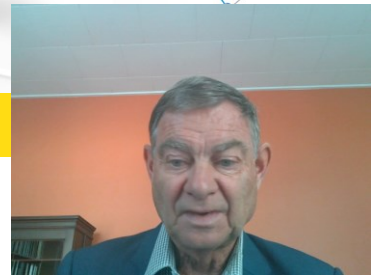


Vanguard Case Bio-aromatics

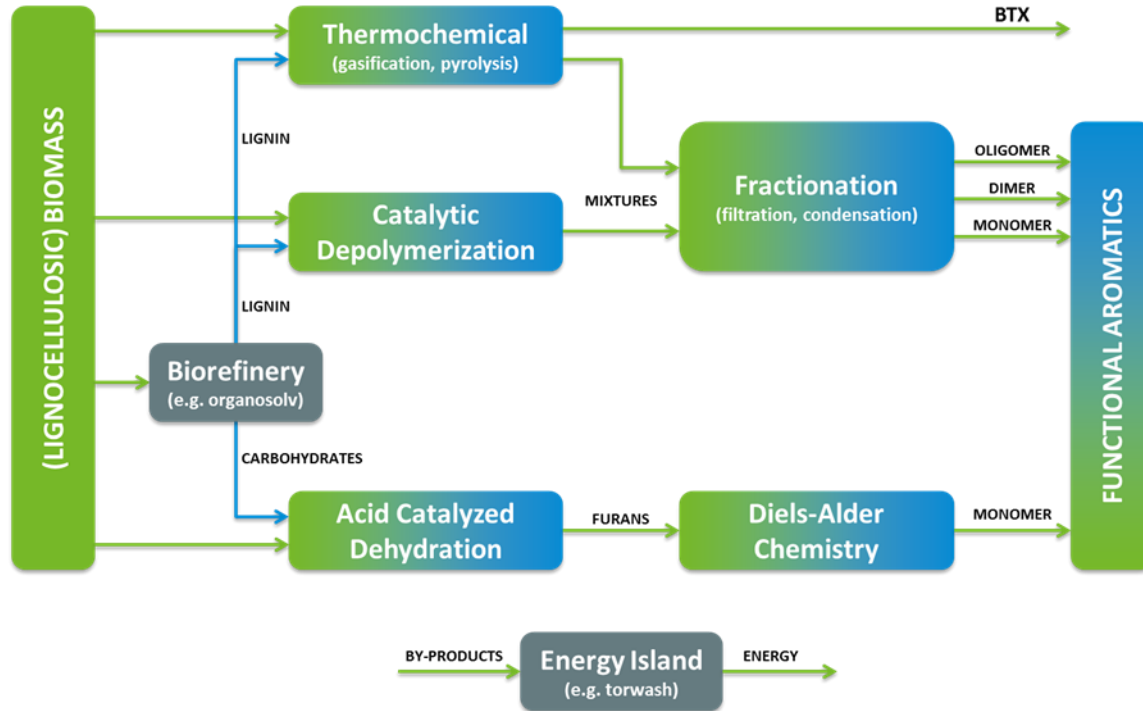
Leader: Flanders (Ludo Diels)

Co-leaders: South Netherlands, NRW

Shaping bio-based value chains through
cross-regional cooperation, 30 September
2021



The lignocellulose Biorefinery



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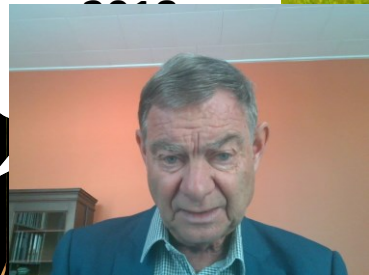
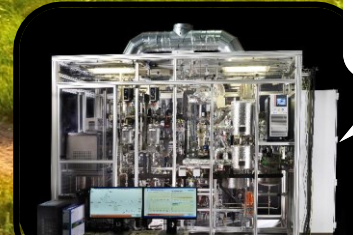


