# **CuRe Technology**

The Polyester Rejuvenation revolution

CURE Polyester Rejuvenation

March 6, 2024

## A 64 Billion Kilogram Challenge

#### WHY

Polyester is one of the most common plastics.

Because they are colored or contaminated or contain additives, 91% of all polyester products are not recycled.

The result: **64 billion kilograms** of waste, year after year, contributing to the growing plastic waste mountain.

50 billion kilograms every year is textile, 14 billion kilograms packaging.

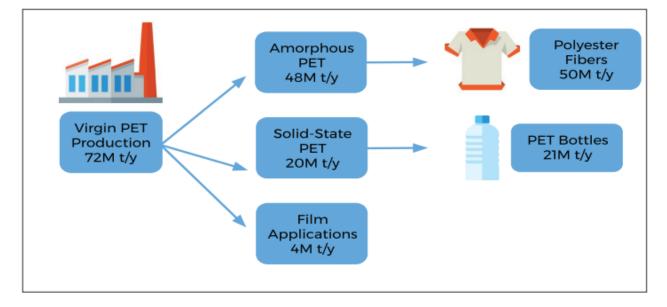
#### HOW

We CuRe used polyester by removing the color and converting it into clear pellets with the same properties as virgin grade polyester. We partner across the value chain and offer solutions in feedstock preparation, design for recycling, mechanical recycling as well as depolymerisation.

#### WHAT

Our ground-breaking CuRe Technology for polyester rejuvenation offers low energy recycling for used polyester in a fully circular chain.





## CuRe Technology position on EFSA regulations

#### **Food Contact Approval**

- 1. Safety for food contact in packaging for consumers is leading.
- 2. EU policies should stimulate development of new recycling technologies that are safe and competitive.
- 3. Approvals should be based on proven end quality and safety of the recycled plastics using well-defined tests and procedures, not on technology route used.
- 4. Proposed are challenge tests, NIAS testing, working as per GMP practices and guaranteed traceability in combination with carefully selected raw materials.

#### **Updated status**

- 1. Recycling regulation 1616/2022.
- 2. CuRe Technology actively involved via PETCore group including direct contact with the DG Santé.
- 3. Based on current draft CuRe Technology has applied for Novel Technology status to become Suitable technology
- 4. This will take time and will be pursued, no impact on starting up CuRe Technology at commercial scale
- 5. Pilot plant can be used to generate data for novel technology application to become a suitable technology
- 6. Long term impact **positive** as wider range of feedstock can be used



## CuRe Technology Key Facts



CuRe Technology = 100 % recycled polyester fit for purpose



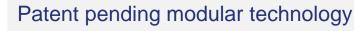
Continuous uncatalyzed process



lowest energy consuming depolymerisation technology

Partnerships across the whole value chain

Focus on large variety of used polyester as input feedstock





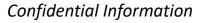
Plant assets available for scale-up in a 25 kta Demonstration Plant



Decades of experience in polyester



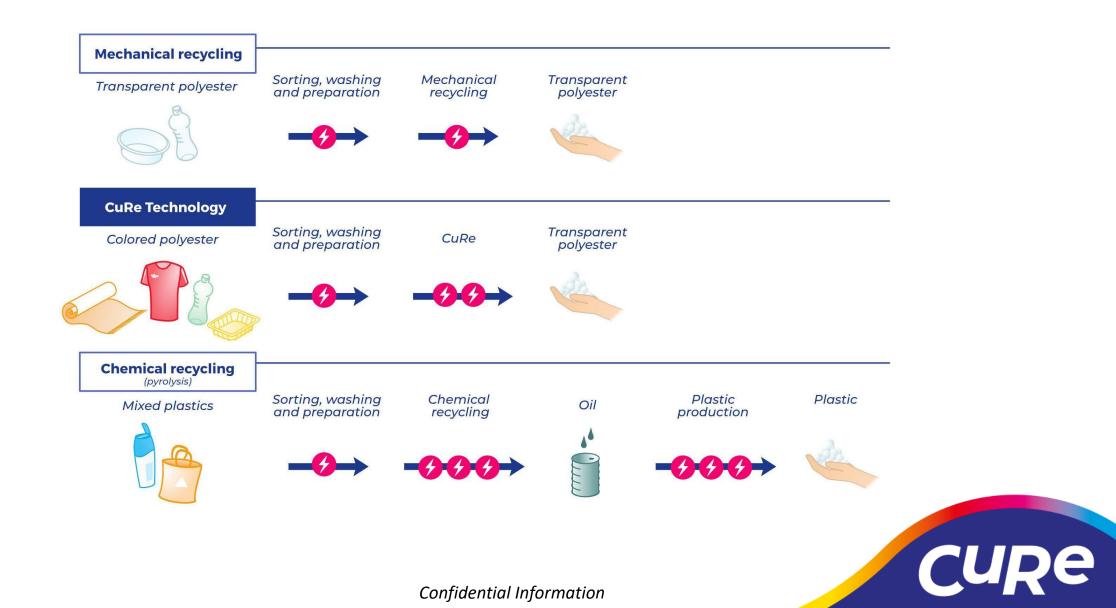
One stop shop to close the loop offering mechanical recycling, feedstock preparation, design for recycling and depolymerization







## CuRe Rejuvenation = Depolymerization not Pyrolysis





The Coca Cola Company Coca Cola



# **IN CLOSING** THE LOOP

Coca-Cola European Partners (CCEP) is funding CuRe - a new technology start up which seeks to help close the loop on PET recycling.

**REJUVENATING HARD** TO RECYCLE WASTE

**HELPING TO** ELIMINATE THE **NEED FOR VIRGIN** OIL-BASED PET.





Tonnes of difficult to recycle PET waste could be transformed to provide a new recycled PET (rPET) supply to meet the demand.

