

PRESS RELEASE

Bellignat (Ain) – December 21, 2020

THE ALLIANCE OF 2 COMPETITIVENESS CLUSTERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE POLYMER INDUSTRY

On Friday, December 18, the General Meetings of Elastopôle and Plastipolis announced the **creation of POLYMERIS, a new Rubber, Plastics and Composites competitiveness cluster** bringing together the driving forces of the two existing clusters. This merger will become effective on December 31 and will be fully deployed as from January 1st 2021.

Joël VIRY and René REVAULT expressed their *‘great satisfaction that the project designed over the last few months has finally been launched and will enable the implementation of the roadmap and action plan designed for the benefit of companies in the rubber, plastics and composites sectors.* For his part, Joël VIRY insisted: *“Our mission within Polymeris is to be at the service of our members, with the priority to encourage, promote and support innovation”.* For his part, René REVAULT wished to thank, *“The working groups from both Plastipolis and Elastopôle sides, designed a balanced and forward-looking project”.*

POLYMERIS becomes a reference in matters of Rubbers, Plastics & Composites Innovation on the territory, with the aim to allow France, its regions and companies to achieve excellence in the technologies and application areas of tomorrow while being part of a stronger European ambition.

POLYMERIS major objectives for 2020–2025

The project led by POLYMERIS, as a Pole of Competitiveness, aims for strong leadership on Rubbers, Plastics and Composites by taking into account the challenges of ecological and economic change. The project brings a high added value at the service of industrialists, in connection with the academic and research institutions. It is placed at the heart of the development of territories as well as the ecosystem actors.

- Become the national reference for the Rubber, Plastics and Composites ecosystem,
- To be a driving force for innovation projects, supporting future changes,
- To achieve European and international stature and visibility,
- To be an efficient cluster at the service of its members.

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The main missions of POLYMERIS

- Fostering more innovation and encouraging the emergence of new R&D projects
- Promoting innovation in the service of Rubber, Plastics and Composites
- Opening up business development to other industrial sectors and to the international cooperation

The implementation

In the founding year 2020, POLYMERIS prepared the “ramp-up” of the cluster activities which will be fully deployed from 2021. The aim of POLYMERIS is to ensure the coherence of its development from the former Plastipolis and Elastopôle clusters, while federating efforts and accelerating initiatives. A significant effort will be made in particular on communication with members and their mobilisations, while supporting the operational team development and skills matching, through the harmonisation of project processes and a training plan.

POLYMERIS 2020–2025

A leading competitiveness cluster, which is recognised and approved, bringing together all the Rubber, Plastics and Composites actors, around a POLYMERIS roadmap built for 2 major strategic axes: The Industry of the Future and the Circular Economy.

The cluster is recognised by the French State as one of the competitiveness clusters dedicated to supporting innovation and growth in national industrial sectors. On the other hand, POLYMERIS benefits from the support of 6 French regions for its development and projects: Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Île-de-France, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, and Pays de Loire.

The advantages of POLYMERIS

- The **combination of 15 years of expertise and experience** in supporting Rubber, Plastics and Composites companies;
- An **in-depth knowledge** of the technologies and markets of tomorrow;
- An **entrepreneurial mindset, agility and responsiveness** to support the Rubber, Plastics and Composites ecosystem actors;
- **New services** for members, a customised and contextualised offer;
- **Cross-functional, innovative and high added-value projects** for the Rubber, Plastics and Composites development; a **wide range** of rubber and plastic polymer materials and composites and their associated processes;

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- The strengthening of a **multi-material approach** in the projects;
- A strong team with the wealth of cross-skills, even **more present in the field work**;
- A **multiregional dynamic** promoting synergies and networking
- An **increased visibility** at national level with companies, partners and funders
- A **critical size** for a stronger **European and international development** and to **meet the major challenges** of today and tomorrow: Ecological and Economic Transition, Industry of the Future...

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