Bio-aromatics case on its way to pilots and demo's

Array of commercial bio-aromatic production facilities

2025: 1st Commercial bio-aromatic production

2022: 1st Demo plant
(50 ton/year)



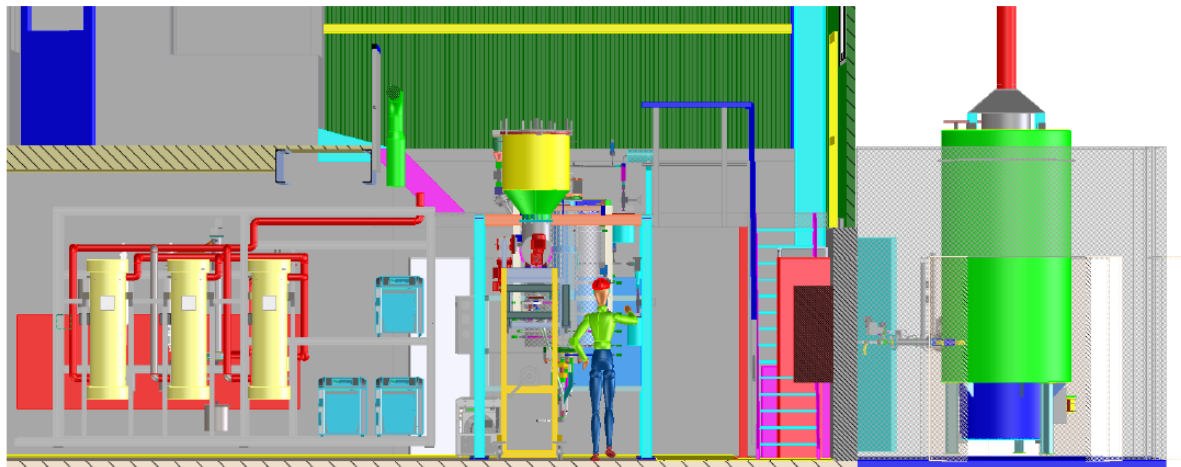
Business Model Development

- ❑ Primary business model is based on the Shared Research Center Biorizon
- ❑ From R&D to Pilot actions and Demo installed
- ❑ Several actions on pyrolysis
- ❑ Several actions on Sugar to aromatics (spin off Relement)
- ❑ Lignovalue Pilot plant operational January 2022,



Pyrolysis-based lignin valorization

Piloting at the Green Chemistry Campus BoZ



- 5 kg/h PYRENA/PYPO piloting facility: 5 kg/h PYRENA fast pyrolysis unit + directly coupled staged condensation unit (PYPO - Pyrolysis Product Obtention unit)
- From Q3 2020, 4-5 day experimental campaigns, yielding typically 5-10 kg scale sample batches for application development
- Application development with a range of industry partners



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Ability to offer a bioaromatics platform



	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



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Spin off for furans-based chemistry



RELEMENT

Adding the R element.

Performance bio-aromatics created from renewable biomass.



LignoValue Pilot plant



Design and construction of a pilot plant for the depolymerization of lignin/wood into innovative biobased aromatics

- ❑ Starting date: 30/05/2018
- ❑ Design of LignoValue Pilot plant
 - Continuous
 - Mobile
 - As flexible as possible
 - Treatment of lignin and wood
- ❑ Operational mid 2021

