**Eureka 2023 Investment Readiness Programme - Corporate Activities**

**Subject: Invitation for startups to participate in our first 2023 online session with Solvay**

**Are you a startup interested in exploring collaborations with Solvay?**

As a global leader in [Materials](https://www.solvay.com/en/our-company/our-businesses/advanced-materials), [Chemicals](https://www.solvay.com/en/our-company/our-businesses/performance-chemicals) and [Solutions](https://www.solvay.com/en/our-company/our-businesses/solutions), Solvay brings advancements in planes, cars, batteries, smart and medical devices, water and air treatment, to solve critical industrial, social and environmental challenges. Our Group seeks to create sustainable shared value for all, notably through our [Solvay One Planet](https://www.solvay.com/en/one-planet) plan crafted around three pillars: protecting the climate, preserving natural resources and fostering better life.

Solvay Ventures, the venture capital arm of Solvay, is constantly scouting for business partnerships and investment opportunities.

In 2022, Solvay launched a [**Renewable Materials and Biotechnology growth platform**](https://www.solvay.com/en/solutions-market/renewable-materials-biotechnology), dedicated to developing innovative and sustainable solutions for a range of markets, using renewable feedstocks and biotechnology. The company is already a market leader in some bio-based products, including guar, bio-sourced solvents and natural vanillin. The three aspects of the value chain are addressed: (a) sustainable sourcing of raw materials, (b) adoption of conversion technologies with lower environmental impact, and (c) responsible management of product end-of-life.

Within Eureka investment readiness Programme, in 2023 Solvay is launching two challenges for SMEs/startups. Both are addressing the end-of-life aspect of the growth platform. Participating at this joint online session will allow SMEs/startups to discover how Solvay currently engages with startups and the new challenges. Companies will have the opportunity to raise questions around those challenges and will be invited to apply and present their solutions. Based on the applications received, a select number of startups will be invited to a one-to-one meeting with Solvay.

Participate in our first 2023 online session with Solvay on **Tuesday, 19 September 2023, from 15:00-16:15 CEST.**

Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5349512627589975647>

**Agenda**

**15:05 Introduction to Solvay and the Renewable Materials and Biotechnology Platform**

Peter Vanlaeke - Solvay Ventures

Arnaud Gabenisch - Renewable Materials & Biotechnology growth platform

**15:35 Solvay's Challenges**

Sergio Mastroianni: Upcycling of end of life complex polymer mixtures

James Wilson: Breaking the Biodegradability / Stability trade-of for polymers in liquid formulations

**15:55** **Next Steps**

Emma Fau, External expert on investment readiness at Eureka

**16:00 Q/A session**

**16:15** **End of session**

**Solvay’s 2023 Challenges**

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| **Title** | **Description** | **What Solvay is looking for** |
| Upcycling of end of life complex polymer mixtures | How to valorise end of life complex advanced materials (containing fillers, fibers,…) without or with minimum separation | We are looking for technologies that allow the upcycling of complex mixtures of polymers that are difficult to separate.  The generated products could be used in the same initial application or in new ones, with or without further transformations. Sustainable and innovative technologies will be key! |
| Breaking the Biodegradability / Stability trade-of for polymers in liquid formulations | With the increasing focus of regulatory authorities on ensuring a pollution free environment, polymers in liquid formulations that end up in different environmental compartments are under heavy scrutiny. It is necessary to develop biodegradable products that rapidly degrade in the environment through the action of microorganisms (biodegradation) without compromising on cost, performance and stability in final formulations. The latter is particularly challenging as ready biodegradability (a highly desired property) often comes with a loss of stability | Water soluble or water dispersible functional polymer technologies that are able to match the cost and performance of widely used acrylate polymeric formulation ingredients but which are readily biodegradable (OECD301) and stable in aqueous based formulations over at least 2 years at room temperature across a wide pH window (from acidic to basic depending on the targeted final application type. |

This online session exclusively offered to:

1) SMEs/Start-ups from the cleantech sector

2) from any Eureka country: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom. Please note that only companies from these countries can apply!!

3) at TRL >3 (POC done) - with real applications - with some references