200,000 DEPOLYMERISATION RECYCLING CAN HELP US TO ELIMINATE 200,000 TONNES OF VIRGIN OIL-BASED PET PER YEAR







loop





We are committed to helping accelerate the transition towards a circular economy by supporting innovation that will help to ensure lower grade PET is kept in the material loop and recycled.

## DEPOLYMERISATION **RECYCLING** & MECHANICAL **RFCYCLING** Are complementary processes helping us reach our zero virgin oil-based PET

ambition, sooner.

# BREAKING Strategic investments to support

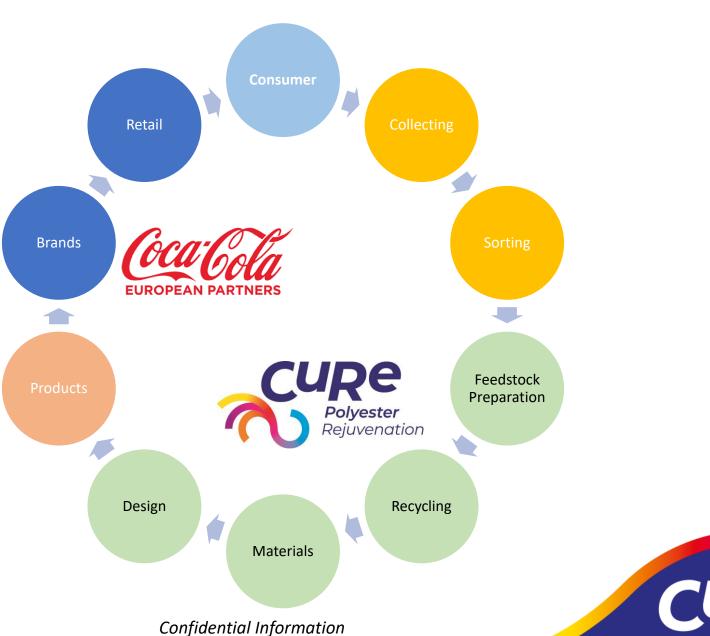
innovation that will return value to lower grade PET and help accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

## Circularity is a Team Sport with CuRe uniquely positioned

Succesful closing of the loop needs collaboration across the chain.

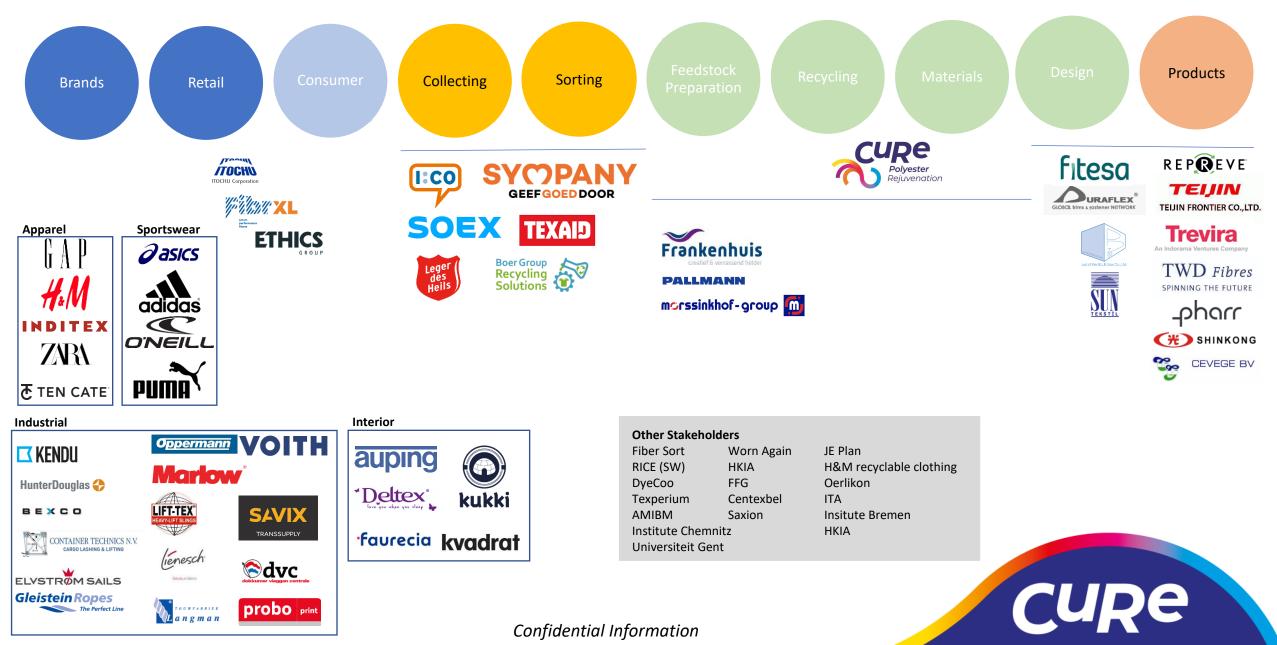
CuRe Technology is uniquely positioned as it can cover the chain from feedstock preparation all the way to providing input on design for recycling of end products.

To close the loop collaboration with brands as well as other partners for collecting & sorting, preform production, fiber spinning, weaving or knitting and garment manufacturing required.