Technology choice

Metal-catalyzed conversion of lignin/wood in **solvent medium**

Feedstock



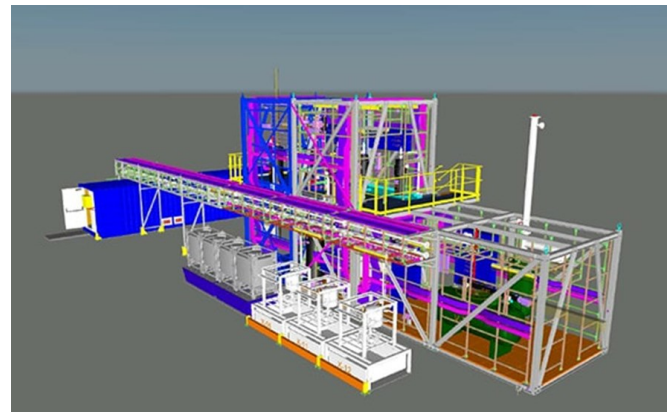
Solvents
(Methanol,
ethanol,...)



Inert
atmosphere
(N₂) or H₂



100 - ≥ 300 °C
(medium to
high)



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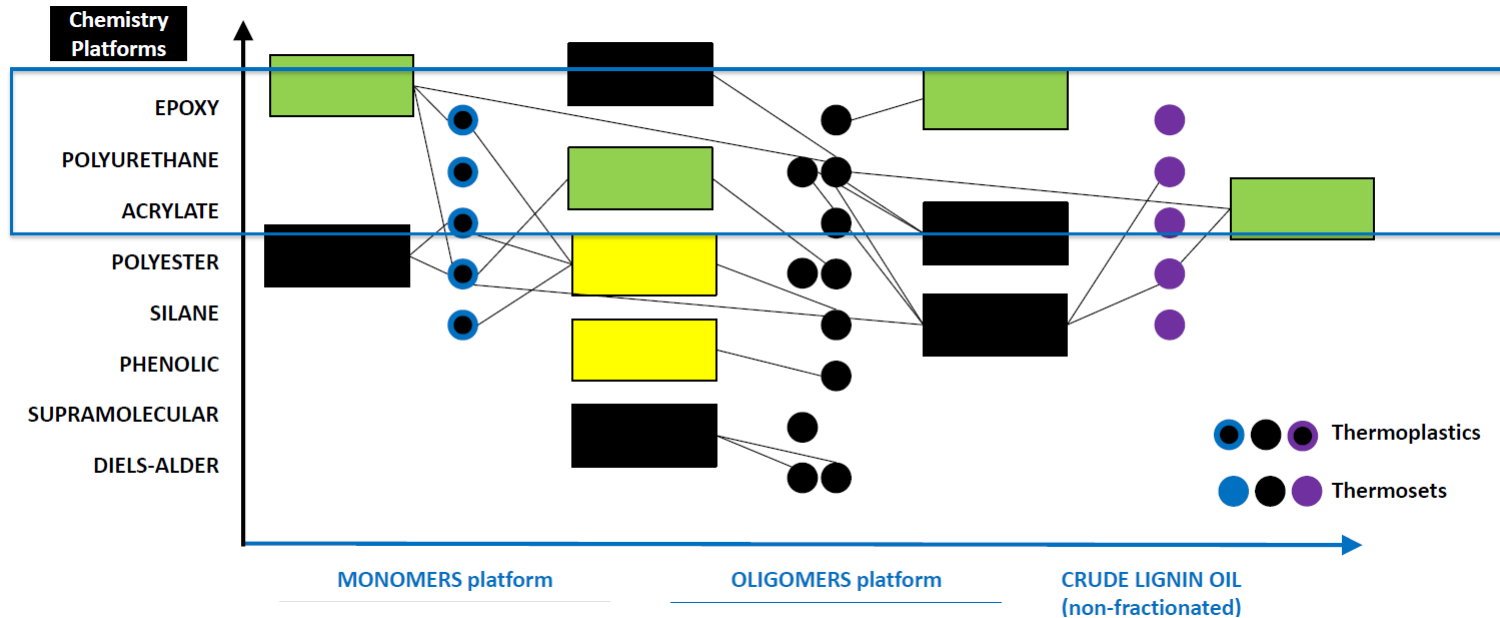
Lignovalue Pilot plant



