

News Release

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BASF Performance Materials co-creates the sustainable future with its customers

- **Carbon Management: Relentless efforts to reduce emissions on all scopes**
- **Certification: Majority of sites already certified by RedCert² and ISCC+**
- **Circularity: Commitment to increase sales with circular products to 20% by 2030**
- **Co-Creation: Bringing the solutions of tomorrow to market**

Waterloo, Belgium, August 29, 2024. BASF's Performance Materials division reveals its strategic roadmap toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and highlights key milestones on its way to a circular economy. With that, the division, which brings together BASF's entire materials know-how regarding innovative and customized plastics, positions at the forefront of the much-needed sustainability transformation in plastics.

"We want to enable our customers' transformation by offering a portfolio with lower carbon footprint and diverse circular solutions. We work through the entire lifecycle of plastics to make them more sustainable: from how to produce plastics more resource-efficiently, to how to improve their use, to how to give them a new life" says Martin Jung, President BASF Performance Materials. "We call this transformation #ourplasticsjourney. With our roadmap, we are laying an important foundation to

make this transformation go faster.”

Accelerating the journey towards carbon neutrality and climate protection

BASF has set clear targets to reduce carbon emissions by 25% by 2030 compared to 2018 (scope 1 and 2¹) and by 15% compared to 2022 for the scope 3.1², with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The first and imperative step of the company’s carbon management strategy is to increase the use of green electricity.

“In 2023 already, more than one-third of our Performance Materials sites worldwide were running on green electricity and we are making relentless efforts to switch them all completely by 2025”, says Martin Jung, President, BASF Performance Materials.

Green electricity also plays an essential role earlier in BASF's value chain, particularly in the scope 3.1. One of BASF's suppliers, 3B Fibreglass, supplies the company with glass fibers that are used as reinforcement for thermoplastic and thermoset polymers. By utilizing solar panels to generate electricity, 3B Fibreglass significantly reduces its carbon emissions. As a result, the [glass fiber's reduced product carbon footprint](#) is transferred to BASF's products and ultimately to its customers. This showcases the potential of a circular economy when all stakeholders are committed to sustainability.

Supporting customers with certified sustainable solutions

BASF is actively certifying its manufacturing sites globally with the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification (ISCC) PLUS and REDCert². Most Performance Materials sites are certified in at least one scheme and additional sites will be certified in all regions by the end of 2024.

These schemes certify the amount of renewable raw materials that is attributed to biomass balanced (BMB) products. These renewable feedstocks replace a part of the fossil raw materials necessary for the production at the very beginning of the value chain. The process ensures identical product quality and properties. Thus, customers can use the materials as drop-in solutions. The same applies to chemically recycled feedstocks like pyrolysis oil from scrap tires or mixed plastic

¹ Scope 1 records direct CO₂ emissions. They come from emission sources at BASF sites and include for example our own production plants and plants for generating power and steam. Scope 2 relates to indirect CO₂ emissions produced by our suppliers in generating energy that we then purchase for our production.

² Scope 3.1 emissions are associated with the goods and services we purchase from our suppliers.

waste.

“Today, a majority of our product portfolio is already available based on renewable feedstocks and with significantly lower or even net-zero product carbon footprints. We want to support customers as early as possible on the journey to meet their sustainability targets and offer diverse circularity options”, adds Matthias Scheibitz, Head of Sustainability, BASF Performance Materials.

Ambitious target for a more circular product portfolio

To increase the use of circular feedstock in its product portfolio, BASF is looking into the most promising mass balance solutions, thereby meeting customer expectations from all industries. On its sustainability journey, BASF Performance Materials commits to reaching at least 20% of circular economy sales by 2030 (via products that support the substitution of fossil by circular feedstock by at least 20%). A strong contributor to this target already is BASF’s biopolymer portfolio which is the optimal solution for certified compostable packaging and agricultural applications. Biopolymers contribute to closing the biological loop by reducing food waste, increasing organic recycling of organic waste, returning nutrients to the soil and avoiding the accumulation of microplastics in agricultural soil.

Wide range of commercially available sustainable solutions and co-creations

BASF Performance Materials views co-creation with customers and partners from all along its diverse value chains as the cornerstone of sustainability efforts within the plastics industry. “For us, it is essential to offer our customers commercial and series-ready, sustainable solutions and inspire them on what is possible today.” says Jung.

Circularity needs to be deeply embedded into the product design phase. As an example, BASF Performance Materials has recently developed an innovative ‘Design-for-Recycling’ polyurethanes (PU) foam technology that enables simplified and scalable mechanical recycling. First steering wheel prototypes using this new technology were recently presented publicly in Europe and in [China](#).

The [Siemens SIRIUS 3RV2 circuit breaker](#) is the first electrical safety product to include components from biomass-balanced plastics where fossil feedstock at the beginning of the value chain is replaced by biomethane derived from renewable sources such as agricultural waste. In a similar way, BASF collaborated on the

[Steelcase's Flex Perch Stool](#) using plastics derived from a chemical recycling process, preventing incineration or landfill. In other cases, bio-based and recycled raw materials are used complementarily. Developed with Mercedes-Benz AG, [the door handle and the crash absorber of the Mercedes-Benz S-Class](#) combine pyrolysis oil from scrap tires and biomethane from organic waste to replace fossil raw materials in manufacturing these plastics with virgin material properties.

For the packaging industry, BASF is also offering a way to increase the use of renewable feedstocks. Its portfolio of certified compostable biopolymers now includes a [biomass-balance grade](#). Next to being organically recyclable, it also shows a 60% lower Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) than the respective standard grade.

Finally, a comprehensive portfolio of selected engineering plastics and polyurethanes with a significantly reduced carbon footprint (PCF) is available. Some of these [LowPCF products](#), such as isocyanates, reach a CO₂ footprint close to zero, proving once again that a sustainability future with plastics is within reach.

For more information:

https://plastics-rubber.basf.com/global/en/performance_polymers/sustainability.html

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Around 112,000 employees in the BASF Group contribute to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio comprises six segments: Chemicals, Materials, Industrial Solutions, Surface Technologies, Nutrition & Care and Agricultural Solutions. BASF generated sales of €68.9 billion in 2023. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchange in Frankfurt (BAS) and as American Depositary Receipts (BASFY) in the United States. Further information at www.basf.com.

About BASF's Performance Materials division

BASF's Performance Materials division is at the forefront of the much-needed sustainability transformation in plastics. Our products are co-created with customers around the globe to bring innovations to four major industry sectors – transportation, consumer goods, industrial applications, and construction. Our R&D focuses on all stages of the plastics journey: Make, Use and Recycle. The MAKE phase is about improving how plastics are made, from product design to the choice of raw materials and the manufacturing process itself. The USE phase enhances plastics' strengths such as light weight, robustness, and thermal resistance. At the end of the product lifecycle, the RECYCLE phase looks at how to close the loop to achieve a circular economy. In 2023, the Performance Materials division achieved global sales of €7.2 billion. Join #ourplasticsjourney at: www.performance-materials.basf.com.