## CuRe well connected within a complex textile chain



## A World Class Pilot Plant

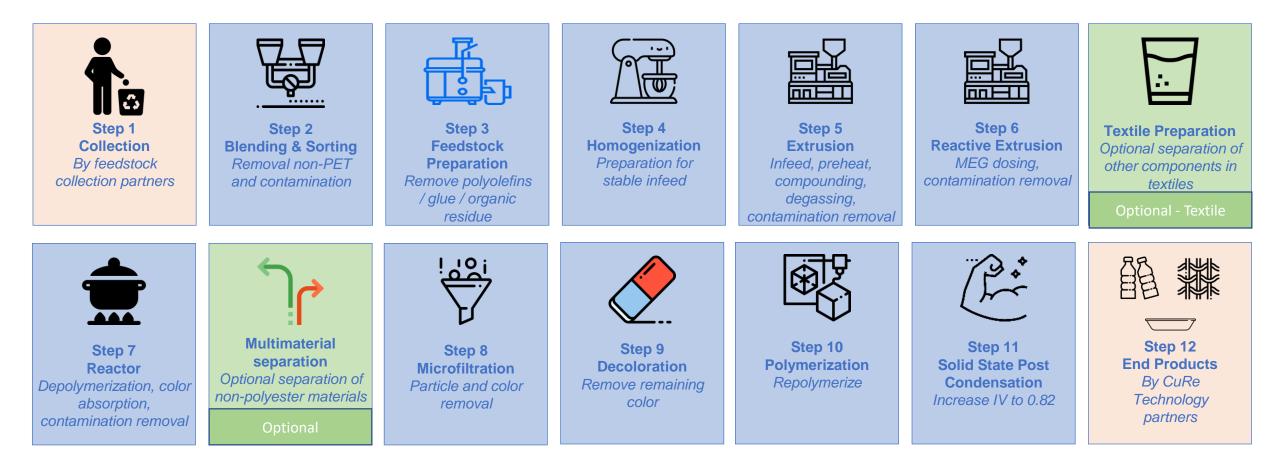


We kick off with a pilot plant in Emmen (The Netherlands), ready for rapid scale-up to prove the technical and economic sustainability of our CuRe Technology for polyester rejuvenation. Pilot plant goes from flake to purified oligomers to enhanced recycled polyester.





## Competences across whole chain in CuRe





## LCA Screening confirms Low Energy Consumption

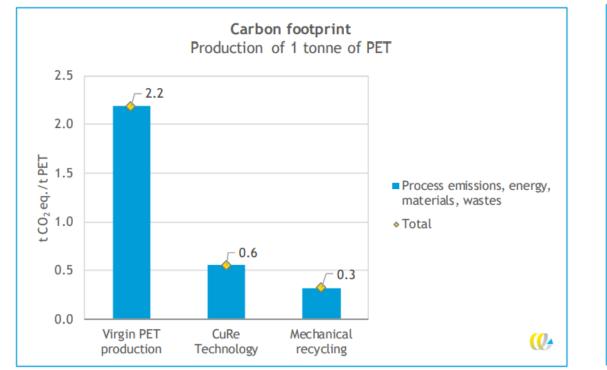
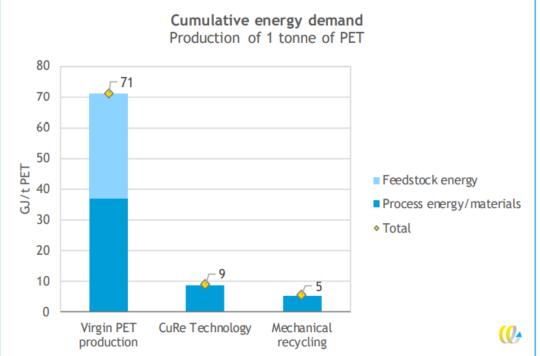


Figure 2 - Carbon footprint comparison of the production of one tonne PET, t  $CO_2$  eq./t PET

#### Figure 3 - Cumulative energy demand comparison of the production of one tonne PET, t $CO_2$ eq./t PET

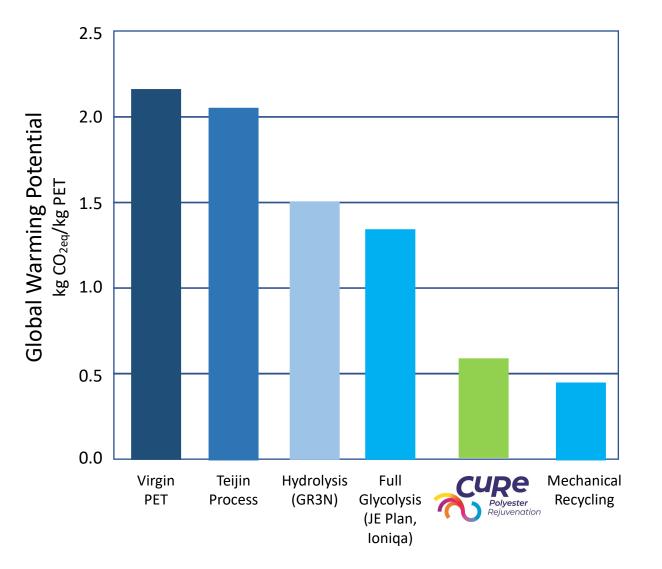


#### Notes:

- Calculations for CuRe Technology carried out by CE Delft
- Dutch energy mix used, using fully renewable energy can lower GWP impact further
- rPET with bottle grade viscosity as basis for calculations



### LCA Screening confirms CuRe's leadership position



Global warming potential is direct indicator of energy use in the process, and thereby of the OPEX of the process.

Comparing LCAs is difficult unless all assumptions are the same.

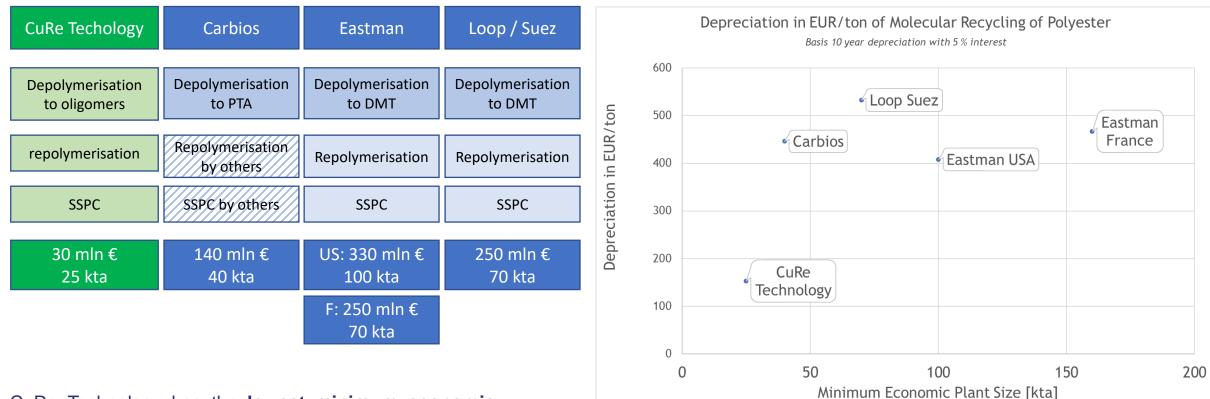
The data in the graph are the data from various technologies as reported by their respective companies.