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Linking the lignin fractions with chemistry





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

VA
time



Partnerships that are still moving



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Collaboration over the value chain

- 8 application companies
- 7 clusters/ecosystems (Vanguard)
- 1 enduser
- 13 feedstock suppliers (Vanguard)
- 3 investors
- 11 process stakeholders (Vanguard)



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Lignin value vs lignin-based product value

- Polyurethanes
- Polyacrylamides

Lignin-based product
potential market value
(\$/ton)

6500
1300
600
0

0

300

650

1000

Lignin actual
value (\$/ton)

Low purity
lignin

Lignosul
fonates

CAT-
lignin

Kraft
lignin

Lignoboost
Ecolig

Hydrolysis
Lignin

Depol.
Lignin

Organo-
solv
Lignin

High
purity
lignin

Carbon fibres

Vanillin, API

PU

Additives

UV, Bact, FR, AO

Resins

Polymers

Coatings

Dispersant

Plasticizer

Energy

Adhesives

Fenols

Flocculant

Bitumen

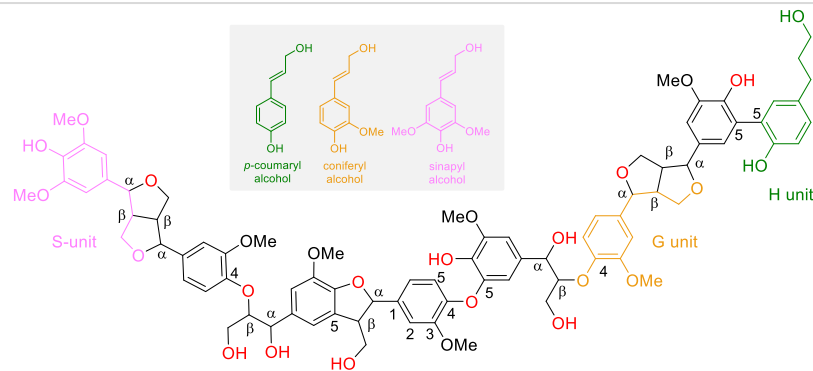
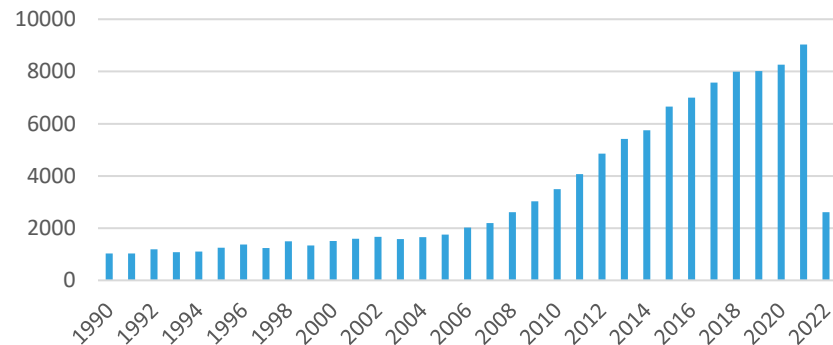


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► LIGNIN MATERIALS, CLOSE TO MARKET?

Publications mentioning lignin per year 1990-2022



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

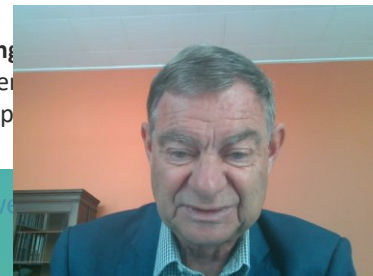
Bio-bitumen: Stora Enso + Poab → Road in Sweden



Photo credit: Poab

✓ Latvijas Finieris → Industrial production of biobased glue in plywood

“ Lignin as a coating material is **actually very promising** compared to the synthetic and bio-based coatings currently used for anti-corrosion, anti-bacterial, anti-icing, and UV-shielding purposes.”

