

# PLA in durable applications

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# Who are we?



# TotalEnergies Corbion

50/50 joint venture to become a major player in PLA – biobased, recyclable and biodegradable, with low carbon footprint & high feedstock efficiency - launched on 2 March 2017.



General manufacturing process technology

Product & application technology

A global sales network

**Consistent with TotalEnergies's ambition of expanding in biofuels and bioplastics**

## Joint Venture



1 kT PLA pilot plant

100 kT lactide plant

75 kT PLA plant

**R&D, Production, Sales/Marketing**



Lactic Acid

Lactide & PLA polymerization technology

PLA product & application know how

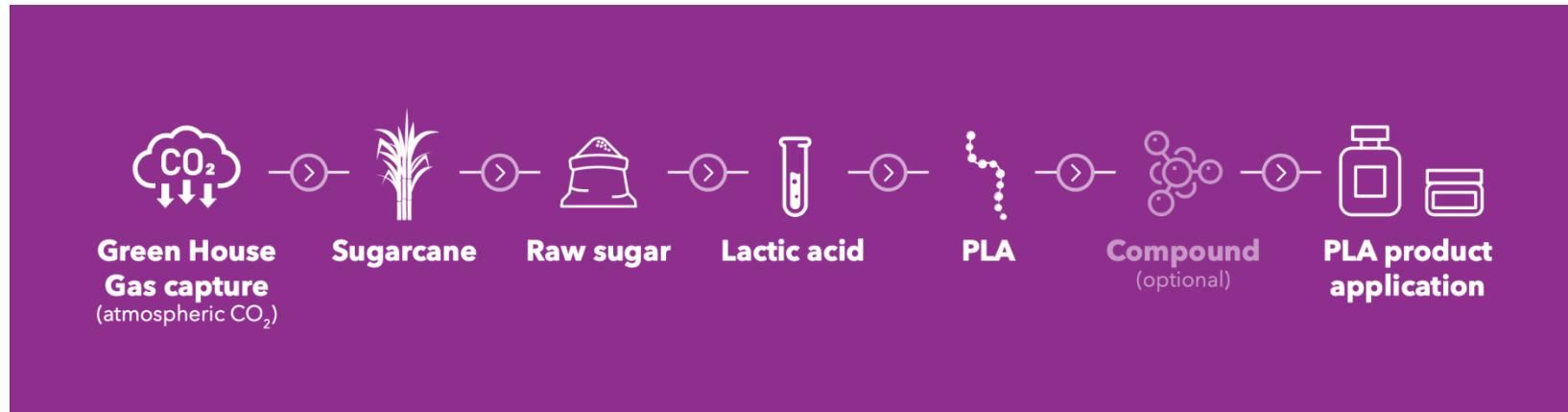
**At the core of Corbion's strategy built around advancing sustainability**

# TotalEnergies Corbion - PLA plant in Thailand

- 50/50 Joint Venture between Total and Corbion
- World scale & brand new 75kTpa PLA polymerization plant in Rayong, Thailand.
- Sugar to PLA on integrated bio-refinery site
- Lactic acid supplied to the JV by Corbion, utilizing Thai sugarcane



# The biobased origin of PLA



Sugarcane is the starting point for Luminy® PLA. The sugar extracted from the sugarcane is fermented using microorganisms to produce lactic acid, an organic acid also produced by the human body.

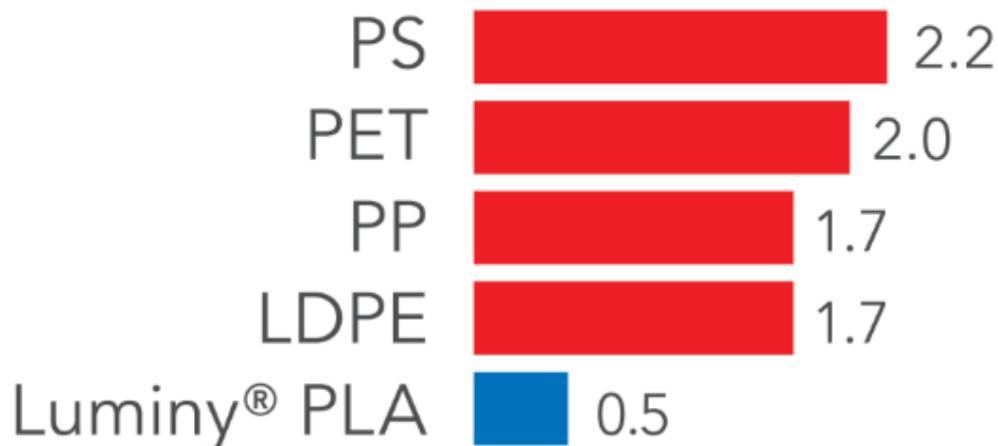
**TotalEnergies Corbion** converts the lactic acid into PLA, a biopolymer used in multiple applications from packaging to 3D printing to electronics.