#### Notes:

- Calculations for CuRe Technology carried out by CE Delft
- Dutch energy mix used, using fully renewable energy can lower GWP impact further
- rPET with bottle grade viscosity as basis for calculations



## CuRe has lowest CAPEX and lowest scale to be economic



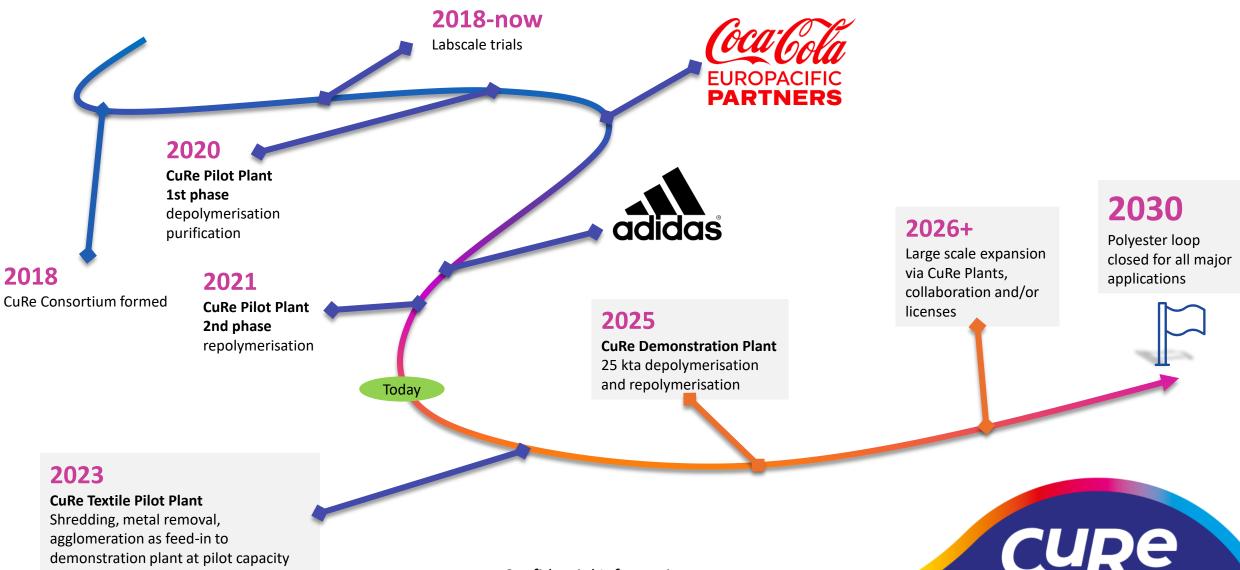
CuRe Technology has the **lowest minimum economic plant size** making it a lower risk to start, and easier to grow capacity as more feedstock volume becomes available.

# CURE

#### Notes:

Basis is announced capacities and investments, Carbios 100 mln EUR for 40 kta PTA (requires additional 40 mln EUR to produce rPET), Eastman 250 mln USD / 220 mln EUR for 100 kta DMT (requires additional 100 mln EUR to produce rPET)
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CuRe Ambition - recycling used polyester and making this the new normal All polyester to be made from used polyester or biobased feedstock.





## Join the polyester recycling revolution!

www.curetechnology.com



Stimuleert • Faciliteert • Verbindt

We are grateful for the funding from:





#### A multifaceted challenge

**1. Volume** > 1 mln ton EU trays not recycled 2. Complexity Complex contamination requiring multiple cleaning and recycling steps

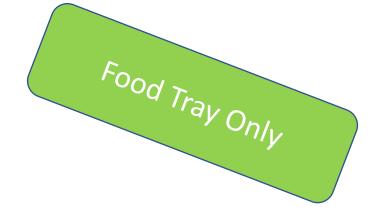


**7. Economics** Mechanical recycling routes not mature yet and output quality limits application

> 6. Former Food Contact Trays used in food contact mix with nonfood contact packaging