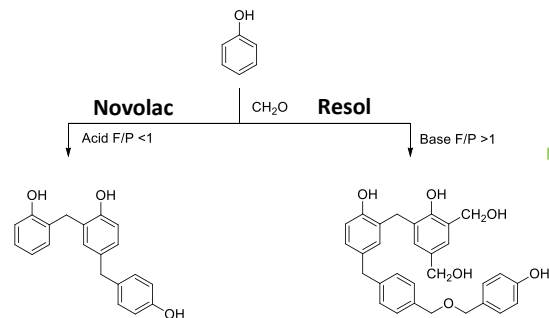


► BIORESAL PROJECT

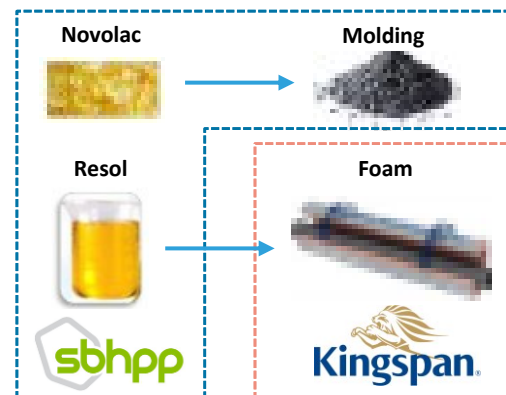
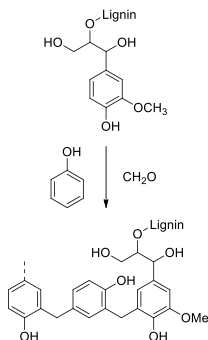
BIORESAL (BIObased RESins from Aldehydes and Lignin) Project aims to valorize technical lignins and depolymerized lignins to produce Lignin based phenolic resins for foam and molding applications → **Replacement of phenol by lignin.**



PF resins



(L)PF resins



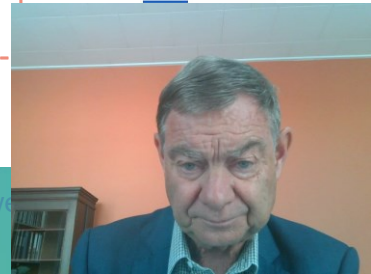
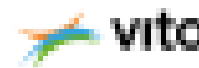
TEA
Process design

INEOS
THE WORD FOR CHEMICALS

Chem. Modification
HCOH replacement



Chem. Modification
Tailoring lignin fractions



► BIORESAL PROJECT

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

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

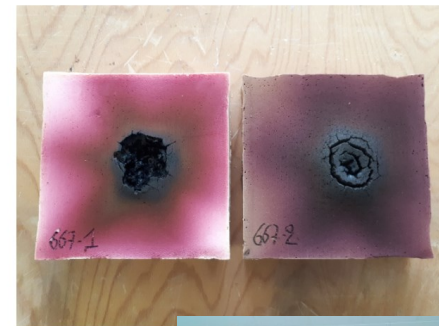
Specifications of LPF improved after adapting the resin procedure and after formulation development of the foam at lab scale.