# Reduced carbon footprint with Luminy® PLA

- Peer reviewed Life Cycle Assessment. Confirms Low carbon footprint of Luminy® PLA
- From a cradle-to-gate the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of PLA is 0.5kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg of PLA



Carbon footprint in kg CO<sub>2</sub> /kg of polymer



PLA carbon footprint is on average,  
**75% lower**  
than fossil-based plastic resins

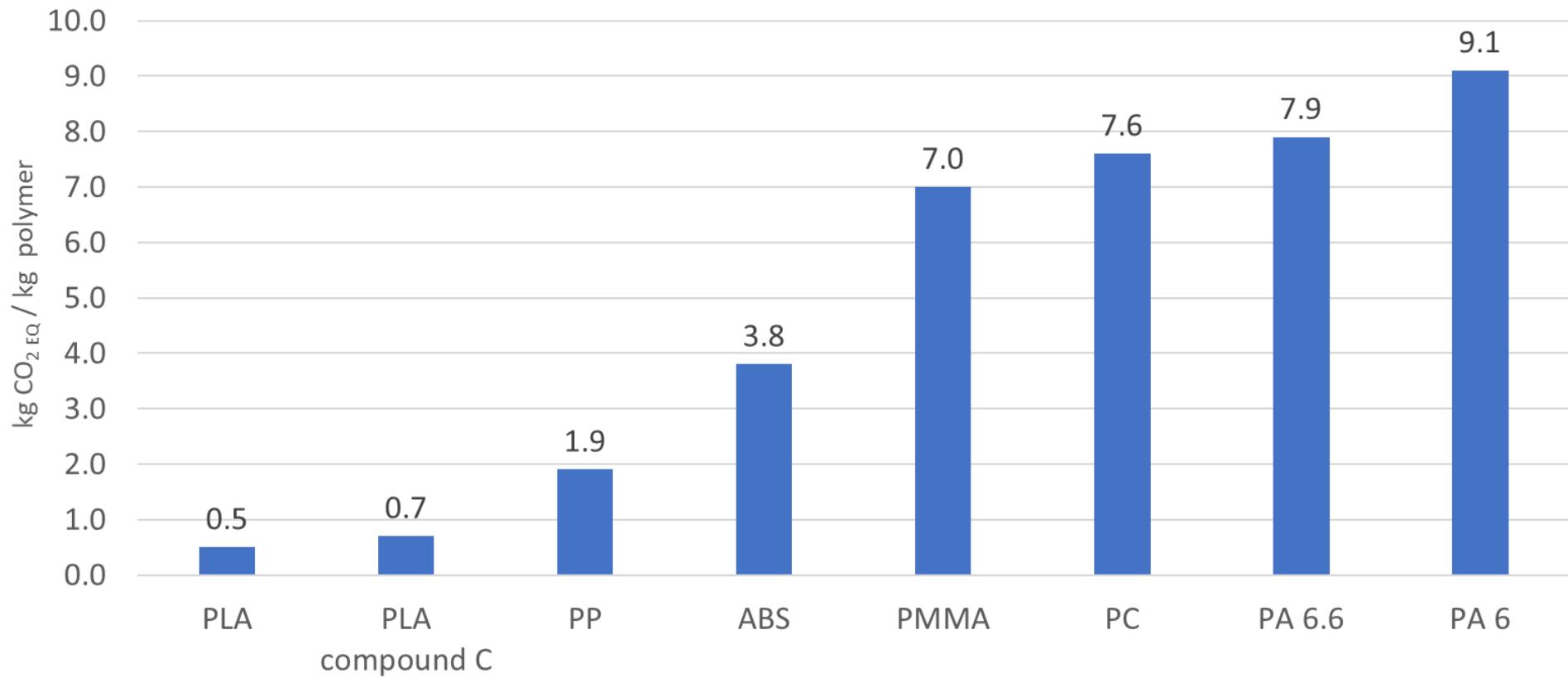
Sources: "Journal of Polymers and the Environment" November 2019,  
published by Springer nature and [www.ica.plasticseurope.org](http://www.ica.plasticseurope.org)

