

Call for Interest: Industrial Partners

Selective removal and subsequent complete destruction/mineralization, monitoring and quantification of PFAS and related compounds

Project ID	
Type	TBD
Period	TBD
Starting date	TBD
Total project budget	TBD
Subsidy percentage	According to SBO and O&O regulations
Current industrial partners	Confidential
Catalisti contact	Luc Van Ginneken (lvanginneken@catalisti.be)

Context

Introduction

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a very large class of man-made chemicals that include PFOA, PFOS and GenX chemicals. Since the 1940s, PFAS have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries in Europe and around the globe. PFAS are found in everyday items such as food packaging, non-stick stain repellent, and waterproof products, including clothes and other products used by outdoor enthusiasts. PFAS are also widely used in industrial applications and for firefighting. PFAS can enter the environment through production or waste streams and can be very persistent in the environment and the human body. PFAS have many and varied pathways into waste streams, presenting challenges for ultimate disposal. Determining the appropriate method for ultimate disposal of PFAS wastes is a complex issue due to their volatility, solubility, and environmental mobility and persistence.

Large amounts of PFOS, or perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, a chemical hazardous to human and animal health, were in recent years discovered at numerous locations in Flanders. The huge concern related to PFOS persists and is presently often the subject of controversial societal and political discussions. This puts the whole chemical industry in a negative spotlight, although the chemical industry has greatly contributed to improvements in life expectancy, human health, sustainability and living standards for most people. Therefore, it is crucial that the chemical industry shows that it is willing to address and resolve these inheritances of the past decades. To this aim, Catalisti is initiating – together with academic and industrial partners – projects that address selective removal and subsequent complete destruction/mineralization, monitoring and quantification of PFAS and related compounds.

Request

With this Call for Interest, we would like to invite companies / industrial partners that have an interest in the **selective removal and subsequent complete destruction/mineralization, monitoring and quantification of PFAS and related compounds** to respond to this Call for Interest. In particular, Catalisti is looking for companies / industrial partners that:

1. Would like to sign a “Letter-of-Intent (LOI)” to express their interest to actively follow up on a cSBO project¹ that Catalisti is setting up in this field (together with academic partners) and to take part in its Advisory Board meetings², and/or
2. Would like to further research and develop their own innovative technologies in this field in collaboration with other industrial partners and would like to develop new knowledge that can be applied in practice and thus contributes to economic and possibly broader social added value in

¹ The envisioned Strategic Basic Research (cSBO) project aims to improve general understanding of PFAS remediation and provide independent data of which techniques can breakdown PFAS and completely mineralize them. More information on the project can be provided by Catalisti.

² An LOI template for this purpose can be provided on demand by Catalisti.

Flanders. The Flemish industrial partners can call on the financial support of Catalisti/VLAIO (Agency Innovation & Entrepreneurship) for this.

How to reply to this request

Please send an email **before Friday April 15th 2022** to lvanginneken@catalisti.be and briefly describe your interest and potential contribution to an innovation project. After expressing your interest, you can be contacted to further elaborate your interest.

We already have some industrial partners interested to set-up a specific innovation project. Catalisti, together with the current industrial partners for this specific project, will determine which partners can join the consortium for that specific project. Based on the interest received, however, other projects can be initiated as well.

Important notice: Partners that wish to participate in Catalisti-supported projects are required to become a member of Catalisti. For more information on membership and membership fees, please visit our website (<http://catalisti.be/membership-2/>) or contact Luc Van Ginneken.

Contact

Please contact Luc Van Ginneken (lvanginneken@catalisti.be, +32 477 97 99 47) if you have any questions concerning this Call for Interest or the Catalisti procedures in general.

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