OK



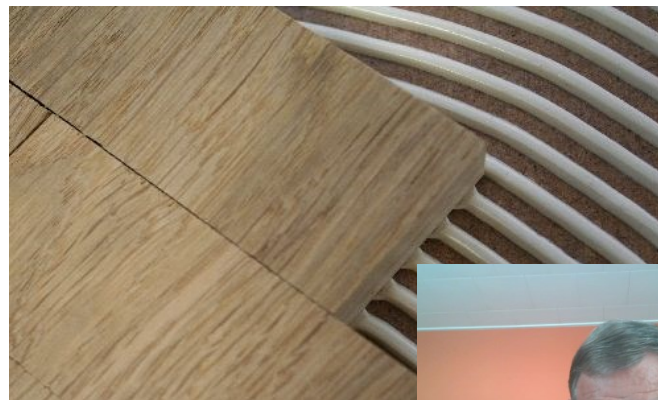
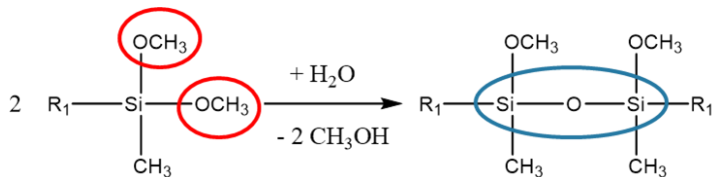
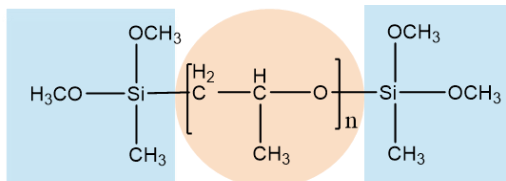
NOK



► CAMBIUM PROJECT

O&O KANEKA-VITO

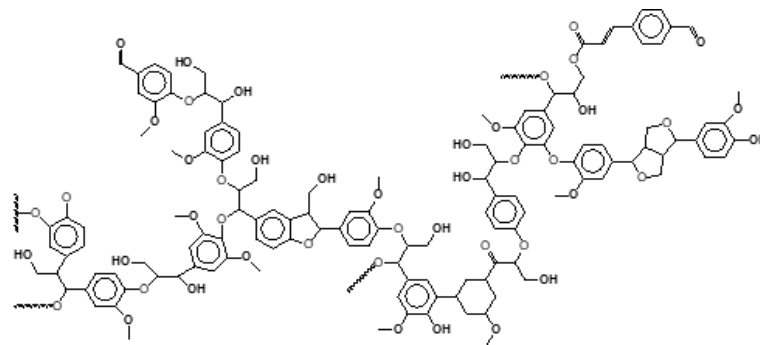
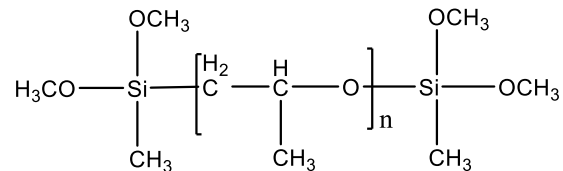
- Liquid Polymers (MS Polymer)
 - Sealants, adhesives and coatings
 - Construction, transportation and industry



CAMBIUM PROJECT

Lignin: complex and polar

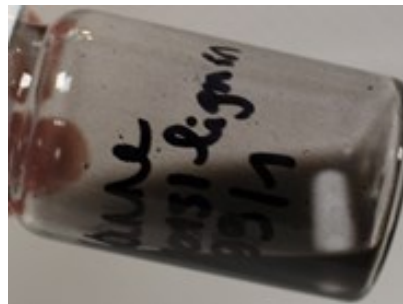
MS polymer : well-defined and apolar



If you blend the two (1wt% KL)



+



Challenge: make lignin miscible with MS poly



► CAMBIUM PROJECT

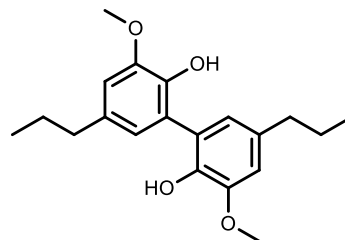
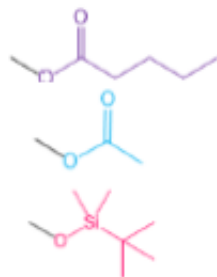
Non-reactive silylation proved to have best compatibility

<i>Lignin fragment</i>	<i>Kraft lignin</i>	<i>Fractionated Lignin</i>	<i>PG dimer</i>	<i>PG monomer</i>
Mw (g/mol)	5200	1000-2300	330	166
Non-modified	NOK	NOK	NOK	NOK
Modified	NOK	OK (silylation)	OK (silylation)	OK (silylation)

