

Matchmaking Discussion Groups

An opportunity to make professional contacts



THURSDAY 15 March 2018 - 20.30

Matchmaking is an opportunity to participate in working groups and to open discussions with potential business, technology and research partners. Hub Brussels and NCP Brussels worked with ETRA to sponsor matchmaking opportunities during previous ETRA Conferences and are with us again for the 25th Conference.

Tyre Recycling is a dynamic young sector. Recycled Tyre Materials are already used in an array of products and applications in many different sectors, including the production of new tyres which has motivated tyre recyclers to research and develop new products and applications. RTMs are currently used in sports infrastructure, roads and transport infrastructure, civil engineering and construction, etc. as per the Circular Economy, that recyclers applied "ante litteram" (i.e., before its time) - not only the rubber, but the steel and textiles. All three waste streams are recycled and valorised. Use of these materials improves performance, increases durability, and contributes to resolving critical issues. Throughout the years, ETRA and its members have participated in many research projects, some --ongoing.

The working groups offer a timely follow-up to the Wednesday Workshops and the first plenary sessions to pre-arrange group meetings to help capitalise on Tyre Recycling opportunities in four areas:

- ❖ Working together and the Circular Economy
- ❖ Sustainable and Smart Mobility
- ❖ New Secondary Raw Materials
- ❖ Research and Development

The Discussion Groups provide a well-timed opportunity for Entrepreneurs, Technicians, End Users, Research Centres, Universities and others to set up partnerships, discuss new ideas, start new projects, discover new and innovative products.

The event targets a broad spectrum of companies, universities and researchers from within and outside of the EU to foster the creation of consortia for the upcoming EU project calls for 2018 - 2020.

20.30 Discussion Groups

There are 4 round tables, each representing one topic – with room for 8 – 10 delegates. Each Table is Co-Chaired by a coordinator and a subject matter expert. Each group will cover a list of points to attempt to reach an agreed conclusion.

Table A): Working Together towards the Circular Economy

Topic: **How can we generate cooperation among SMEs to seize the opportunities available to create and expand the markets for products and applications produced from Recycled Tyre Materials**

Chair : Dr. Valerie Shulman, ETRA

- Points:
1. State of the art
 2. How SMEs can work together: practises and tools
 3. Potential markets: what sectors, potential quantities and financial value
 4. Actions needed to support market development
 5. Proposal to ETRA

The Circular Economy package was adopted on 2ndDecember 2015, consisting of an EU Action Plan and legislative proposals on waste. It will set the resource efficiency agenda of the Commission for the next years. The aim of this table will be to offer SMEs models and tools for working together, sharing experience, and knowledge in order to cooperate, grow and expand markets for Recycled Tyre Materials, seizing the opportunity of the Circular Economy policy.

ETRA is the leader of several project proposals currently under evaluation, but is in the process to set up new partnerships and proposals with the aim of involving its members and SME companies.

SMEs are the back-bone of the economy with a high capacity to create jobs. However their small size often makes it difficult for them to seize the opportunity of a global economy with larger markets.

This group will create an outline of realistic opportunities / actions based on implementing the Circular Economy Action Plan : who should be involved, what specific projects, when to begin, where to start, how to work together.

Table B): Sustainable and Smart Mobility

Topic: **How to expand the EU use of RTMs in roads, infrastructure and urban the environment**

Chair: Dott. Ettore Musacchi, ETRA

- Points:
1. State of the art
 2. Potential market: quantity and value
 3. Some ideas of new products
 4. Actions needed to support the market development
 5. Proposal to ETRA

Rubberised asphalt, and urban tram and train rails are both markets with considerable growth potential where RTMs are already well-known and appreciated. However, to date they both find it hard to expand or become consolidated markets capable of developing the sector. The use of these products could be supported by a combination of actions, and implemented in synergy with the Public Authority and mobility stakeholders, in order to create additional opportunities.

Further, rubber products intended for urban furniture are increasingly used because they have been improved through the years. A new generation of more sustainable moulded rubber products equipped with smart devices can now be produced. Some ideas have already been drafted and are ready to be further discussed.

Table C): New Secondary Raw Materials

Topic: **How far are we from producing valuable raw materials: upgrading**

Chair : Ir. Fabrizio Quadrini, Co-Chair : Ir. Wieslaw Wasniowski

- Points:
1. State of the art
 2. Need of upgrading: which technologies are available
 3. Potential market: quantity and value
 4. Actions needed to support market development
 5. Proposal to ETRA

Recycled rubber is a sustainable material used in a variety of products and applications in a wide range of industries. Its vulcanised status makes it suitable for many innovative applications, which seems to have limited its attraction from many in the traditional rubber industry. However, vulcanisation should not be viewed as a technological obstacle to inclusion in traditional alloys and compounds.

New technologies have also been developed and perfected to devulcanise rubber and make it available for a broader range of products and applications. Thermal, mechanical and biological processes are among those currently available. The challenge is to make them more efficiently, and to have the quality of the output meet or surpass industry standards.

Considerable progress has also been made with different TPE formats. Recent performance achievements have increased the opportunities available for using them in some of the larger markets.

Carbon materials have progressed in recent years to the extent where 'recycled carbon blacks' (rCbs) are considered raw materials suitable for use in a variety of high quality traditional rubber products, including tyres.

There is good potential for further improvement and development. New projects for upgrading of the processes and outputs are actually available, with high approval potential.

The aim is to discuss the options available and draft a few outlines of possible new projects.

Table D): Research and Development

Topic: R&D, IPR and investment opportunities cross with other sectors. Which could be more attractive and what are the tools available?

Chair: Elena Angiolini, hub brussels, Onur Emul. IPR Helpdesk

- Points:**
1. State of the art
 2. Sectors, materials, technologies
 3. Tools and instruments
 4. Actions needed to support R&D, exploitation, new investment.
 5. proposal to ETRA

The EU Commission is increasingly concerned about offering SMEs easier access to R&D, Investment, exploitation funds and opportunities made available by the various EU Agencies.

The upcoming EU Funding Calls for 2018-2020 illustrated in yesterday's workshop will be further discussed to clarify in greater detail, with practical examples in specific situations. The funds for the period 2018-2020 are larger than before so stakes are high.

The R&D Group will explore in detail the appropriate calls and the services available for dissemination of old as well as new projects, exploit the knowledge derived, which tools can be used (IPR, JV, start up, etc.) in partnership, and which supports could be available from the EU, etc.

21.00 A delicious fingerfood working dinner will be served directly at the various table groups



The goal of the discussions is to bring together a diverse group of people interested in progressing the tyre recycling industry—expanding awareness and opportunities for the use of the materials, products and applications of this sector.

We would like to invite you to participate in this effort!

22.30 Meeting Closure