

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES, MATERIALS & CHEMISTRY

Refreshingly sustainable

FLANDERS, WHERE SUSTAINABLE IS MADE ATTAINABLE

Flanders has been a cultural melting pot for centuries. Not only does this contribute to its people's strong knowledge of foreign languages and open-mindedness, it also adds to their unrelenting tendency to build bridges. As such, the people of Flanders provide the main building block for your innovative success: a 'can-do' mentality that has already enabled the region to lead the way in sustainable materials, circular economy, renewable energy and chemical innovation. When will your company opt for 'refreshingly sustainable' in Flanders?

Cooperation is deeply ingrained in the region's business environment. Governments, entrepreneurs and the scientific world work hand in glove in a smooth and effective way. Spearhead clusters Catalisti (chemicals), SIM (materials), Flux50 (energy) and the Blue Cluster (maritime) also play an important role in this regard. The result is a unique and innovative ecosystem in which foreign investors are more than welcome to set up shop.

Partners in success

In Flanders, you're never alone and always in excellent company. Possible partners for sustainable resources, materials and chemical innovation include:

- leading research centers such as imec, VITO and Flanders Make;
- incubators such as BlueChem, GreenVille and GreenBridge;
- demonstration and test facilities like the Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant.

Add to that a variety of government grants and subsidies, excellent infrastruc-

ture and a talented, well-educated workforce, and it soon becomes clear: nowhere else will you find such a balanced blend of requisites for international success.

Close the circle in Flanders

Flanders can easily become your company's home away from home as well. Even your waste is welcome, so to speak. As global leaders in recycling, eco-design and circular economy, Flanders-based companies and organizations tackle your waste-related challenges with a pragmatic approach and an innovative mindset.

DID YOU KNOW...

Flanders is the European recycling champion: less than 1% of all household waste ends up in a dump. (Source: OVAM)

The many start-ups in the local cleantech sector prove their added value in the domain, alongside established multinationals like Umicore. As a result, groundbreaking developments are the rule



Flanders
State of
the Art

DID YOU KNOW...

With around 160,000 employees, the chemical industry represents 10% of Flanders' total employment. (Source: essenscia vlaanderen)

rather than the exception in Flanders. Just think of recent innovations such as self-healing materials and carbon capture & utilization (CCU).

Flanders and international investors: pure chemistry

The region's showpiece is the chemical sector – especially in and around Antwerp, which is home to the second-largest chemical cluster in the world and a pioneer in the transition to sustainable chemistry. In no other region does the chemical sector generate more turnover per capita than in Flanders. With recent billion-dollar investments by international market leaders such as INEOS, Borealis and BASF, the future is looking bright as well. The result: more jobs, greater expertise, enhanced innovation and even bigger opportunities. The chemistry between Flanders' ecosystem and foreign entrepreneurs is more intense than ever before.