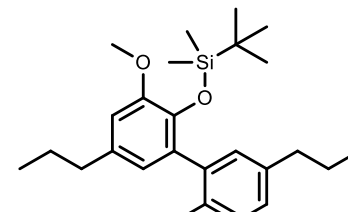
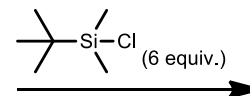
Butylation

Acetylation

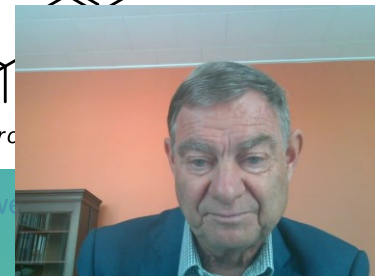
Silylation



Propyl Guaiacol Dimer



Silylated Propyl Guaiacol Dimer



► PROJECTS ON EARLY STAGE → COMING SUCCESSFUL STORIES?

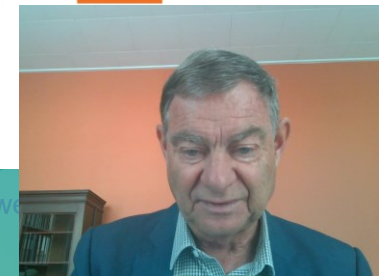


Sustainable COATings based on LIGNIn resins and bio-additives with improved fire, corrosion and biological resistance

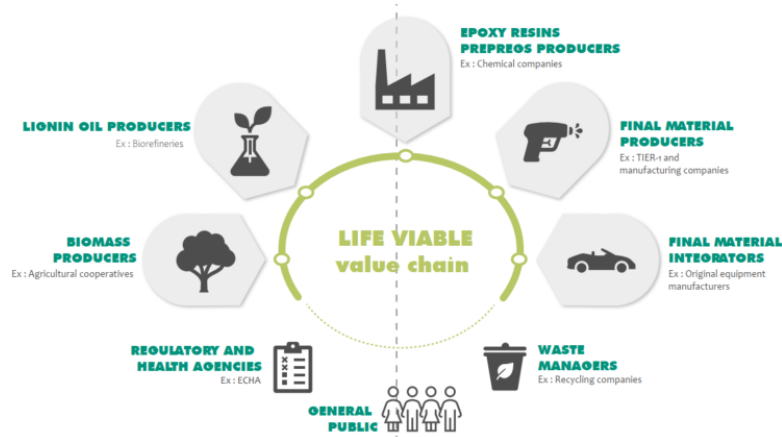
LIGNICOAT project proposes the development of eco-innovative materials from lignocellulosic biomass in order to obtain bio-based sustainable coatings considering the availability and carbon footprint of resources. The LIGNICOAT project aims to increase the bio-based content of the coatings while ensuring performance and providing anti-corrosive, fireproof, and antimicrobial features. The ambitious goal of the project is to assist in the transition of the Paints and Coatings industry from fossil-based to bio-based products.



tecnal:a
UNIVERSITY OF SÁBIA DEPARTAMENTO
A TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE



► PROJECTS ON EARLY STAGE → COMING SUCCESSFUL STORIES?



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.

