

PRESS RELEASE

Recycling old photovoltaic panels into new ones!

Lyon, Monday 12th March

Can we recycle silicon from discarded PV panels to produce new ones? The FORESi (FOstering a Recycled European Silicon supply) innovation action - launched in January - aims not only to prove that this is possible, but also to develop a complete cradle-to-cradle European silicon value chain in a circular economy.

The eleven partners working together towards these goals met in Oslo/Norway earlier this year to kick-off the planned activities launching this ambitious initiative granted by the European Union!

Current energy and environmental targets are driving rapid growth in the European photovoltaic park. This means that the recycling of PV panels, as well as the supply of silicon, will gradually become more important issues. At present, PV recycling is organized at national level, with different technologies and varying degrees of recycling. Meanwhile, most of the silicon used in PV panels installed in Europe is produced in China, creating a critical raw material dependency issue.

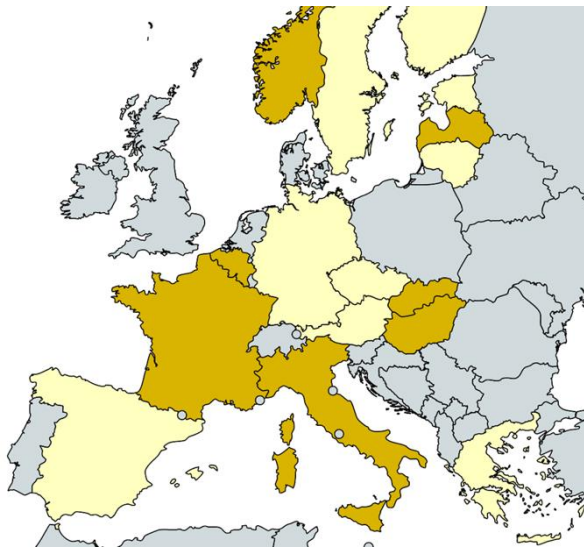
FORESi is a 3-year collaboration that will address both of those needs (silicon production and recycling). Firstly, the team will review the state-of-the-art on European practices for the recycling of end-of-life PV panels. Then the project team will develop the sustainable recovery of end-of-life PV panels: the panels will be tested for reuse or repair; if this is not possible, an innovative process will be applied to dismantle them to get the raw material silicon extracted. New technologies will be utilized to purify the silicon to a level of purity sufficient to produce new PV panels and batteries.

Through this process, FORESi will cover each step of the circular PV recycling value chain. The aim is to later replicate the innovative concept in European countries creating resilient value chains and contributing to sustainable energy sovereignty for Europe. The project is groundbreaking at EU level and will hopefully be implemented with success. It has received funding from the European Commission's Horizon Programme.



CONSORTIUM

To reach these ambitious objectives, the consortium gathers **11 partners** from **7 different countries**, including **6 industries & SMEs**, **4 industry-driven clusters**, **non-profits** and **research centers**, and **1 university**:



- SiPow AS (Norway)
- RECMA (Belgium)
- LATVIJAS TEHNOLOGISKAIS CENTRS NODIBINAJUMS (Latvia)
- Bay Zoltán Research Centre (Hungary)
- Boralex (France)
- Applied Materials Italia S.R.L (Italy)
- Mondragon (France)
- Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (France)
- Hespul (France)
- CARBON (France)
- SLOVENSKA TECHNICKA UNIVERZITA V BRATISLAVE (Slovakia)



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