



Invitation to Tracer Workshop: How to improve plastic sorting efficiency?

Feb 24, 2016 - Brussels

Purpose

Cross-industry discussion to harmonise the use of tracers into plastic packaging materials. The workshop will focus on PET as a start and intends to create a precedent for other plastics later on.

Background

Europe has a historical track record on plastic recycling and it is assumed that target numbers will only increase with the EU's new Circular Economy Package. Many new packaging developments are taking place (including material shifts), which sometimes might be challenging for already established recycling streams and/or creates a need for new streams. There is a responsibility and unique opportunity to ensure these new innovative packages are properly sorted and recycled into useful end applications.

Addition of tracers (also called markers) to a package can potentially make a very significant improvement to sorting efficiencies: it allows to program automatic sorting lines (such as those present in Material Recycling Facilities) more effectively. Several companies/consortia are already investigating the use of markers for all kinds of packaging (such as bottles and film packaging), and we believe that there is an opportunity and need for industry harmonisation.

We therefore would like to reach out to all interested parties (brand owners, green dot organisations, EU institutions, plastic converters, resin/masterbatch producers, recycling line and optical detection machine vendors, recyclers, waste management companies, research institutes, etc.) in order to have an open dialogue on this subject. The main objective is to talk and solve this problem as an industry (e.g. very similar approach as the introduction of barcodes on a pack) and align on basic principles and paths forward. Please note that only technical topics will be discussed during that meeting. Commercial discussions won't be allowed.



This initial workshop should allow us to:

- i. Streamline all active tracer programme work, and
- ii. Ensure smoother and faster implementation into the market.

Agenda (draft)

Welcome – *Patrick Peuch, Petcore Europe & Gian De Belder, P&G*

Introductions and Anti-trust review – *Ingrid Verschueren, EuPC (European Plastics Converters)*

Overview of active tracer programmes and need for industry harmonisation – *Gian De Belder, P&G*

Presentations:

- **Polymark project** – *Polymark Consortium*
- **PETCycle project** – *P&G & partners*
- **Reflex project** – *Axion & partners*
- **PRISM (Packaging Rapid Intelligent Sorting System for Materials) project** – *Edward Kosior, NEXTEK*
- **Tracer efforts NAPCOR/Plastipak Inc** – *Tom Busard, NAPCOR*

Discussion: How can we align on an industry standard?

Date & Venue

Wednesday, 24 February 2016 (exact timing tbc)

Location: VLEVA Conference Center, Avenue de Cortenbergh 71, 1000 Brussels, Belgium



Registration & Workshop fee

Subscription fee:

- Non-Member: 150 Euro (VAT excl.)
- Petcore Europe Member through member association: 100 Euro (VAT excl.)
- Petcore Europe Member through member company: free

If you like to participate in the Tracer Workshop, please register here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1aeE8usxa_h-yJL-Shyaz4_2MMeL6Z5o810sRnkVU0kE/viewform.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Eva Schneider, Petcore Europe Communications Officer, via eva.schneider@petcore-europe.org.

Subscription will close 31 January 2016.

We hope to welcome you all there!

Patrick Peuch (Petcore Europe Executive Director)

Gian De Belder (Petcore Europe member / R&D Sustainable Packaging P&G)

About Petcore Europe

Petcore Europe is the trade association based in Brussels representing the whole PET value chain in Europe. Petcore Europe's mission is to ensure that the PET industry and its associations are aligned to deliver increased value and sustainable growth in the PET value chain, to ensure that PET is positioned and recognized as an environmentally sustainable packaging material, to validate and support innovative packaging solutions from a recycling perspective, and to work with all interested parties to ensure the sustainable growth of PET post-consumer collection and recycling.

A new Task Force on difficult-to-recycle PET packages is being formed within Petcore Europe, in order to address a rising issue on heavily-colored PET post-consumer packages.