**5. Sorting** trays difficult to sort and sorting efficiency not 100 %

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3. Supply

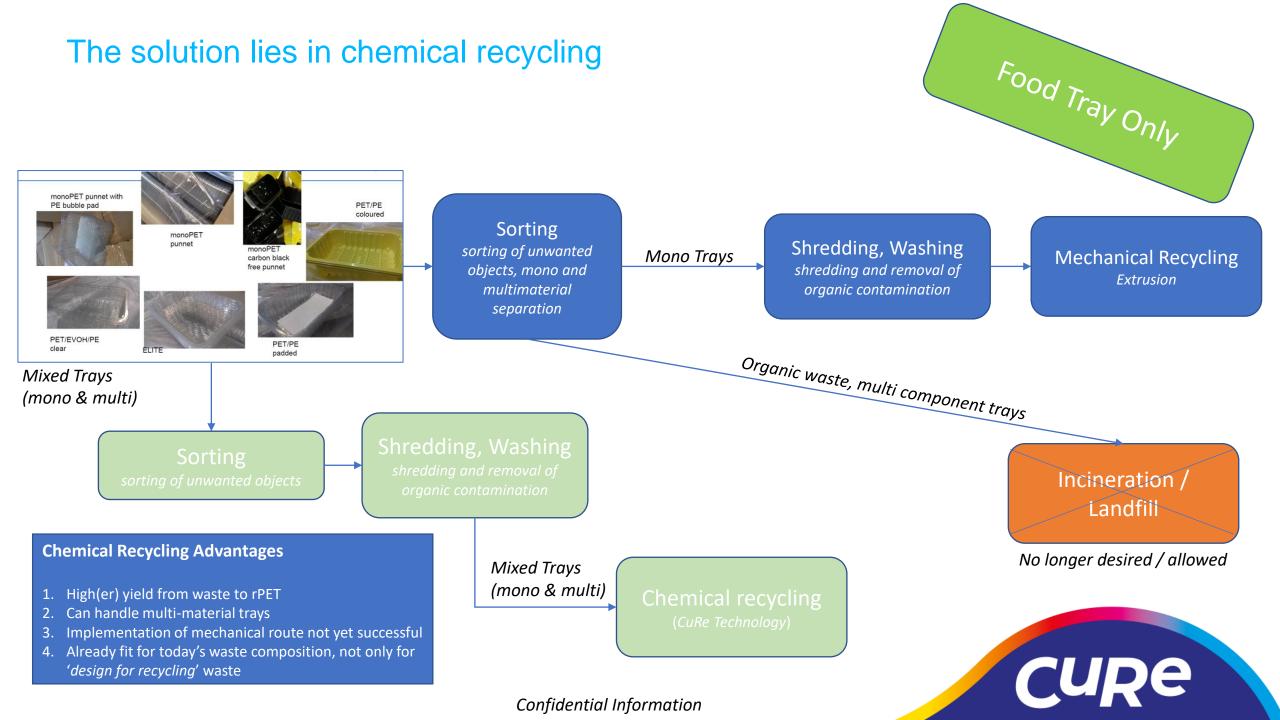
Food trays come from all over the world, difficult to regulate

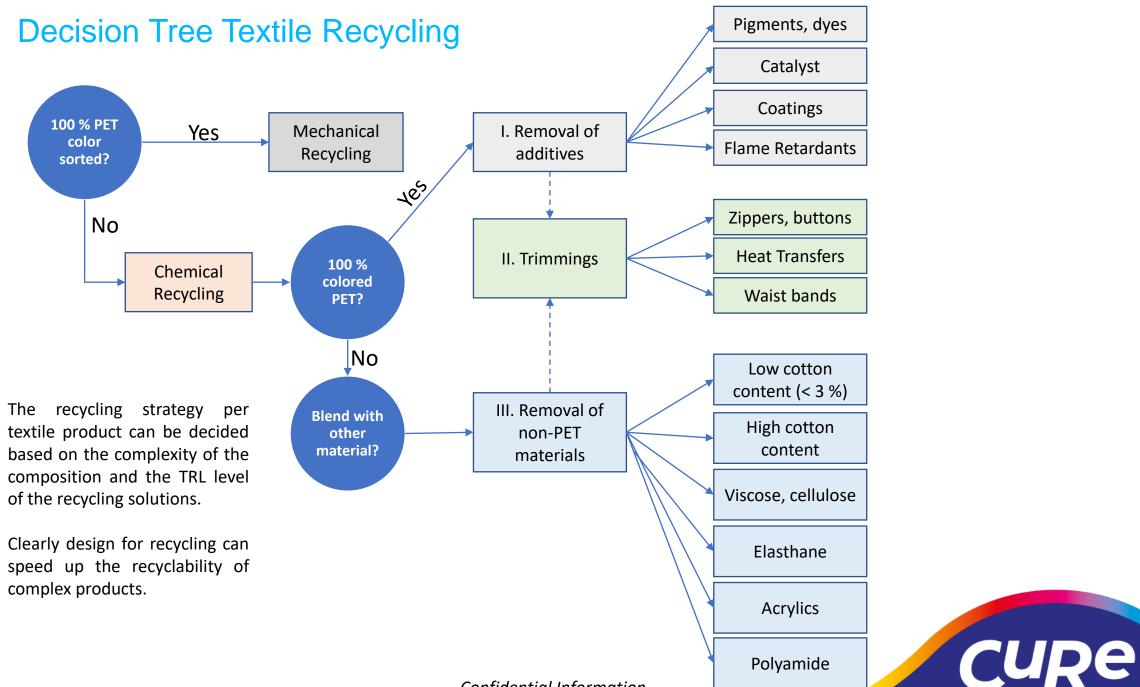
**4. Time to impact** Design for recycling options take a lot of time to have real volume impact



## Polyester Food Tray Recycling - Technical Challenges







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## Comparison of Molecular Recycling Technologies

Technology	Output	Initiatives	Type of Feed	CAPEX	OPEX	CO <sub>2</sub>	 
Mechanical	PET	Many	Transparent bottles	++++	++++	++++	++++ = Excellent +++ = Good ++ = Fair + = Poor
Flake to Resin	PET	limited	Transparent flakes	+++	+++	+++	
Polyester Rejuvenation	PET	DSM, Morssinkhof, Cumapol	ODR, Food trays, Textile, Carpet	+++	+++	+++	
Glycolysis	BHET	Ioniqa, JE Plan, Garbo	ODR, Food trays,	++	++	++	
Methanolysis	DMT	Eastman, Loop	ODR, Food trays,	++	+	++	
Hydrolysis	MEG, PTA	GR3N	ODR, Food trays, Textile	+	+	+	
Enzymatic	MEG, PTA	Carbios	unclear	+	+	+++	IDE
Source a/o K-PET @ GEPET 201	9	Confide	ntial Information				RC_

