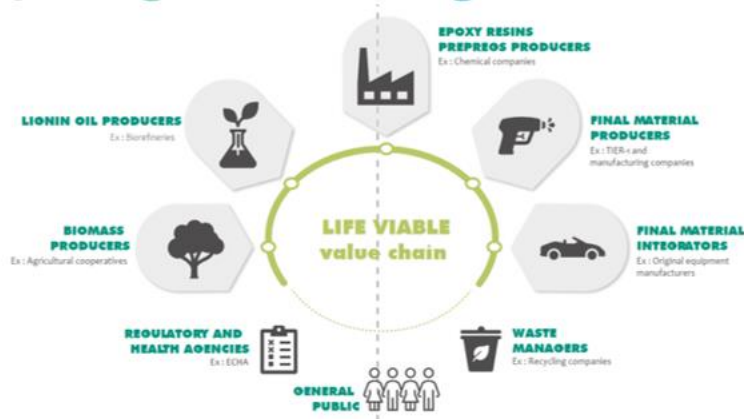


VANGUARD INITIATIVE
New growth through smart specialisation

Replacing Bisphenol A by lignin derivatives



Valorization of lignin biomass into competitive components gradually replacing BPA in the formulation of Epoxy resins



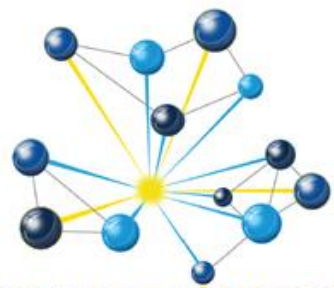
CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT

BPA Bisphenol A (BPA) is a commodity chemical produced world-wide in a large volume every year. It is used in the production of epoxy resins and polycarbonates. However, its endocrine disrupting properties and its fossil-based composition raise concerns about its environmental impact and health toxicity as well as its sustainability.

The VIABLE project therefore aims to improve the sustainability and the environmental impact of epoxy resins manufacture by lowering the BPA content in the formulation of epoxy resins by 20 to 50%.

