

A new recycling system for post-consumer plastics will allow the recovery in form of methylal of more than 100,000 tonnes of wastes

AIMPLAS coordinates the European project LIFE ECOMETHYLAL that will allow diverting more than 100,000 tonnes of plastic wastes each year from landfills to obtain methylal, a substance that can be used as a solvent or as a raw material to produce new plastics.

The project is aimed at recovering by means of chemical recycling the wastes from the packaging, electric-electronic and automotive sectors mainly, as well as the wastes from the packaging recycling process. Thanks to the new technology developed, it is expected to avoid the emission of 74,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year.

Valencia (11-01-2017).- AIMPLAS, the Plastics Technology Centre, coordinates the project LIFE ECOMETHYLAL, an ambitious European project that, by means of catalytic hydro-gasification with plasma technology will make possible the recovery of a type of plastic wastes that, until now, used to be landfilled. Now, they could be used as solvents or as raw material to produce new plastics.

In the project, other companies from Valencia take part: BPP, ACTECO and AIRESA, as well as the company MI-PLAST from Croatia. Particularly, BPP will be responsible of implementing at pilot plant level the chemical recycling by means of catalytic hydro-gasification with plasma, what will allow giving value to wastes from the packaging, the automotive and the electric-electronic sectors mainly. «During the project, a small and modular pilot plant is going to be built, which will treat these wastes to obtain methylal. This process is a chemical recycling that is above energy valorisation in terms of waste hierarchy», explains Eva Verdejo, head of the Sustainability and Industrial Recovery department at AIMPLAS.

The wastes that could be recovered thanks to this technology are mainly mixtures of different plastics that are impossible to be recovered with the existing technologies and whom. In 2014, a total of 7.8 million tonnes of these wastes were thrown out in landfills. As a result, methylal will be obtained, a substance that can be used as a solvent or as a raw material to produce new plastics.

The forecasts made by the partners of the project involve the assembly at European level of at least 15 industrial plants having this process integrated in the European Union in a period of five years once the project has been finished. This will allow to treat a total of 144,000 tonnes of plastics each year and obtain 91,200 tonnes of methylal from them. These plants will make also possible to save 74,400 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year and an energy saving of 3,400 million MJ each year.

The project LIFE ECOMETHYLAL is framed within the EU Programme LIFE, with grant agreement no LIFE15 ENV/ES/000208.

About AIMPLAS

AIMPLAS, the Plastics Technology Centre, is located in Valencia (Spain) and is recorded at the Register of Technological Centres of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness. The institute is member of FEDIT (Spanish Federation of Innovation and Technology Entities) and REDIT (Network of Technological Institutes of the Valencia Region).

AIMPLAS is a non-profit research association with the object to operate as a technological partner for enterprises from the plastics industry and thus offering them integral and customized solutions by coordinating research, development and innovation projects as well as technology services (analysis and testing, technical assistance, training as well as competitive and strategic intelligence).



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