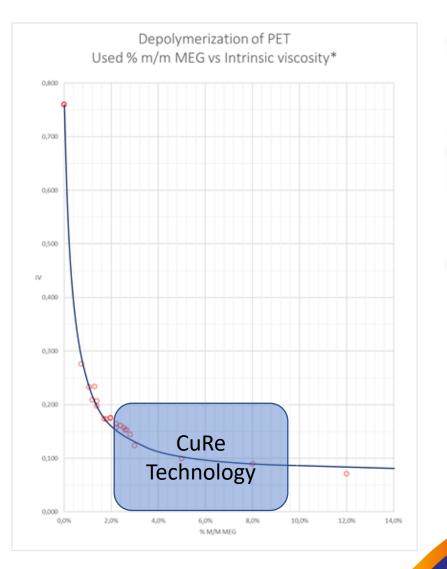
## **Depolymerization via Reactive Extrusion**

#### Depolymerization

- Commissioning of pilot plant completed
- Depolymerization extensively tested in pilot plant
- Confirms ability to use low %age MEG to reach low viscosity oligomer mix
- IP filing completed
- Further optimizations ongoing

#### Decolorization

- pilot plant R&D in full
- First results confirm that TiO<sub>2</sub>, carbon black and red give very promising results
- Scanning per color and purification method needed





CURE

## Phasing, Strategy & Business Model

1. Prepare	2. Pilot 2.1	t Stage 2.2	3. Demonstration Stage	4. Global Licensing
<b>2018 – Establish Consortium</b> Create consortium Design pilot plant	<ul> <li>2019 and beyond –</li> <li>Depolymerisation purification oper</li> <li>R&amp;D ongoing</li> <li>Execute custom</li> <li>Improve plant and</li> </ul>	on and 3 types of ational er trials	<ul> <li>2023 and beyond</li> <li>Scale up to 25 kta plant</li> <li>Supply of rPET using the technology</li> </ul>	<b>2023 and beyond</b> License out technology around the world by Cumapol
	<ul> <li>Revenue Model</li> <li>Funding by cons</li> <li>Regional, Nation</li> <li>Brand sponsors</li> </ul>	nal & EU subsidy	<ul> <li>Revenue Model</li> <li>Royalty over CuRe Technology license</li> </ul>	Revenue Model <ul> <li>Royalty over CuRe Technology license</li> </ul>



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Contract research

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## Pilot Phase – Expanded into 2 Steps

2.1

#### **Pilot Plant**

- 2 step Extrusion
- Depolymerization
- Purification via
  - 1. active carbon slurry
  - 2. packed beds
  - 3. microfiltration

#### At nearby partner facilities

- Waste preparation
- Repolymerization
- Solid state post-condensation
- Fiber spinning
- Preform manufacturing

# 2.2

#### **Pilot Plant Expansion:**

- Waste preparation
- Purification via
  - 1. distillation
  - 2. crystallization
- Repolymerization

#### At nearby partner facilities

- Solid state post-condensation
- Fiber spinning
- Preform manufacturing



### Phase 3 – Demonstration Stage

#### **Conceptual Engineering**

- Engineering partner selection
- Conceptual engineering study for Emmen site at 25 kta
  - Greenfield study
  - Brownfield study (conversion of existing vPET production assets)
- Conceptual engineering study for licensing
  - Greenfield study 50 and 100 kta
  - Make modular so various locations can be analyzed

#### **Basic Engineering**

• Prepare for CAPEX decision

**Engineering Procurement & Construction phase** 

Start-up



## **Targeted Applications**

Application						<b>Typical Contaminants</b> <ul> <li>Colorants</li> <li>Fillers</li> </ul>
Subgroups	Opaque & Difficult to Recycle Bottles	100 % PET PET + Spandex PET + Cotton	Niaga® Technology Latex based Non-wovens	Single layer Multi layer Film pure PET Film multi layers	Seat belts Ropes Monofilaments Other	<ul> <li>Catalysts</li> <li>Scavengers</li> <li>Barrier materials</li> <li>Flame retardants</li> <li>Processing agents</li> <li>Polyolefins</li> <li>Polyamides</li> <li>Other polymeters</li> </ul>
Contaminants	Colorants, fillers, catalysts, Other polymers, Scavengers, barrier materials	Colorants, Other polymers, Spandex, cotton	Colorants, Carpet backing, fillers, Other polymers spin finish, flame retardants, catalysts	Colorants, catalyst, Other polymers, Silicones, organic waste	Colorants, fillers, Other polymers, spin finish, flame retardants, catalysts	<ul> <li>Other polymers</li> <li>Other polyesters</li> <li>Cotton</li> </ul>
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## CuRe Technology position to meet EU ambition level

#### **Food Contact Approval**

#### Dilemma

EFSA regulations are based on mechanical recycling. Regulations for chemical recycling are based on monomer production, not on rPET production, so no fit with CuRe Technology

#### **CuRe Position**

- 1. Safety for food contact in packaging for consumers is leading.
- 2. Stimulate development of new recycling technologies that are safe and competitive.
- 3. Approvals on the basis of **proven end quality and safety** of the recycled plastics using well-defined tests and procedures.
- 4. Proposed are challenge tests, NIAS testing, working as per GMP practices and guaranteed traceability in combination with carefully selected raw materials.