# Carbon footprint reduction

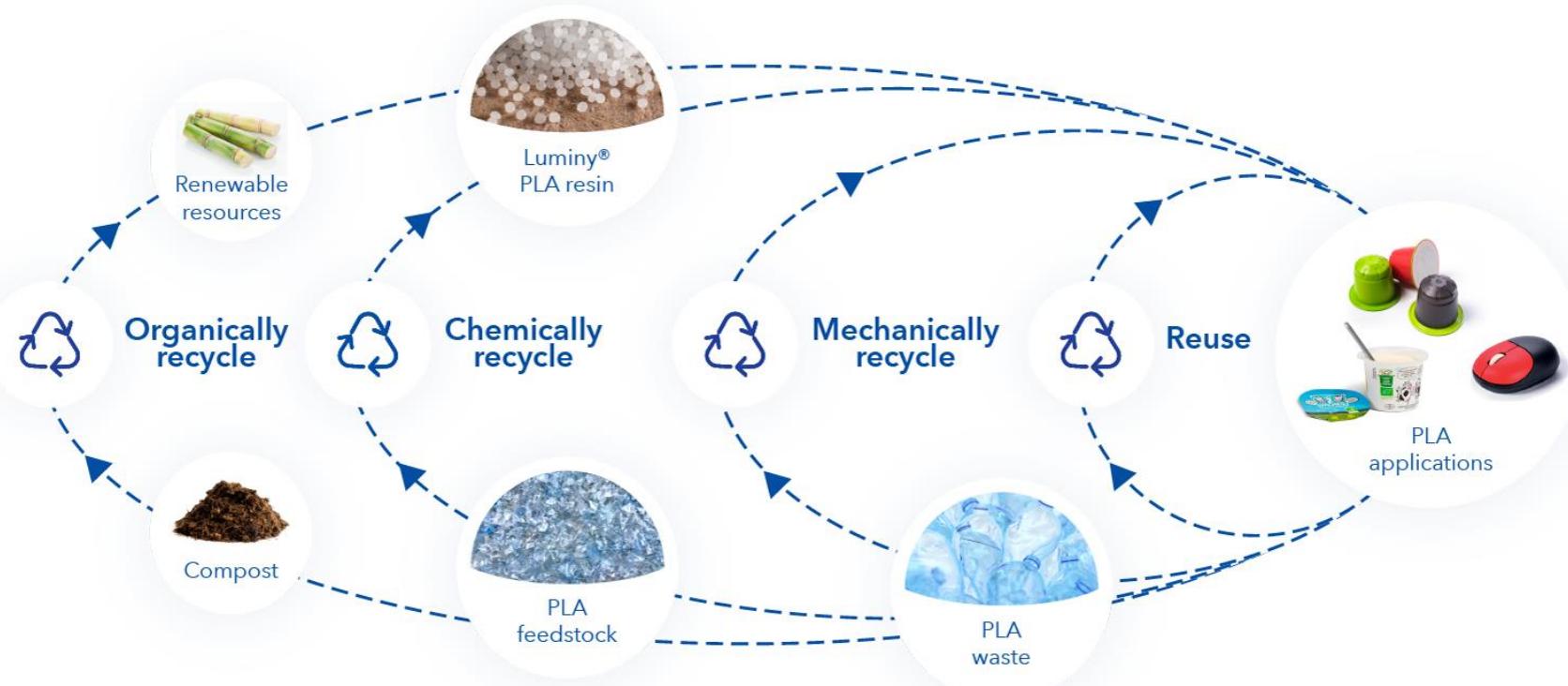
## raw material data

### Global Warming Potential (GWP)

net GWP cradle-to-polymer factory-to-exit gate



