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TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 12th, 2023

Room Dr. Luis de Mercado - Sustainability

11:30 - 12:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE 82062.

SOLVO-/HYDROTHERMAL PROCESSES FOR MATERIALS RECYCLING: TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Solvo-/hydrothermal processes have played a central role in the development of green chemistry in the last decades. In the continuity, they can now offer the opportunity to bring Materials Science into the Circular Economy. Most of the resources/raw materials are not in Europe. The solution is in urban mines if we can discover and develop recycling technologies to transform an end of life material into a raw material of recycling. The main objective of this presentation will be to highlight this novel axis of development of solvo-/hydrothermal processes in the field of materials recycling with the following cases: recycling fibers (carbon, glass and natural fibers) from fiber reinforced polymers (FRP), recycling critical metals from the new technologies of energy (rare-earth-based magnets, Li-ion batteries,...), recycling food packagings and shoes. One version of the solvo-/hydrothermal process can bring a solution to the regeneration of FFP2 facemasks.

The first part of the presentation will concern an introduction to circular economy and the associated challenges. Will follow an overview of the solvo-/hydrothermal processes which are developed for materials recycling, namely solvo-/hydrolysis reactions-based technologies (mainly with water and alcohols as solvents) and delamination-based technologies for complex materials (mainly carbon dioxide as solvent with a possible addition of co-solvents). Beyond the scientific and technical aspects, the environmental impact of these technologies will be addressed using Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). For instance, a comparative analysis will be proposed to position the solvo-/hydrolysis technology among others for the recycling of carbon fibers from composite materials but also for the recycling of bonded magnets.

The last part of this presentation will be dedicated to technology transfer of this family of processes with the example of IDELAM. Since its foundation in 2019, IDELAM has been developing the scCO2-based technology for an extensive number of applications. Since the first year dedicated to the proof of concept on a large number of products, the start-up has gained a growing interest from industrial manufacturers, recycling centres or eco-organisms and has been labelled by the Solar Impulse Foundation. IDELAM is now transitioning from its capital risk founding toward its capital risk development, and intends to strengthen its collaboration with ICMCB with the development of new projects regarding the use of solvo-/hydrothermal-based technologies for recycling.

Keywords: Circular economy, Recycling, Materials, Solvo-/Hydrothermal, LCA