

Colombes, 27 April 2016

Arkema, lead partner in the Reverplast project, underscores its commitment to green growth

On 27 April 2016, Arkema signed, alongside Ségolène Royal, French Minister for the Environment, Energy and the Sea, Emmanuel Macron, Minister for the Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, and a further four partners, the REVERPLAST agreement, a study project looking to introduce recycled materials into the manufacture of new thermoplastic materials for the automotive, boat building and wind power markets. This project is part of the new measures launched by the French State to assist companies in their circular economy approach based on committing to green growth.

The issues at stake

The linear system sustaining our economy – extracting, manufacturing, consuming, discarding – is now reaching its limits: hence we have to fight against wasting our resources and so promote the circular economy. Given the growing scarcity of raw materials, the circular economy goes well beyond mere recycling; it also has to contribute to securing supply to fast growing markets and to minimising extraction at source.

The project

Altuglas® PMMA (polymethyl methacrylate), or acrylic glass, typically is a material that best meets the circularity criterion, as one of its features – quite unique for a polymer – is to be reversible, namely able to be regenerated into its original monomer and so be reintroduced into the new “resins” manufacturing process. Accordingly, the REVERPLAST project aims to create in Europe an end-of-life PMMA recovery stream to obtain new acrylic “resins”. These will then be entered into the composition of thermoplastic composite materials, themselves recyclable, to serve highly promising markets such as wind power, boat building and automotive, as they will replace the thermoset resins currently used, which cannot be recycled.

The partners

This collaborative project is run in partnership with:

- CANOE, an Aquitaine-based technology platform dedicated to advanced materials
- PAPREC, a plastics recycling specialist
- INDRA, leader in the recycling of end-of-life vehicles
- PLASTINOV, a specialist in the processing of composite materials for the wind power market

The Arkema Group confirms its commitment to ecological and energy transition by encouraging the reuse of products and recycling its wastes. The Group is also looking to bring together a whole chain of upstream and downstream players in some of its relevant key product sectors, as illustrated by this REVERPLAST project which will be based in part in the new Aquitaine Region.

"With the backing of the State, the commitment to green growth that we have signed up to today will help mobilise, within the REVERPLAST project, five players heavily engaged in the circular economy to create an actual double loop: recovering a fully recyclable polymer, PMMA or acrylic glass, in order to add it to the manufacture of composites which are themselves recyclable, in order to serve dynamic markets such as boat building and wind power, but also automotive where recyclability requirements at end of life are a growing criterion" explains Nicolas de WARREN, Arkema Vice President Corporate Relations.

A designer of materials and innovative solutions, Arkema shapes materials and creates new uses that accelerate customer performance. Our balanced business portfolio spans high-performance materials, industrial specialties and coating solutions. Our globally recognized brands are ranked among the leaders in the markets we serve. Reporting annual sales of €7.7 billion, we employ approximately 19,000 people worldwide and operate in close to 50 countries. We are committed

Arkema

420, rue d'Estienne d'Orves – F-92705 COLOMBES Cedex – France
Standard : +33 (0)1 49 00 80 80 – Fax : +33 (0)1 49 00 83 96

Société anonyme au capital de 728 226 950 euros – 445 074 685 RCS Nanterre
arkema.com

to active engagement with all our stakeholders. Our research centers in North America, France and Asia concentrate on advances in bio-based products, new energies, water management, electronic solutions, lightweight materials and design, home efficiency and insulation. For the latest, visit www.arkema.com

PRESS CONTACT

Gilles Galinier
Sophie Suc

Tel. : +33 1 49 00 70 07
Tel. : +33 6 22 02 24 64

E-mail: gilles.galinier@arkema.com
E-mail: sophie.suc@arkema.com