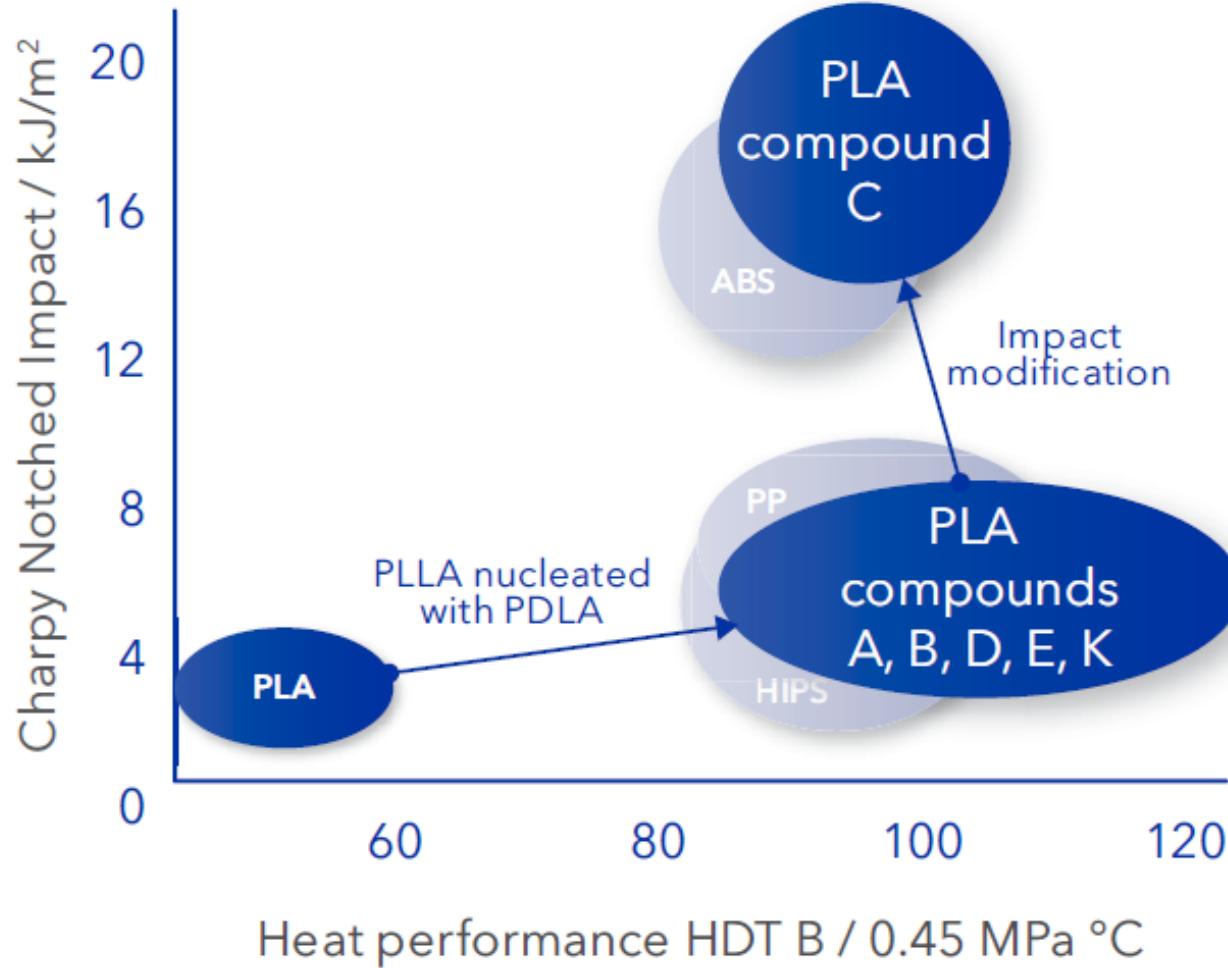
# Closing the loop with Luminy PLA



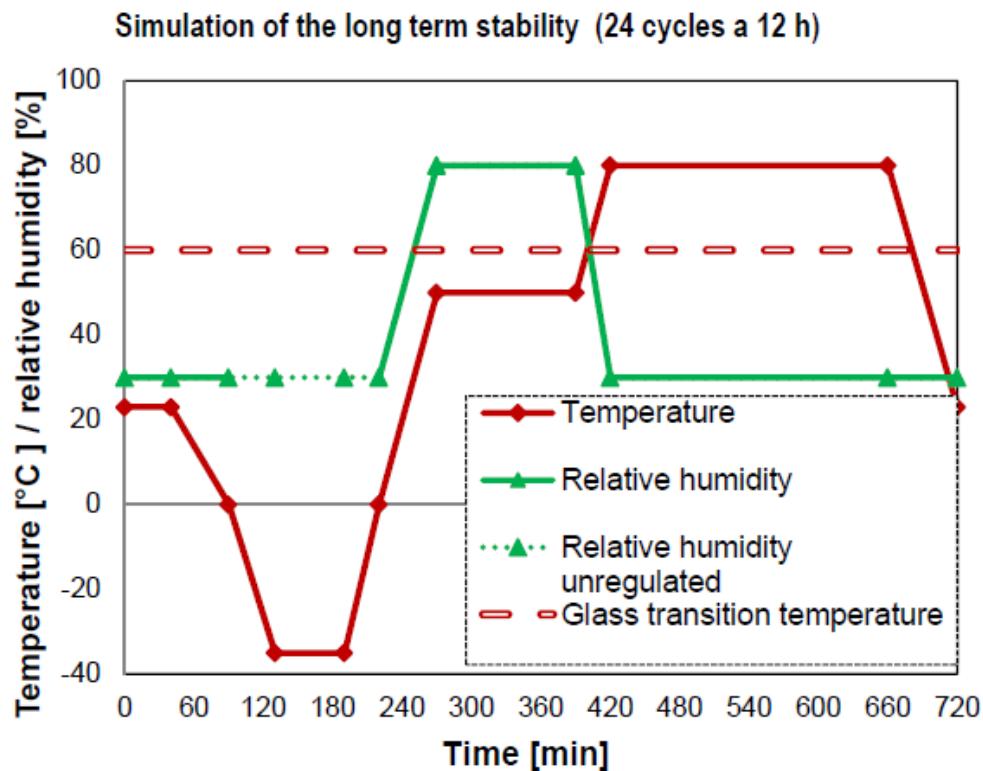
# From packaging to high added value markets



