

BASF introduces innovative pilot blockchain project to improve circular economy and traceability of recycled plastics

- **reciChain to prove the value of circularity for plastics and provide stronger incentive to recycle**
- **Platform will enable better sorting, traceability and transparency throughout the value chain in an industry collaborative model**
- **Pilot to start in British Columbia (BC) with vision to become a pan-Canadian solution**

VANCOUVER, BC, Canada, February 11, 2020 – BASF launches pilot platform reciChain in the province of British Columbia (BC), Canada, as a response to one of the most pressing environmental challenges – plastic waste. The pilot project will introduce a more sustainable alternative to the linear economic model, reducing plastic waste, maximizing its value and enhancing resource efficiency.

According to a [report produced by Deloitte for Environment and Climate Change Canada](#), Canada disposed of nearly 3.3 million tons of plastic waste in 2016. Of these plastics, less than 11 per cent were recycled, meaning the rest were landfilled or lost to the environment. If the present trend continues, the report estimates that Canadians will dispose of \$11.1 billion worth of plastic materials each year by 2030.

“There is a clear global challenge around the economics of recycling plastic. Much of the collection and sorting activities are challenged by manual processes and material contamination. Additionally, traceability is a concern as new commitments start to emerge from brand owners and retailers,” said Marcelo Lu, President, BASF Canada.

“With reciChain, our goal is to revitalize the value of plastics and significantly improve circularity in the supply chain.”

The platform combines the power of blockchain with a digital badge and loop count technology that enables the secured sharing of data among market participants, while improving the sorting, tracing and monitoring of plastics throughout the value chain. The result is a more competitive circular supply chain rather than a linear one, extending the lifecycle of plastics. Additionally, due to the increased transparency reciChain brings, the platform can provide better assurance to brand owners of the validity of the certificates they purchase from recyclers and converters.

Initially piloted by BASF in Brazil, the inspiration for reciChain came from a need in that market to deal with social inequality issues as well as regulatory concerns around the issuance of recycling certificates. Given its ability to tokenize the recycling value of plastics, the platform enables a fairer distribution of value added along the supply chain, even to cooperatives, which traditionally generate lower returns compared to other businesses. Moreover, the improved transparency from the material flow in the platform provides better compliance with recycling documentation. The project has already secured participation of some major Brazilian key players and will continue to be developed in parallel with the Canadian pilot.

“A successful implementation of reciChain will result in a collaborative digital consortium that will bring together plastic manufacturers, suppliers, government entities, retailers, waste collectors and recyclers aimed at keeping the life of plastic molecules circular,” said Anthony DiPrinzio, Head of BASF Blockchain Lab.

“Leveraging blockchain technology, we can work together to ensure our products deliver back to the value chain and contribute to a circular economy.”

For the pilot project in British Columbia, BASF is working with Deloitte as a strategic advisor. The team is currently validating the pilot’s value in the local supply chain with the goal of expanding it to a nation-wide solution in order to position Canada as a

Media Relations Contact
Lorena Lujan Rubio
+1-647-236-6376
lorena.lujan-rubio@basf.com

BASF Canada
100 Milverton Drive
Mississauga, Canada
L5R 4H1
www.basf.com

leading country in the recycling and recovery of plastics.

To learn more about reciChain and potential partnership opportunities, please visit www.basf.ca/reciChain

BASF's engagement to reduce plastic waste

BASF is committed to sustainability across its value chain and within its products, and the BASF Verbund is designed for efficient use of energy and resources. As a founding member of the [Alliance to End Plastic Waste](#), BASF is supporting many solutions to solve the world's plastic waste problem. These projects cover the fields of mechanical recycling, including a partnership with Security Matters to develop solutions for circularity and innovative chemistry for recycling challenges, and chemical recycling. With its ChemCycling™ project, which initially focuses on the European market, BASF aims to manufacture products from chemically recycled plastic waste on an industry scale. Through this project, BASF cooperates with partners who use thermochemical processes to transform plastic waste into secondary raw materials, such as pyrolysis oil. BASF closely engages with the relevant stakeholders to tackle these challenges for a sustainable future.

About BASF

BASF Canada, headquartered in Mississauga, Ontario, has over 1,200 employees at production facilities and offices located across Canada. BASF Canada is a subsidiary of BASF SE, and an affiliate of BASF Corporation. To find out more about BASF's activities in Canada, visit www.basf.com/ca or follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/basfcanada

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Media Relations Contact
Lorena Lujan Rubio
+1-647-236-6376
lorena.lujan-rubio@basf.com

BASF Canada
100 Milverton Drive
Mississauga, Canada
L5R 4H1
www.basf.com