#### **Climate Targets & Recycling Rates**

#### Dilemma

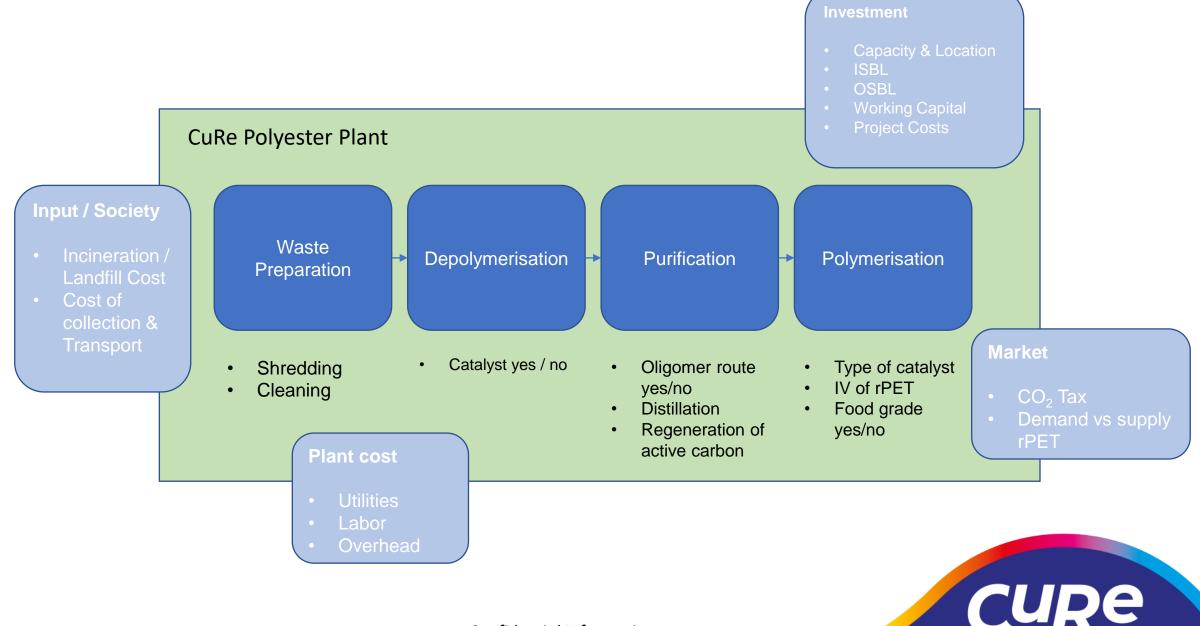
Good structure in place for packaging, but this concerns only 1/3 of all polyester, the balance reaching the EU as clothing or other textile products, and there are no EPRs yet.

#### **CuRe Position**

- 1. EU directives including a minimum percentage recycled content in new products big driver for success to push the industry to new technologies, capacity expansion and economic recycling infrastructure.
- 2. Accelerate waste collection and sorting by extending the EU directives on recycled content for textile applications.
- 3. Combine this with obligatory transparency on ingredients via material passports to make recycling possible.



## Economic View on CuRe



## **Economical Considerations to date**

- 1. Pilot plant stage so too early to assess the true economic potential of the technology. However the oligomer route has the potential to deliver the lowest cost structure possible.
  - Lowest energy use
  - No need to transport BHET (with 30 % MEG), PTA or DMT to a polyester plant
  - No need to cool down and reheat up the depolymerized polyester
- 2. Feedstock pricing crucial for overall cost structure, and no infrastructure exists outside of bottles yet (textiles, carpet and food trays), so impossible to judge real cost into the plant, expected to be (very) positive though. Current societal setting will drive development of this infrastructure in the next years.
- 3. Phase 3 concerns a vital demonstration step at small (25 kta) but commercial size, but not representative of final cost potential because:
  - Plant will be operated with a specialty polyester strategy with a premium pricing strategy
  - CAPEX lower than for a green field plant due to reuse of existing assets
- 4. True potential will be exploitable in Phase 4 via global licensing
- 5. We do not need to sell our technology exclusively to a polyester producer as we are a polyester producer ourselves, creating strategic freedom



	Phase 2 Pilot	Phase 3 Demonstration	Phase 4 License	Funding
Licensing (as of 2023/4 once demo plant runs)			Specific royalty bearing license	
(Brand) Sponsorship	Long-term tailor-made program incl team expansion and CAPEX	Right to take off %age of commercial volumes	Specific agreement wrt licensing phase	Substantial upfront financial commitment
Contract Research	Short term <i>tailor made</i> program based on existing team & assets	n.a.	n.a.	Tailored cost based package 10 to 250 kEUR
Collaborative Research	Mid long-term program for <i>consortium</i> of partners	n.a.	n.a.	Subscription type TBD



## CuRe Contract Research Approach

Well-defined step by step approach to avoid unnecessary cost and time delay.

#### Phase 1

- material characterization
- Labscale pre-investigation
- Depol pilot plant trials
- Microfiltration Pilot plant
- Repol labscale
- material characterization

#### Phase 2

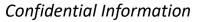
Full evaluation on pilot plant including application experiments



## **CuRe Textile Contract Research Options**

To support companies active in the textile chain to assess the recyclability of their products including the recycling strategy and/or suggestions for design for recycling a range of options is available at various scales.

Туре	Objective	Options	Sample size	Cost
Mechanical Recycling	Validation of recyclability into a fit for use rPET that can be spun into fibers without color removal	<ol> <li>Pilot scale extrusion 20 kg/h</li> <li>Commercial scale extrusion 400 kg/h (subject to availability)</li> <li>Shredding &amp; agglomeration</li> <li>Solid State Post Condensation (small / medium / commercial scale)</li> </ol>	1. ~ 200 kg 2. ~ 5000 kg	<ul> <li>Pilot scale extrusion EUR 1500 per day</li> <li>Commercial scale to be quoted on case-by-case basis and subject to capacity availability</li> <li>Shredding and agglomeration now done via third party: quoted at cost and as per availability</li> <li>SSPC cost depending on scale</li> </ul>
Chemical Recycling	Validation of recyclability into a fit for use rPET that can be spun into fibers with removal of key contaminants	<ul> <li>1 – Lab Scale</li> <li>Bill of Materials review &amp; analysis</li> <li>Lab scale depolymerisation and analysis</li> <li>Lab scale repolymerisation and analysis</li> <li>2 - Pilot Plant Validation</li> <li>Validation (20 kg/h)</li> <li>3 – Pilot Plant Production</li> <li>Production (20 kg/h)</li> </ul>	<ol> <li>~ 1 kg per SKU</li> <li>~ 200 kg</li> <li>~ 500-1000 kg</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Lab scale typically 5 kEUR per SKU, subject to tailor made quotation based on actual compositions</li> <li>Pilot Plant typically 7 to 10 kEUR per day and one day needed for start-up and one day for cleaning</li> </ul>
Fiber Spinning	Production of yarns to validate yarn production and dyeability	<ol> <li>Small scale mono or multi filament yarns 5 kg/h spinning</li> <li>Pilot scale fine denier multifilament or monofilament yarn spinning 20 kg/h</li> <li>Pilot scale industrial multifilament yarn spinning 20 kg/h (550+ dTex)</li> <li>Commercial scale spinning industrial HT polyester filament yarn</li> <li>Pilot scale spun yarn spinning</li> </ol>	rPET to be produced out of samples of mechanical or chemical recycling	<ol> <li>Small scale ~ EUR 2500 per day</li> <li>Pilot scale ~ EUR 3000 per day (available as of H2 2021)</li> <li>Pilot scale ~ EUR 4500 per 24 hrs (available as of H2 2021)</li> <li>Price to be prepared on case-by-case basis and subject to capacity availability</li> <li>Price on case-by-case basis, tests externally.</li> </ol>