# PLA compounds with improved performance



# Environmental cycle test



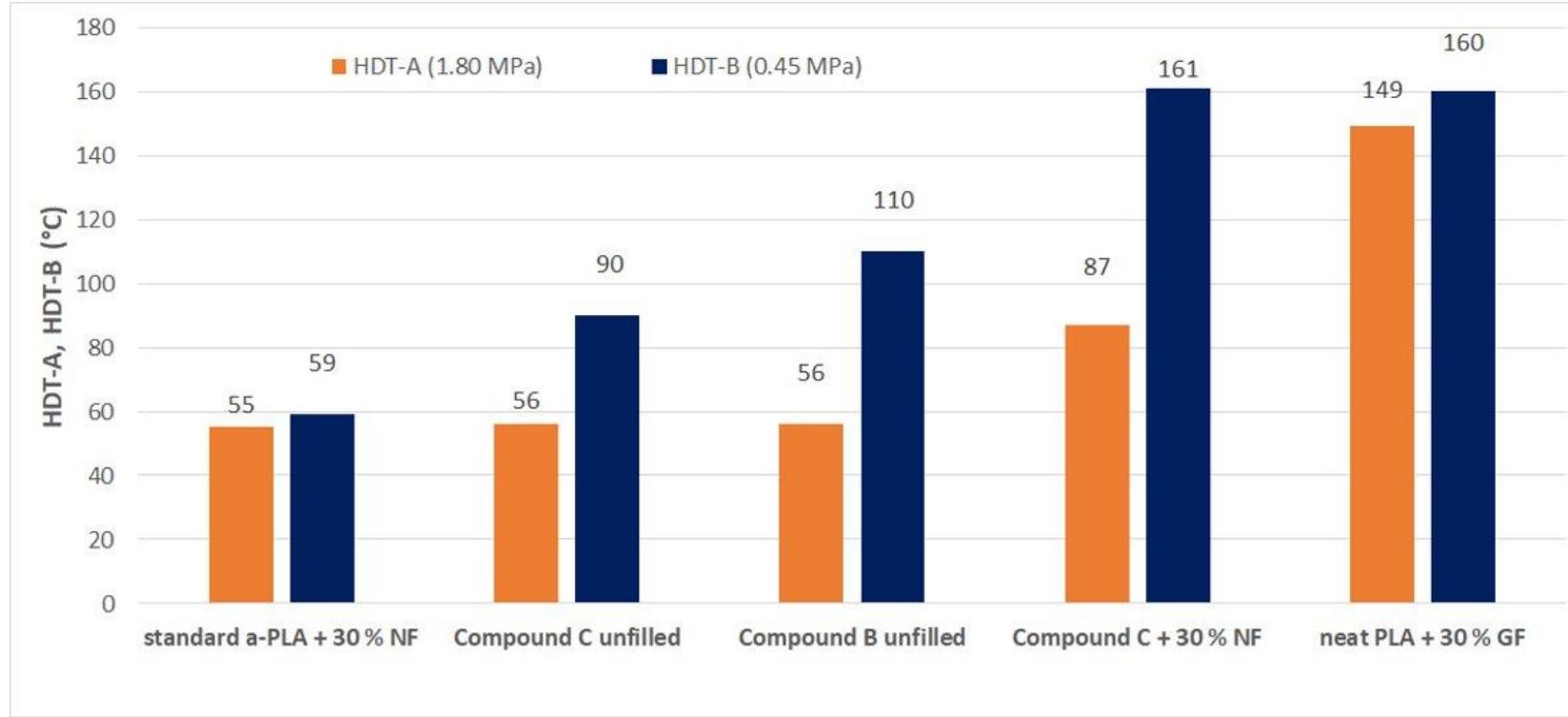
720 min = 12 h  
24 cycles X 12 h = 12 days

Sample	Mw (g/mol) before	Mw (g/mol) after
PLA	60 000	18 250
PLA + stabilizer	60 450	61 400



Source: Dissertation Siebert-Raths: Modifizierung von Polylactid für technische Anwendungen

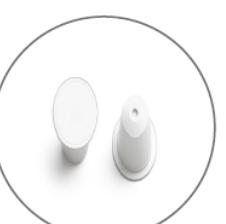
# Fiber reinforcement for even higher heat resistance



Source: TotalEnergies Corbion



### Majors applications



**Automotive:** substitution of PP GF, PA GF and ABS-PC for interior, exterior and interior.

**Appliances, power tools, IoT, electrical device, medical :** casing applications

**Furniture:** indoor and outdoor

**Consumer :** kitchenware, fashion accessories

**Packaging:** film or thin wall rigid packaging

**Non recoverable product:** agri supplies, cartridges wad...

**Additive manufacturing**

# Automotive - Roechling



**Engine compartment**



Air Induction System



Engine Beauty Covers



Cowl Grille

**Underbody & Aerodynamics**



Active Grille Shutter



Deflectors and shields



**Interiors & Exterior**



High gloss parts



Interior trim



Bumper Grille

Source: Roechling

# Automotive - Roechling



- **Environmental test:** thermal cycles -40/140°C
- **Aging:** tensile strength at break loss OK after 1000h, 150°C
- **Validation:** passed 150.000Km mounted in a vehicle

