



# FlexFunction2Sustain

Open Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainable Nano-Functionalized Plastic and Paper Surfaces and Membranes



08 July 2020

*14th International Symposium  
on Flexible Organic Electronics  
(ISFOE 2020)*

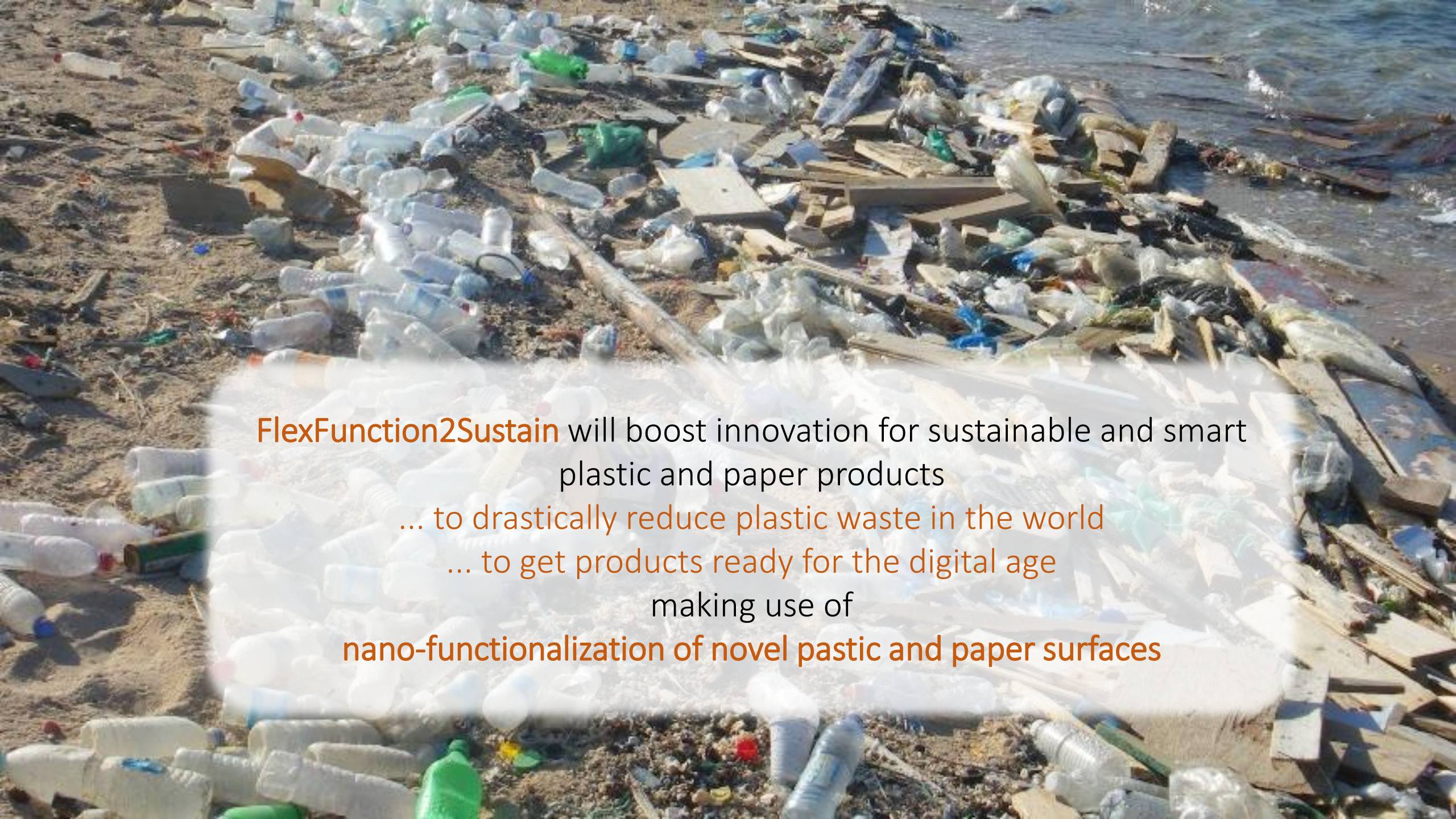
[www.nanotechnology.com](http://www.nanotechnology.com)

# What is an Open Innovation Test Bed?



- **Open Innovation:** Increase innovation potential by partnerships for the innovation process
- **Open Innovation Test Bed - OITB:** Open ecosystem to maximise the innovation potential of novel ideas, technologies, and products
  - Network of Suppliers for complementary innovation boosting services
  - **Single Entry Point:** “Realiser for Innovation” as General Contractor and Management Entity for Collective Services