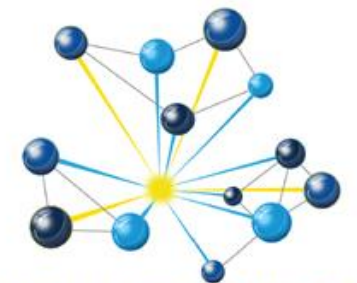
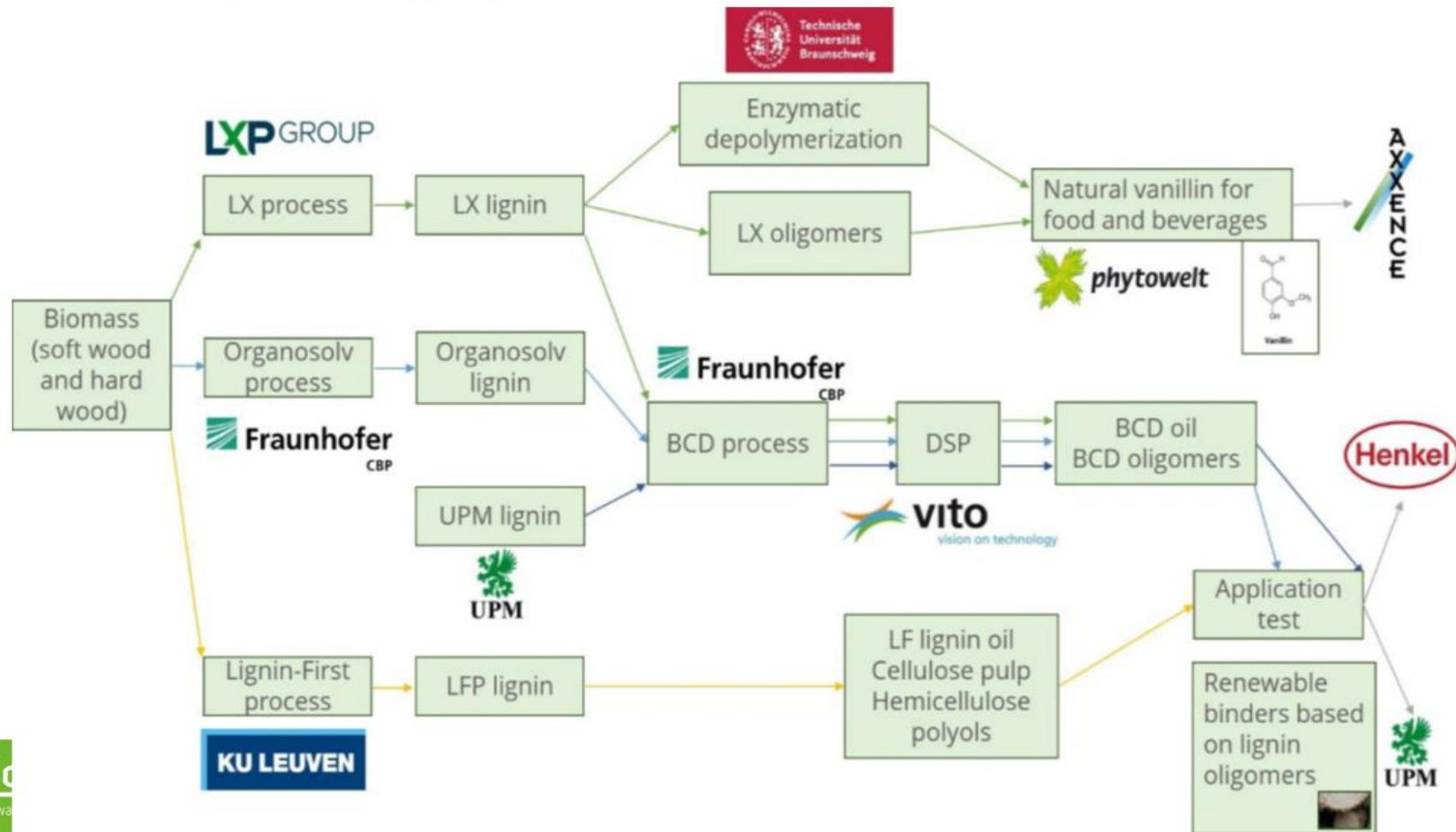


This project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE Program under grant agreement No LIFE20-ENV-BE-000671



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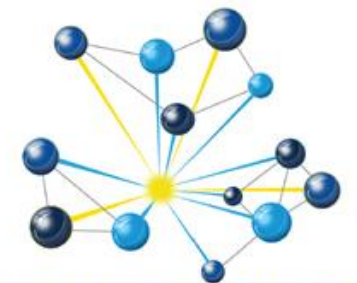
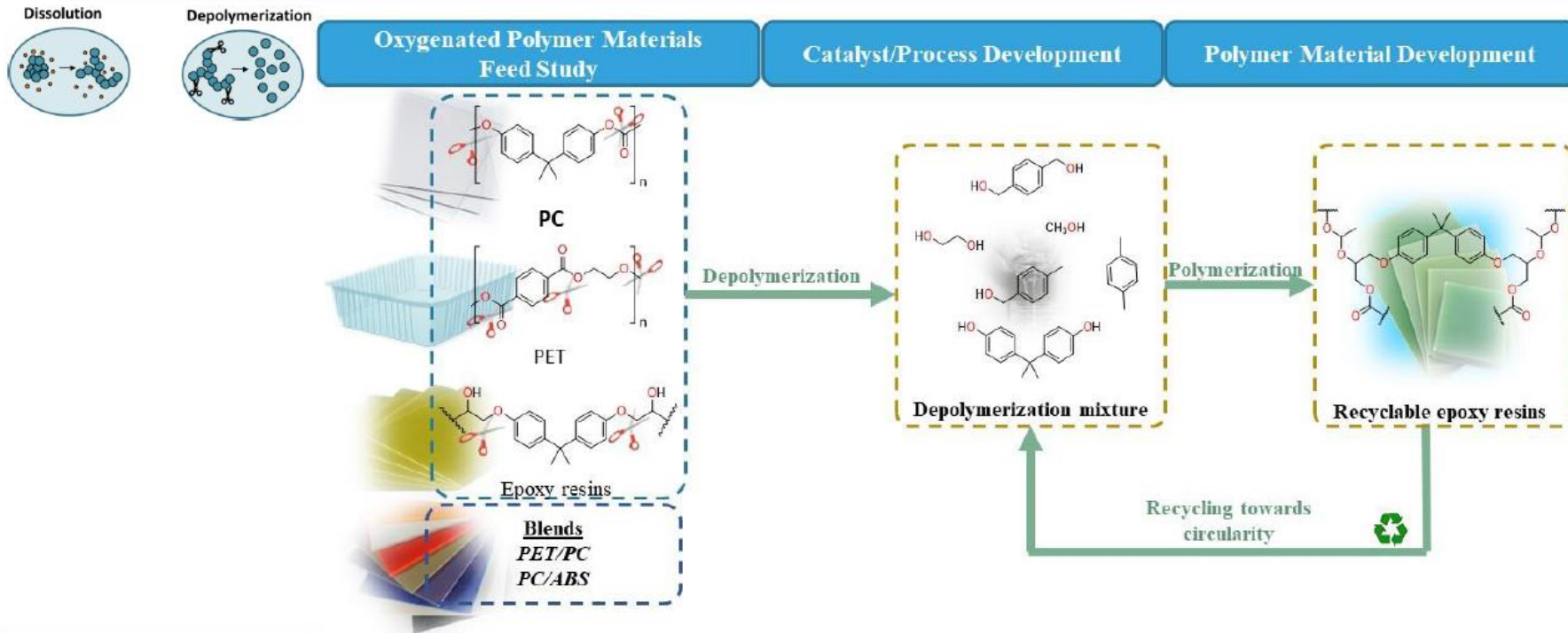
ALIGN, BMBF project in collaboration with Flanders



