In a nutshell

COUNTLESS will access lignin, an abundant natural resource, to produce platform chemicals and demonstrate their applicability and cost-effectiveness in a variety of end-use cases from bulk to specialty applications.

This will enable the transition from fossil-based to bio-based chemical building blocks - supporting sustainability and climate action goals.



Project objectives

- · Demonstrate the continuous conversion of lignin, via catalytic hydrogenolysis, into platform chemicals at industrially relevant conditions (TRL 7).
- Produce and demonstrate a range of construction and cosmetics products using the ligninbased platform chemicals.
- Use digital tools for process monitoring and decision support related to product quality.
- Prove the sustainability of the lignin-based value chain and its improved environmental impact, cost-effectiveness and cost competitiveness compared with fossil-based or other bio-based value chains.
- · Maximise exploitation of the COUNTLESS technologies.
- · Develop strategies to ensure market uptake of the project results.

Project partners

VITO VITO (Coordinator)

Sustainable Polymer Technologies, SPOT Team Belgium



Bloom Biorenewables Switzerland



Braskem Europe Belgium



CLIB - Cluster Industrial Biotechnology Germany

Daren Labs D^A**REN**LABS MATERIALS EXPERTS Israel

Fibenol Fibenol Estonia



IFEU - Institute for Energy and Environmental Research Heidelberg

Kastamonu Entegre KASTAMONU Türkiye

SOPREMA

France, Belgium, Italy

Utrecht University

The Netherlands

Germany



Utrecht University



and its members. Grant agreement ID: 101112453.

The COUNTLESS project is Funded by the European Union. Views and supported by the Circular Bio- opinions expressed are however those of the based Europe Joint Undertaking author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CBE JU. Neither the European Union nor the CBE JU can be held responsible for them





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Project ID Card

- Type of project Innovation Action Demonstration CBE JU funded project
- Cost-effective production of lignin **Project title** platform chemicals: Extending the biobased chemicals portfolio

Project start 01.09.2023

Duration

48 months

CBE JU contribution 5 400 014 EUR

Find out more

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Introd

heavily on the transition from fossil-based to bio-based chemical building blocks.

Lignin has substantial potential to become a bio-based feedstock for functionalised aromatic compounds. It is a by-product of the wood pulp and paper industry, with an annual production of 60 - 70 million metric tonnes. Currently, only 1-2 % of this annual lignin production is used in chemical conversion, because the heterogeneous and complex nature of isolated lignins remains a critical hurdle.

To address this challenge, and pave the way to the exploitation of lignin's potential, COUNTLESS will demonstrate the first catalytic hydrogenolysis process operated in continuous mode. It will do so at industrially relevant scale for the cost-effective and sustainable production of lignin-based platform chemicals. The project partners will demonstrate the applicability and cost-effectiveness of these intermediates in a variety of end-use cases from bulk to specialty applications.

The 13 project partners cover the entire value chain including feedstock suppliers, technology development experts, well-recognized industry players in several application fields, experts in dissemination, communication



Europe's ambitious sustainability and climate goals rely and exploitation, and experts in integrated sustainability, environmental, and techno-economic assessments.

> COUNTLESS will produce aromatic bio-based building blocks. These can replace phenolic compounds from fossil origin used in a range of applications today:



Flame retardants & UV stabilizers



Thermoset adhesives



Bitumen binders



PU thermal insulation foams & coatings



Functional additives for personal care products