

Request for Industrial Partners to join the Industrial Advisory Board

Project title: Plastic packaging data space

Acronym: PANDA

Project ID	
Type	Strategic Basic Research for clusters (cSBO), intercluster project with the spearhead clusters VIL and Flanders'Food
Period	2 years
Starting date	January 1 st , 2023
Total project budget	€ 1.500.000
Subsidy percentage	according to SBO regulations
Industrial partners (Advisory Board)	Current partners not disclosed at the moment
Applicants (Knowledge partners)	IMEC, KULeuven
Catalisti contact	Laura-Lynn Fockaert (lfockaert@catalisti.be)

Project description

Introduction

The Plastic pAckagiNg DatA space (PANDA) project aims to set up and test a circular economy data space focused on plastic packaging. This project aligns with the [European Commission's Green Deal's](#) aim to achieve a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy through data sharing. The European Commission has launched several initiatives with a double objective: (1) boost the circularity of materials and the recycling of plastics to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and (2) stimulate the data economy via data sharing among industry, public sector and consumers. Therefore the Commission has approved on 30 March 2022 a [regulatory proposal](#) aiming to introduce a [Digital Product Passport](#), which will give business partners, consumers, governments etc., access to relevant product data. After discussion in the European Parliament and Council, this regulation will soon come into force. Also, the upcoming [European Data Governance Act](#) and [Data Act](#) will set requirements for the private sector for data sharing. Besides those regulatory needs for data sharing, also economic added value can be found in data sharing: It can lead, in the short term, to increased revenue generation and cost savings for companies, and in the long term, lead to brand enhancement and a reduction of risks ([Nordic Innovation](#), 2021).

Goals

Consequently, there is a need to set up a tool for increased data sharing among companies, both from a regulatory and economic point of view. With the PANDA - Plastic pAckagiNg DatA space project, we want to create a data space for plastic packaging. We believe that companies will benefit from this economic and regulatory perspective. A data space, which is "a data ecosystem, defined by a sector or application, whereby decentralised infrastructure enables trustworthy data sharing with commonly agreed capabilities" (Nagel et al., 2021), allows companies to keep control of their data and decide who has access to it, leading to trust among partners. Furthermore, a data space is fitted for a multi-stakeholder context, is scalable and allows for automation of data sharing among partners.

This project brings together technological, legal and circularity expertise to research how a data space for plastic packaging can be organised for the private sector, and in relation to the public sector, so that we can prepare for the potential impact of the Digital Product Passport, and can unlock new circular economy applications and opportunities by tackling the data sharing barriers.

Request

To foster interaction with the industry, the project partners are looking for companies that wish to be involved in this cluster strategic basis research (cSBO) project as part of an advisory committee.

More specific, the project partners are searching for industrial partners along the supply chain of plastic packaging from the fast moving consumer good or food producer upstream to packaging producers, recycling companies and waste collectors.

The primary role of companies during the pre-project phase is to tailor the project proposal to the actual needs of the companies and thereby maximise the likelihood of future utilisation of the data space. During the project execution, a two-way dialogue between the researchers and the user field involved remains essential to achieve the targeted knowledge transfer from scientific research to concrete applications. The primary role of companies during the implementation phase is:

- to assist the research from an economic point of view;
 - to assist in designing and preparing the translation of the results into concrete economic applications.
- During the cSBO project execution, companies may contribute as member of the advisory committee. In addition, they may prefer to undertake parallel R&D activities that are related to the subject of the SBO project at their own expense. In the latter option, the parallel R&D activities are not part of the SBO project. Companies may explore the possibility to obtain funding from the Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Advisory Board is open to all interested companies, including companies established outside the Flemish region.

Important notice: Companies that wish to be involved in this cSBO project, will need to be (at least) member of Catalisti and/or a member of VIL and/or Flanders'Food. For more information on membership and membership fees, please contact Laura-Lynn Fockaert (lfockaert@catalisti.be). In compliance to SBO regulations, the following requirements apply during the project implementation:

- All commercial members of the advisory committee are required to make a monetary contribution of minimum € 250/year in the case of an SME or minimum € 1,000/year in the case of a large enterprise or another organisation.
- A commitment to a substantive contribution and a time investment to participate in bilateral consultations with the project executors and/or meetings of the advisory committee.

How to reply to this request

Please send an **email before 14 July 2022** to Laura-Lynn Fockaert (lfockaert@catalisti.be) with pfredrickx@catalisti.be in CC, and **briefly describe your interest and potential contribution** to the project. After submission of your offer, you will be contacted for more information on the project contents, and a [Letter of Intent](#) and [Questionnaire](#) will be provided to join the Advisory Board of the project. Feel free to contact Laura-Lynn Fockaert (lfockaert@catalisti.be; +32 476 379 764) or Peggy Fredrickx (pfredrickx@catalisti.be; +32 499 716 989) or for any further questions you might have related to this request.

Important notice: Partners that wish to participate in spearhead cluster-supported projects are required to be member of one of the spearhead clusters. For more information on membership and membership fees, please visit our [website](#) or contact Laura-Lynn Fockaert (lfockaert@catalisti.be).

RfP PANDA

Contact

Please contact Laura-Lynn Fockaert (lfockaert@catalisti.be, +32 476 379 764) if you have questions concerning this RfP.

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