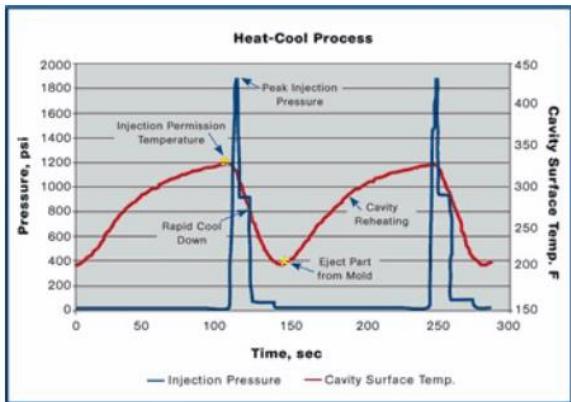
- **Environmental cycling test** – 8 cycles of:  
23°C @ 40min/ 90min to/ -35°C @ 60min / 80min to/ 50°C @ 120min/  
30min to/ 80°C @ 240 min/ 60min to 23°C – acc. VW (PV 2005)

Source: Roechling

## Roechling BioBoom Automotive Applications

### Aesthetics: High-Gloss Feature

- BioBoom allows to reach a piano-black surface during the injection molding process → Heat&Cool technology
- Gloss level close to what paints can achieve
- Several colours are available



Out-of-Tool Aesthetics:	
	Gloss Units
Angle 20°	66 GU
Angle 60°	80 GU
Angle 85°	95 GU



Source: Roechling

## Coupling with Bio-TPE

- Very good adhesion to BioBoom
- Successfully tested on a 2K Injection Molding process



Avg. stress at interface break

TPE-PLA T	TPV-PP T20
2,15 MPa ✓	1,15 MPa



Source: Roechling

## Increasing Natural Content

- Almond stones and hemp fibers showed good processability with PLA
- Wooden fibers grade commercially available



Almond stones



Hemp fibers

### Wooden Fibers Parts:



Source: Roechling



**The challenge:** Proposition bio based materials to substitute PA GF30 for automotive grille shutter. This exterior part is requiring specific thermomechanical resistance and resistance to climatic aggressions (UV, hydrolysis..) with aesthetics requirements.

**The BENVIC proposition:** PLANTURA 70FV6WRHC-BK associated to UV resistance.

**Features:** matches the PA GF30 performances

**Benefits:** saving of from 9 CO2EQ/kg to 2.2 CO2EQ/kg without major technical deviation.

**Impacts:** several new projects with duplication of the solution: allow tier 1 to expands its presence in other cat makers

Source: Benvic



### Success story: Furniture



**The challenge:** request to substitute colored ABS for furniture application by using same molds to develop a bio based range.

**The BENVIC proposition:** PLANTURA 67C1WRHI-N associated to right color matching and high scratch resistance.

**Features:** direct substitution from ABS without impact on tooling and reference colors. Process ability leads to the same cycle time.

**Benefits:** development by customer of a sustainable range with biosourced content of 85% without new investment and low extra costs: possibility to test the market easily.

Source: Benvic



### WHAT'S MAKE PLANTURA DURABLE UNIQUE

**PLA has significant weaknesses to compete against conventional techno-polymers:**

- Low crystallization speed
- Brittle at ambient temperature
- High rigidity
- Moisture absorption
- Glass transition: 55°C-58°C
- Cold crystallization 90°C
- Low fatigue resistance
- Polymer fiber adhesion
- Compatibilization of different polymers
- Affected by hydrolysis
- UV stabilization

**The PLANTURA proposal**

Increased crystallization speed

Improved impact resistance >25J/M

Flexural modulus modulation from 6500MPa to 2500 MPa

Limited water absorption at equilibrium <0,5% by inclusion of hydrophobic co-polyester