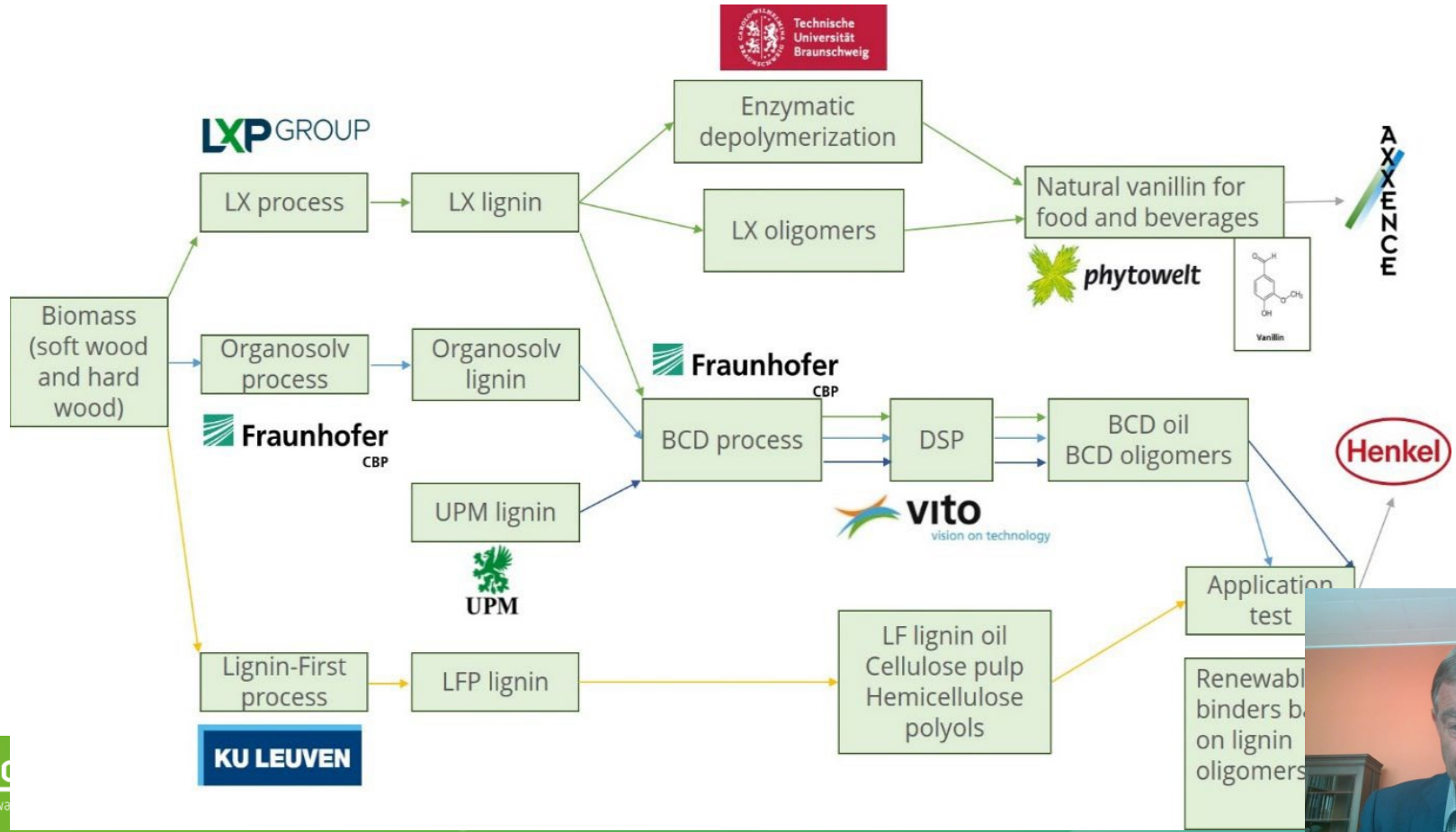
The VIALE project therefore aims to improve the sustainability and the environmental impact of epoxy resins manufacture by lowering the BPA content in the formulation of epoxy resins by 20 to 50%.



This project has received funding under grant agreement No.



► ALIGN, BMBF PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH FLANDERS



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, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK



Need for concrete suggestions by other regions

- Lignovalue opening (6 October 2022)
- Vanguard meeting (5 October 2022)
- New projects are coming
- Suggestions by regions?



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THANKS!

Any questions?
You can find me at
Ludo.diels@vito.be



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