

Media Release

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Stepped-up cooperation between Borealis and EREMA tackles challenge of plastics recyclability

Borealis, a leading provider of innovative solutions in the fields of polyolefins, base chemicals, and fertilizers; and the EREMA Group, the global market leader in the development and production of plastics recycling systems, have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the purpose of deepening their cooperation in the field of mechanical recycling. The shared goal is to advance mechanical recycling technologies in order to accelerate the transition to a circular economy of plastics. The companies also aim to enhance recycling processes in order to satisfy increasing market demand for higher-quality recyclate used in high-end applications.

Leveraging respective areas of expertise to accelerate technology development

While the ultimate aim of the stepped-up cooperation is to effect the more rapid transformation to a circular economy, Borealis and EREMA will collaborate most specifically on:

- Developing improved **technologies and processes** in mechanical recycling by leveraging each company's respective area of expertise: Borealis in polymers, and EREMA in engineering; to this end, there will be joint tests, trial runs and pilot projects
- Using knowledge exchange and best practices **to design and implement new and practical technical solutions**
 - Such recyclate should be available in greater amounts, exhibit improved mechanical properties, be suitable for high-end applications and commercialized at a faster rate
- **Standardizing and harmonizing input feedstock and recyclate output** (pellets) in order to enable the broader use of recycled solutions for individual end-use applications, and in particular for everyday consumer products
- **Upscaling the mechanical recycling industry**: exploring the potential of increasing plant size and total production volumes in order to ensure secure and reliable market availability

- Working in tandem to **acquire more sophisticated market intelligence** in order to deliver sufficient quantities of those specific types of materials demanded by customers.

EREMA Group and Borealis: a long-standing cooperation built on shared aims

With headquarters in Ansfelden, Austria, the EREMA Group has more than just a geographical proximity to Borealis' Austrian operations: the two companies share a deep commitment to leading the way to a more circular economy of plastics.

Since its founding 36 years ago, the EREMA Group has been a global market leader in the development and production of plastics recycling systems and their components. Over 6000 EREMA systems are now in operation around the globe, producing a total of over 14.5 million tonnes of plastic pellets annually. As an innovation leader with more than 1000 patents in 111 patent families, the EREMA Group continually strives to promote and implement the principles of the circular economy in practice. Cultivating close relationships with value chain partners has been an effective way to help close the plastic cycle loop: profound understanding of the different kinds of challenges faced by different players along the value chain is a necessary prerequisite for offering the right solutions.

Borealis has taken the industry lead in redefining the nature of polyolefins products and applications. Its track record in Value Creation through Innovation enables it to develop and implement novel polyolefins-based solutions in the circular economy sphere, for example in the form of high-end compounds used in the automotive industry, and post-consumer recycle grades used in consumer packaging. Importantly, Borealis seeks to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated in the first place by promoting design for recyclability and the increased uptake of re-use packaging models. Borealis has also launched the dedicated communication platform EverMinds™.

In recent years, Borealis has expanded its sphere of activity beyond virgin polyolefins by entering the field of mechanical plastics recycling. It acquired leading German mechanical plastics recycler mtm plastics in 2016 and leading Austrian recycler Ecoplast in 2018. Now, as part of the Borealis Group, both companies also have long-established ties to the EREMA Group.

“To make the circular economy of plastics a reality, we as an industry need to take action, innovate, become more customer-centric, and collaborate,” says Lucrèce Foufopoulos-De Ridder, Borealis Executive Vice President Polyolefins and Innovation & Technology. “Taking our collaboration with EREMA to the next level is going to yield positive effects that reverberate across the entire value chain and perfectly underlines our EverMinds ambition.”

“We are pleased to have signed this agreement – not only because it is a great step forward for both our companies, but because our intensified cooperation is certain to have a catalytic effect in the transformational process to a circular economy,” states Manfred Hackl, CEO EREMA Group GmbH.



photo : Manfred Hackl, CEO EREMA Group GmbH (left) with Günter Stephan, Head of Mechanical Recycling, Borealis Circular Economy Solutions, Borealis AG.

photo : © Borealis

Watch this video with Guenter Stephan and Manfred Hackl to learn more about the stepped-up cooperation between Borealis and EREMA.

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About Borealis EverMinds™

Launched in 2018, EverMinds is an umbrella brand uniting the wide range of Borealis activities and initiatives aimed at making plastics more circular. As a dedicated platform, EverMinds promotes a circular mind-set among all Borealis stakeholders. The platform encompasses proprietary Borealis technologies as well as established brands such as Purpolen™ and Dipolen™. It facilitates deeper collaboration between Borealis and its partners in order to develop innovative and sustainable polyolefins solutions based on the circular model of recycling, re-use and design for circularity. EverMinds also extends to pioneering corporate programmes such as Project STOP, and engagement in industry initiatives like the the Polyolefins Circular Economy Platform (PCEP), and Project CEFLEX.

About Borealis

Borealis is a leading provider of innovative solutions in the fields of polyolefins, base chemicals and fertilizers. With its head office in Vienna, Austria, the company currently has around 6,600 employees and operates in over 120 countries. Borealis generated EUR 7.5 billion in sales revenue and a net profit of EUR 1,095 million in 2017. Mubadala, through its holding company, owns 64% of the company, with the remaining 36% belonging to Austria-based OMV, an integrated, international oil and gas company. Borealis provides services and products to customers around the world in collaboration with Borouge, a joint venture with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

About EREMA:

EREMA (with the two business units POWERFIL and KEYCYCLE), 3S, PURE LOOP, UMAC and PLASMAC are part of the EREMA Group. In addition to subsidiaries in the USA, China and Russia, the group of companies operates a further 50 agencies on all five continents to provide a reliable network for implementing tailor-made plastic recycling solutions for customers all over the world. In total, more than 550 people now work for the Austrian company group based in Ansfelden near Linz.

For more information, visit:

www.borealiseverminds.com
www.borealisgroup.com
www.stopoceanplastics.com
www.waterfortheworld.net

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