## CuRe ambition reached by growing assets in steps

CuRe assets are following the order of the TRL level. We can grow these assets in scale and scope step by step, with each step needing its own funding through sponsoring and subsidy, and for commercial scale assets a positive business case with clarity on rPET take off agreements.

Asset	Objective	Assets	Future CAPEX
CuRe Pilot Plant ( <b>CPP</b> )	<ul><li>Depolymerisation</li><li>Purification</li><li>Repolymerisation</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Depol + purification operational</li> <li>Repol operational from Q2 2021</li> <li>additional purification technologies 2022</li> </ul>	~ 1 mln EUR
CuRe Textile Pilot Plant ( <b>CTPP</b> )	<ul> <li>R&amp;D on textile feedstock preparation</li> <li>Feeding textile feedstock to existing CuRe Pilot Plant</li> <li>Pretreatment high cotton content</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Precutter</li> <li>Agglomeration (small)</li> <li>High cotton content removal vessel</li> <li>Ancillary equipment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>• 0.9 mln EUR (0.4 mln EUR via subsidy)</li> <li>• Decision H2 2021, start-up appr. Q2 2022</li> </ul>
Textile Feedstock Preparation Plant ( <b>TFPP</b> )	<ul> <li>Mechanical recycling of pre-consumer 100 % polyester textile</li> <li>Produce compacted material that can be fed to CuRe Pilot Plant and later CuRe Demonstration Plant</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cutter / Guillotine</li> <li>Metal removal (2x)</li> <li>Shredder / size reduction</li> <li>Agglomeration or optional: Twin screw extruder + stuffer, filter</li> </ul>	<ul> <li><b>3 mln EUR</b> ISBL, subsidy request submitted</li> <li>Design &amp; purchase foreseen H1 2022, Start-up appr. Q4 2022</li> <li>Location To Be Decided</li> <li>Capacity to be reviewed (5 or 10 kta)</li> </ul>
Feedstock Preparation Plant ( <b>FPP</b> )	<ul> <li>Shredding, washing of post consumer packaging (food trays, bottles)</li> <li>Produce washed material that can be fed to CuRe Demonstration Plant</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Shredding</li><li>Hot and cold wash</li></ul>	<ul> <li>20 mln EUR</li> <li>Decision timing TBD</li> <li>Funding to be organised</li> <li>Location : Heerenveen or other location</li> <li>Expected capacity 40 kta</li> </ul>
CuRe Demonstration Plant ( <b>CDP</b> )	<ul> <li>25 kta CuRe Demonstration Plant</li> <li>Fed with pre and post consumer textile waste from TFPP</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Depolymerisation, purification, repolymerisation</li> <li>TFPP to prepare feedstock for CDP</li> <li>Not included: washing for post consumer consortium</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>25 mln EUR</li> <li>Decision foreseen H1 2022</li> <li>Funding to be organised</li> <li>Location : Emmen or greenfield</li> </ul>

## Virgin Polyester. Used polyester. End. CuRe. Repeat.



## Sponsorship Consortium being set-up

Partner target	Appr. 4 to max 6 brand owners spread over the targeted applications At least 1 long term global engineering partner and at least 1 waste management partner
Sponsor contribution	<ol> <li>In-kind contribution via application know-how</li> <li>Pro-active collaboration on implementing closed loop approach</li> <li>Financial contribution as pre-financing loan and / or grant</li> </ol>
CuRe contribution	<ol> <li>Access to technology</li> <li>Access to engineering study on CAPEX for greenfield plants</li> <li>Allocated volume (10 kta for 2 years) of Cure rPET in Phase 3 for sponsors</li> <li>First right of refusal on additional volume</li> <li>First right of refusal on license in Phase 4 for defined Field of Use</li> <li>Pay back of 50 % of sponsoring once commercial supplies are realized in Phase 3</li> </ol>
Financial target	Minimum contribution 750 kEUR per brand

#### Remarks

- No need for financial contribution foreseen in Phase 3
- No general exclusivities, willingness to create clear commercial benefits



## **CuRe Technology Partners**





solutions recycling post-consumer for post-industrial and Our polvesters. services contain: Regranulation, Compounding, Crystallization and Solid State **Dolymerization** 









DSM-Niaga has the mission to redesign everyday products from the ground up. The aim is to make products fully recyclable in an easy and affordable way, without compromising on quality or price.





With over 40 years of experience in polymer development and processing, DuFor is able to translate the customers' requirements into the recipe of the polymer needed. NHL STENDEN hogeschool



Our multi-campus university of applied sciences is firmly rooted in the northern part of the Netherlands where we are based, while at the same time maintaining a strong international focus.

