

PRESS RELEASE

21/06/2022

The VIBES consortium is celebrating one year of fruitful collaboration

The VIBES project, funded by the Biobased Industries Joint Undertaking (JU) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, celebrated its first-year anniversary in a project consortium meeting that took place in Limerick (Ireland) last May. Having started in June 2021, with a duration of 48 months and a budget of almost 5.3 million Euros, VIBES aims to improve the recyclability of thermoset composite materials, by developing and validating a greener recycling technology with the aim of bringing it to the market.

Led by AITIIP (Spain), the VIBES consortium is comprised of 13 partners (AITIIP, SPECIFIC POLYMERS, LEITAT, UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK, DITF, FLIPTS & DOBBELS, BCIRCURAR, PLATA, ACCIONA, IDEC, JUNO COMPOSITES, ARCHA, Q-PLAN) across 7 EU member states (Spain, France, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Greece).

During the first year of the project implementation, the VIBES consortium proceeded with a series of research and development activities. The first phase of the project has been focused on the development of innovative recyclable bio-based bonding materials (BBM) by examining three different approaches, exploring combinations and synergies. In the second phase of the project, progress has been made towards the development of component materials that will conform to the intrinsic recyclable thermoset composites: bio-based precursors to substitute reference resins counterparts, high-tech TPU-lignin biobased carbon fibre, and surface treatments to activate selected fibres. Furthermore, the first activities for the sustainability assessment and the exploitation strategy of the project results have also started.

The research and development activities of the first two phases of the project will continue in the next months. Synergies between interphase approaches to design new bio-based bonding materials for resin and fibre will be explored, and investigations will be carried out for upscaling the best bio-based bonding



material. New fabrics for composite applications will also be explored and activities will start for upscaling best components of composite materials.

In addition, the VIBES Stakeholders Board has been set up, including individuals from the whole value chain of VIBES, either independent or representing organisations, who are external to the consortium partners. The board is comprised of 12 experts in fields relevant to VIBES, including four academics and researchers, two technology and innovation consultants with relevant expertise, two industrial users in the transport industry, two thermoset composite material developers, one other industrial developer and one policy maker. The members of the Stakeholders Board collaborate in the project to effectively respond to market and social needs, give feedback and better guide decisions in the project. The board will be open to new members across the duration of the project, allowing for additional expertise and knowledge to flow into the project, while also extending its reach out to stakeholder groups across Europe and beyond.

The VIBES consortium partners present and promote the project in various international and local events, by participating in conferences and workshops or in exhibitions and fairs, networking with industry, the scientific community and policy makers. Such events include the European Eco-Plasturgy Congress, the SUM Symposium, the ECOMONDO Fair and the JEC World Fair, among others.

You may find more information about the project and keep up to date with its progress and developments, by visiting the VIBES website (www.vibesproject.eu), subscribing to the VIBES newsletter and following VIBES on social media.