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From lignin depolymerization to plastic depolymerization

INNOVATIVE CATALYTIC DEPOLYMERIZATION ROUTES FOR HETEROPOLYMERS TOWARDS POLYOLS



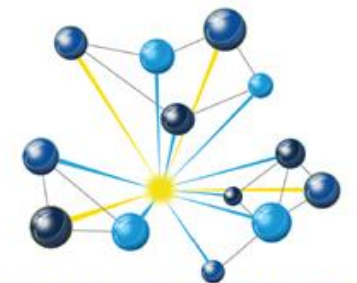
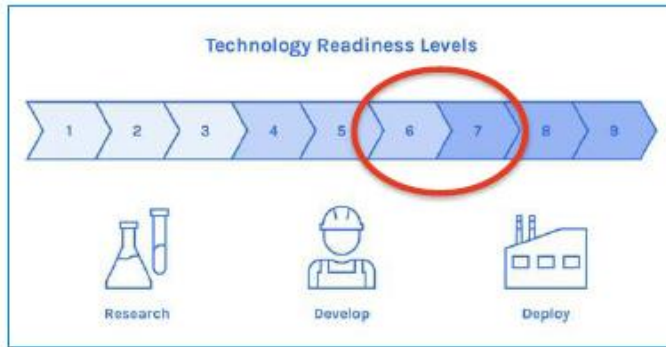
CA17128 - Establishment of a Pan-European Network on the Sustainable Valorisation of Lignin

 Downloads

• LIGNICOST

- Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia&Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK

Wrap up



ANGUARD INITIATIVE
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Join our mission, join our community

27-11-2024 - 28-11-2024 /

Antwerp & Online

11th Biorizon Annual Event

On 27 and 28 November 2024 Biorizon Shared Research Center will host its 11th Biorizon Annual Event on Bio-aromatics in Antwerp and online.

www.biorizon.eu/community/join

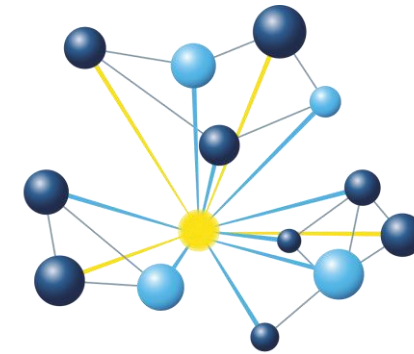


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