

Summary Materials session - Idea Camp Circular Industry

Tuesday 18 October 2016

VITO, VTT and EIT RawMaterials organised a Twin Idea Camp on Circular Industry. This event focussed on the introduction of innovative technologies and business models in the raw materials industry. There were parallel sessions in Espoo (Finland) and Antwerp (Belgium), while the keynote speakers and concluding remarks were shared over a video link between the two locations.

Rosalia Delgado (EIT RawMaterials) welcomed the participants and explained how the event figures in the learning and innovation approach of EIT RawMaterials. She pointed out the role of this new organisation in the innovation field and called upon young entrepreneurs to participate in the EIT RM activities.

Christine Levêque (SUEZ) showcased some new initiatives of SUEZ on recycling of aircrafts and polymers. These served as examples of the main storyline which called for open collaboration and exchange of ideas between small and large companies in order to realise the circular economy. This idea was also picked up by Mari Puoskari (Ekokem) showing how collaboration between different players formed the basis for developing the Helsinki Circular Economy Village.

In a round of strictly-timed pitching sessions, entrepreneurs were given the opportunity to present their innovative technology or business idea. The following ideas were presented:

- Wetsus: selective metal recovery from hydrometallurgical effluents, using biomass
- Act&Sorb: recycling of MDF panels, resulting in energy and raw materials for the chemical, food or beverage sector
- RWTH Aachen: plasma activated water to reduce the need for aggressive chemicals in hydrometallurgy
- VITO: transformation of fine metallic iron waste into new products for e.g. pigments, with production of hydrogen gas
- HaTwee: a new servicing model for powder coating, including inspections, maintenance and repair
- Binee: user-rewarding collection systems for electronics waste
- Aerocircular: processing of aircrafts at the end of their economic life, resulting in re-use of critical parts and recycling of materials
- Academic Labs: social network and matchmaking platform for research labs
- Heels: novel concept to extend the lifetime of high-heeled shoes
- CirQLight: bicycle lamps as a service, with a new concept of lamps and vending machines
- SustainaBill: tracking material flows down the materials supply chain to identify business risks



- Skogforsk: new options for information sharing and data-based services for harvesters in the forest

Additionally, 4 master students presented their recently finalised thesis:

- Sorting and treatment of food waste from restaurants (K. Vinck, University of Antwerpen)
- Phosphorous recovery from incineration ash of poultry litter and meat and bone meal (L. Luyckx, KULeuven)
- Water Recycling in space: from urine to hygienic water (J. De Paepe, University Ghent)
- Biomass growth and lipid synthesis from algae, with energy valorization of the produced biomass (M. Sakarika, University of Patras)

The EIT RawMaterials jury awarded the entrepreneurial award to Binee. This award represents one day of coaching by an EIT RawMaterials business developer. The master thesis awards, both worth 250€, went to Lorien Luyckx and Jolien De Paepe.

The public was given the opportunity to invest paper money in the presented enterprises. Binee was the clear winner of this public investment round and therefore they returned home with both the public and the jury award.