High fatigue resistance

HDT from 95°C up to 140°C depending filler

Bio content above 80%

Additive to improve fiber wettability

Special compatibilizer to include other polymers

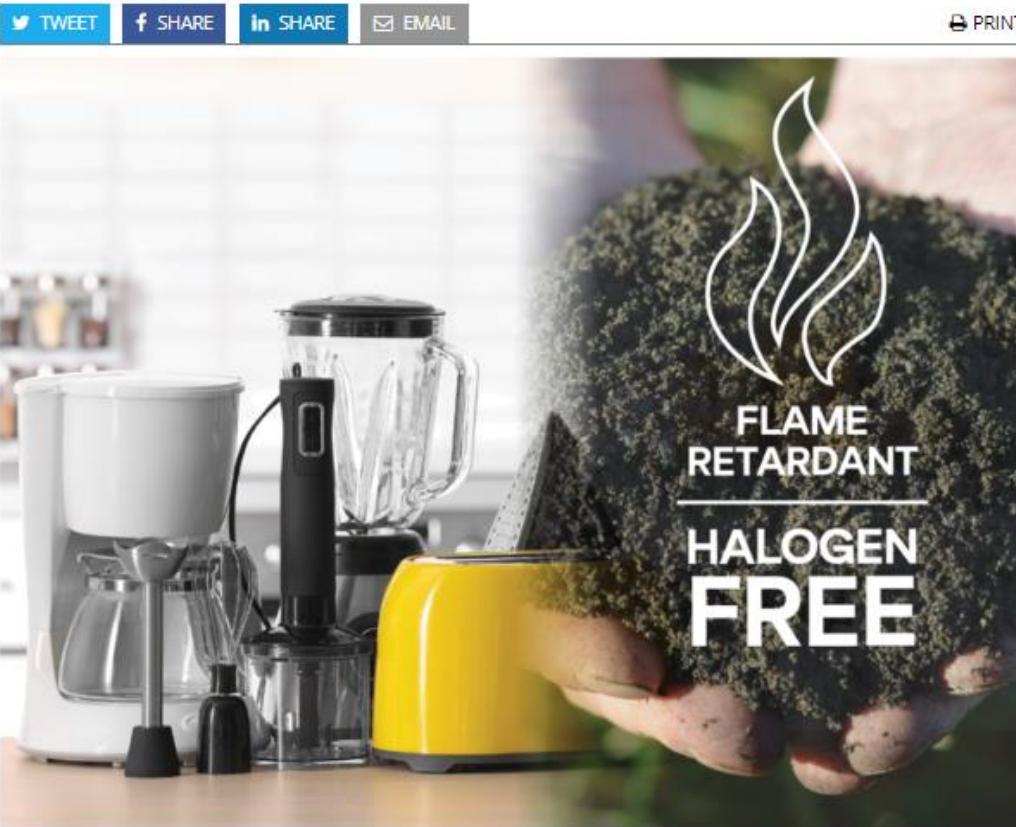
Proprietary UV package

**BENVIC Compounding improvement leads to make PLANTURA range performing materials**

# Home and other appliances

## Floreon targets electronics industry with launch halogen-free flame retardant bioplastic

Sustainable Plastics

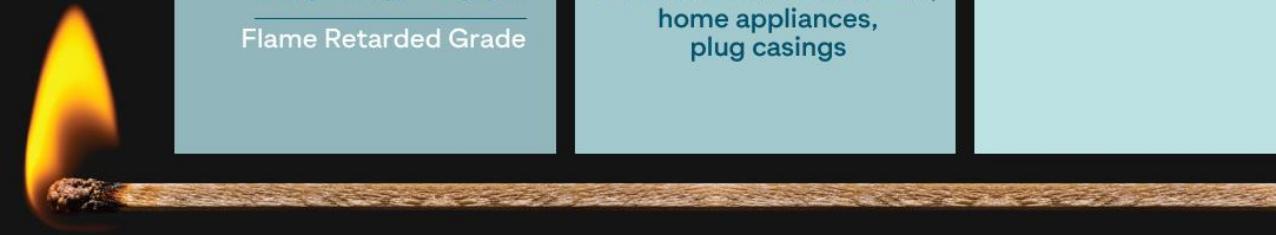


# Flame retardant compound

## DATA SHEET: FLOREON THERMA TECH



Grade	Applications	Features	Benefits
 Floreon Therma-Tech Flame Retarded Grade	Injection Moulding Extrusion 3D Printing Electronics and Electricals, home appliances, plug casings	Flame Retarded (UL94V-0) High HDT High Impact Strength High renewable content	Developed for applications requiring fire resistance. Durability comparable to flame retarded ABS



- PLA based compound with high renewable content
- Nucleated to allow high crystallinity and heat deflection temperature
- Contains elastomeric impact modifier (notched Izod 8 kJ/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Flame retardant (UL94V-0)



Source: Floreon

# PLA for medical applications - Bottles

## Biobased bottles

### Benefits:

- Transparent
- Can be sterilized:
  - under high pressure
  - with alcohol
  - UV-rays
  - gamma rays



[www.biofutura.com](http://www.biofutura.com)

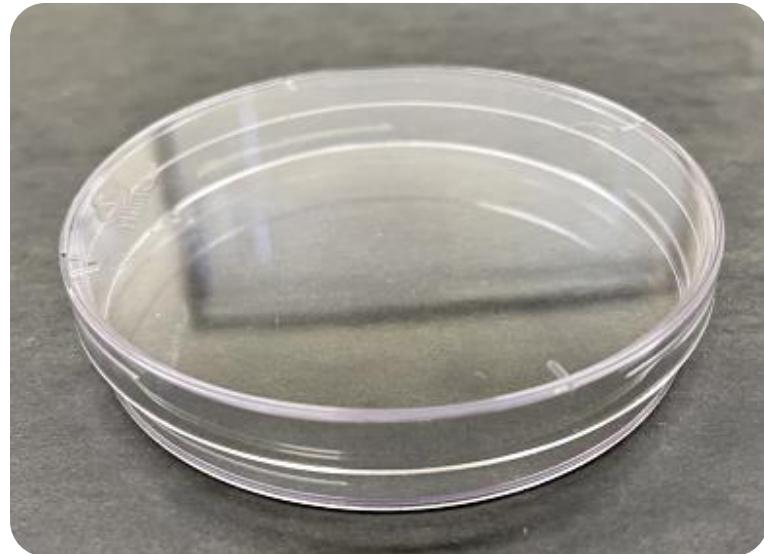


# PLA for medical applications – Petri dishes and labware

**Biobased petri dishes and micro-pipette trays  
made from crystal clear Luminy PLA**

## Benefits:

- Free from styrene and bisphenol A.
- Excellent optical transparency facilitates microscopic cell examination.
- PLA is significantly more hydrophilic than conventional plastics allowing excellent cellular growth in liquid culture without the need for additional coatings.
- Can be (E-beam) sterilized.
- Suitable for closed loop systems: recycling of PLA



