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MMAtwo consortium initiates first actions with the active support of recognized industry and academic leaders in PolyMethyl MethAcrylate

Since the launch of the MMAtwo project on October 1st, 2018, the consortium has initiated several actions aiming at developing a new and innovative process to recycle post-industrial and end-of-life PMMA waste into Second Generation MethylMethAcrylate (MMA) raw materials.

Among those actions, a guided tour of the recycling facility of **Comet Traitements S.A** was conducted last November, 20th, 2018. The objective was to give all MMAtwo partners a clear understanding of how **Comet Traitements** will supply PMMA post-consumer from the taillights and other parts of end-of-life vehicles needed in the project.



MMAtwo partners and Advisory Board members at Comet Traitements site

It was also a good opportunity to meet with some members of the MMAtwo Advisory Board (AB) whose role is to advise the Executive Board on strategic matters regarding the project's scientific scope and direction. The AB is chaired by **Dr Jean-Luc Dubois** of **Arkema** and brings together scientific experts from the PMMA industry, recycled MMA end-users and academic community.

The PMMA industry is currently represented by **Mr Peter Kelly (Polycasa)**, **Mr Philippe Salémis (CEFIC's Methacrylate sector group)** and **Mr Andrew Bragg (Lucite)**.

During the meeting, Mr Bragg emphasized the importance of developing a MMA circular economy strategy at a European level and declared that "*MMAtwo should demonstrate how to bring all the elements to create a new value chain from recycled MMA*". Mr Philippe Salémis stressed how important it is for MMAtwo to report to the European Commission information that shows the recyclability of PMMA as "*The Commission already published proposals considering to push for specific plastics in defined applications, such as to simplify separation and recycling processes.*"

Mr Bob Fowler, who previously operated a molten metal-bath plant also joined the AB as a PMMA depolymerization expert.



Mr Buggolacchio and **Mrs Maria Savina Pianesi (Plados-Telma** - Leader of the Life GreenSinks project) who produced kitchen sink with recycled MMA, will share with the consortium the issues they encountered when recycling PMMA and using rMMA and rPMMA. *“We expect that MMAtwo will be able to deliver recycled MMA in sufficient quantities to satisfy the demand of new applications such as composite sinks developed by Plados Telma”* said Mrs Savina Pianesi.

The Academic community is represented by **Pr Achilias (University of Thessaloniki)**, who published scientific papers on recycled MMA polymerization, **Pr Olazar (Universidad del Pais Vasco)**, who published on the use of a spouted bed reactor for the depolymerization of PMMA and **Dr Torben Fischer (RWTH Aachen group)** whose group previously worked on an extruder depolymerization unit.

According to Prof Achilias, *“The MMAtwo project is a good opportunity as an Academic to understand the technical challenges faced by the industry to recycle an important polymer such as PMMA”*.

Prof Olazar also pointed out that *“The MMAtwo project is an excellent opportunity to address the challenge associated with the industrial recycling of the PMMA polymer and places Europe at the forefront of its recycling technology.”*

To wisely address this challenge, the MMAtwo consortium invites anyone involved in the field of PMMA / MMA who wishes to give an input to the project, and thus contribute to its success, to join the Advisory Board or the Stakeholder Group by filling in the contact form available on the project website: <https://www.mmatwo.eu>

The website contents will be continuously updated and extended throughout the project providing information about the MMAtwo objectives, consortium and Advisory Board.

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Contact information:

Simon van der Heijden (Heathland), Project Coordinator: simon@heathland.com. Tel: +31 30 721 0890; Heathland B.V., Arkansadreef 8, 3565 AR Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Jean-Luc Dubois (Arkema), Chairman of the project executive board: jean-luc.dubois@arkema.com. Tel : +33 616200048

Maud Bossard (Ayming), Project Management Officer: mbossard@ayming.com. Tel: +33 4 72 35 51 15