

# SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES, MATERIALS & CHEMISTRY

## Refreshingly sustainable

### HOW FLANDERS MAKES SUSTAINABLE 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 international trade skills. As trendsetters with an outspoken 'can-do' mentality, they can always guarantee your business that extra something. Some of the most prominent innovative possibilities include circular solutions, renewable energy and sustainable chemistry

Wherever you are in the world, if you ask what Flanders is known for, the answer is usually "beer, chocolate, fries and diamonds". A lesser-known fact is that more than 10,000 Flanders-based companies are doing their bit in the battle for a more sustainable planet, delivering spearhead developments in the fields of raw materials, materials and chemistry. Known or unknown, their efforts will determine the future – and you, too, can reap the benefits.

#### Short communication lines, sky-high ambitions

Cooperation is deeply ingrained in Flanders' 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 results are high-quality products and services that easily claim spots among the world's best.

#### A touch of Flanders for your circular plans

As global leaders in recycling, ecodesign and circular economy, entrepreneurs from Flanders tackle your challenges with a no-nonsense approach. The region's many cleantech start-ups as well as established companies such as Umicore prove their added value in this domain. Groundbreaking innovations are the rule rather than the exception in Flanders. Self-healing materials and carbon capture & use (CCU) are just two flagship examples of Flanders' various opportunities to reinforce your plans for a sustainable future.

#### Flanders-based exporters and international customers: 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. The local know-how and expertise in this field quickly make waves abroad.

#### DID YOU KNOW...

Half of all industrial R&D expenditure in Flanders goes to chemicals and life sciences. The result: a record number of patent applications and a continuous stream of innovations. (Source: *essenscia Vlaanderen*)

For example, the sector accounts for a third of Flemish exports. Our advice: don't wait until tomorrow to tap into the latest developments in, among other things, bio-based value chains and sustainable raw materials.



Flanders  
State of  
the Art