[www.atacamausa.com](http://www.atacamausa.com)

**ATACAMA**

## Get in touch:

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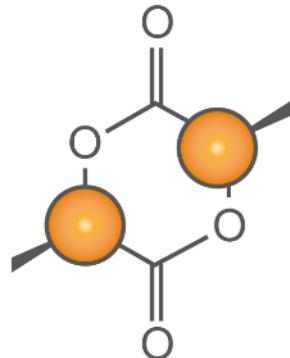
# Appendix

# Start with the best building blocks

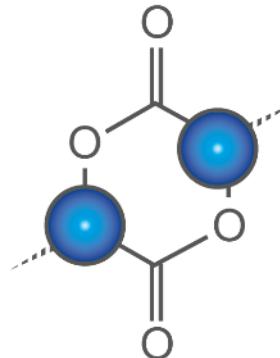
*Stereochemically pure monomers make the difference*



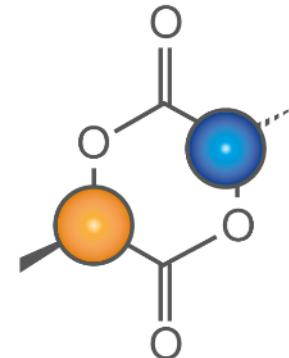
L-lactic acid → L-lactide  
D-lactic acid → D-lactide



(R,R)- lactide  
or D-lactide



(S,S)- lactide  
or L-lactide



(R,S)- lactide  
or meso-lactide

Stereochemically pure lactide monomers:  
building blocks used to make  
Luminy® PDLA & PLLA homopolymers

# Homopolymers: driving performance

PLA  
homo-  
polymers

Stereocomplex PLA ( $T_m = 445^\circ\text{F} / 230^\circ\text{C}$ )



Stereo-complex  
interlocking structure

Luminy® high heat PLA ( $T_m = 347^\circ\text{F} / 175^\circ\text{C}$ )



Homopolymer chains  
crystallize fast and  
provide good heat  
stability

PLLA

L105

L130

L175

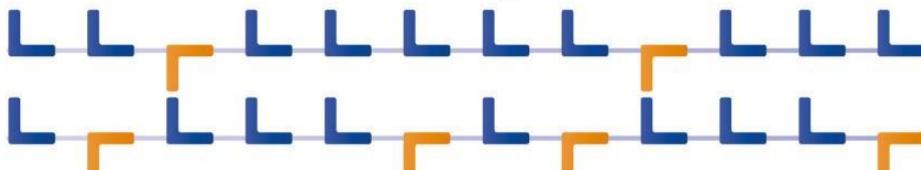
PDLA

D070

D120

PLA  
co-  
polymers

Luminy® standard PLA ( $T_m = 311^\circ\text{F} / 155^\circ\text{C}$ )



Irregular chains do not  
crystallize well and have  
a reduced heat  
resistance

PLA

LX175

D Lactic Acid

L Lactic Acid

# PLA marketing compounds

		HIPS	PLA	Total Corbion PLA sample compounds*						
				A General purpose	B Mineral filled	C Impact modified	D** Base compound	E General purpose	K*** Compostable	
Market	Injection molding			•	•	•			•	
	Extrusion/thermoforming						•	•	•	
	Food contact			•	•		•	•	•	
Physical	Density	g/cm <sup>3</sup>	1.05	1.24	1.25	1.37	1.27	1.39	1.34	1.29
	Clarity	yes/no	no	yes	hazy	no	no	no	no	no
Processing	MFI (210°C/2.16kg)	g/10min			12	10	6	6	5	8
	Melt temperature	°C	210-240	190-220	190-220	190-220	190-220	190-220	190-220	190-220
	Mold temperature	°C	30-60	25	90-100	90-100	90-100	90-100	90-100	90-100
Mechanical	Pre-drying	yes/no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
	Tensile modulus	MPa	2000	3300	3600	5500	4000	5500	5400	3600
	Tensile strength	MPa	35	48	60	60	40	60	60	50
Heat	Strain at break	%	35	<5	<5	<5	47	<5	<5	8
	HDT B, 0.45MPa, flatwise	°C	93	55	90	110	90	120	120	80
Impact	Charpy notched, 23 °C	kJ/m <sup>2</sup>	8	3	3	2	18	2	2	8