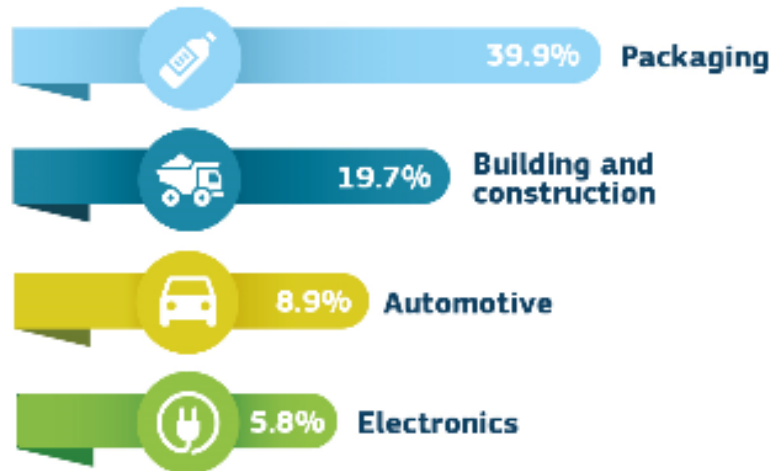


A photograph of a beach heavily littered with plastic waste, including numerous water bottles, plastic bags, and other debris. The trash is piled up along the shoreline, extending into the water. The scene is a stark illustration of environmental pollution.

**FlexFunction2Sustain** will boost innovation for sustainable and smart plastic and paper products  
... to drastically reduce plastic waste in the world  
... to get products ready for the digital age  
making use of  
**nano-functionalization of novel plastic and paper surfaces**

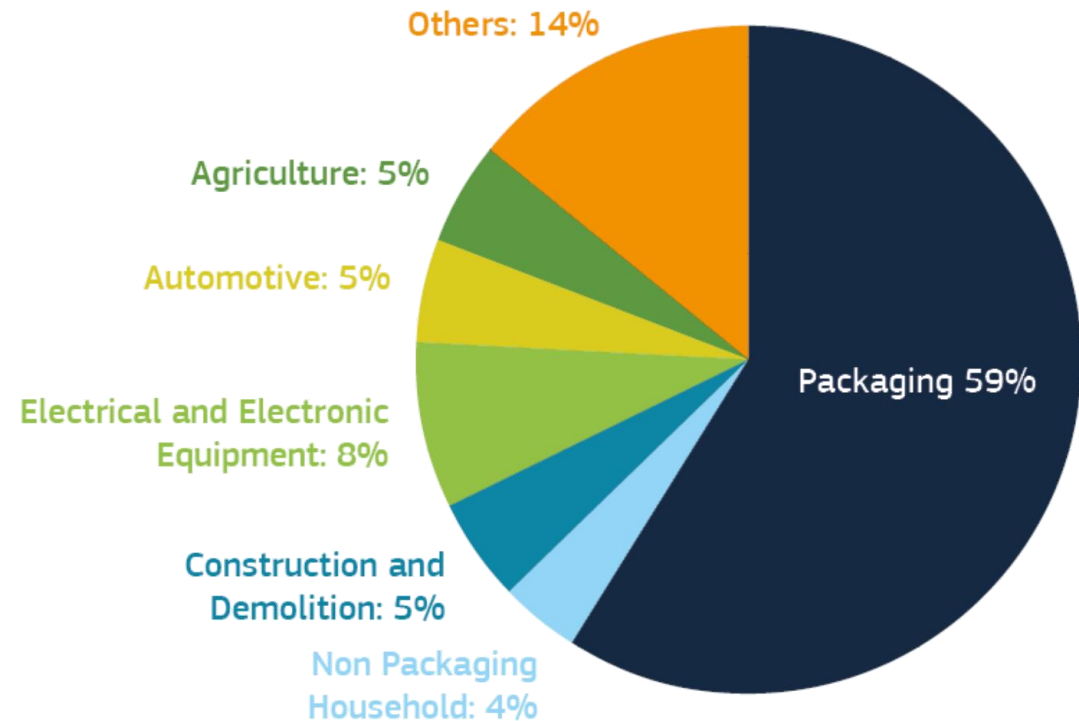
# Plastic Waste in Europe

**49 million tonnes**



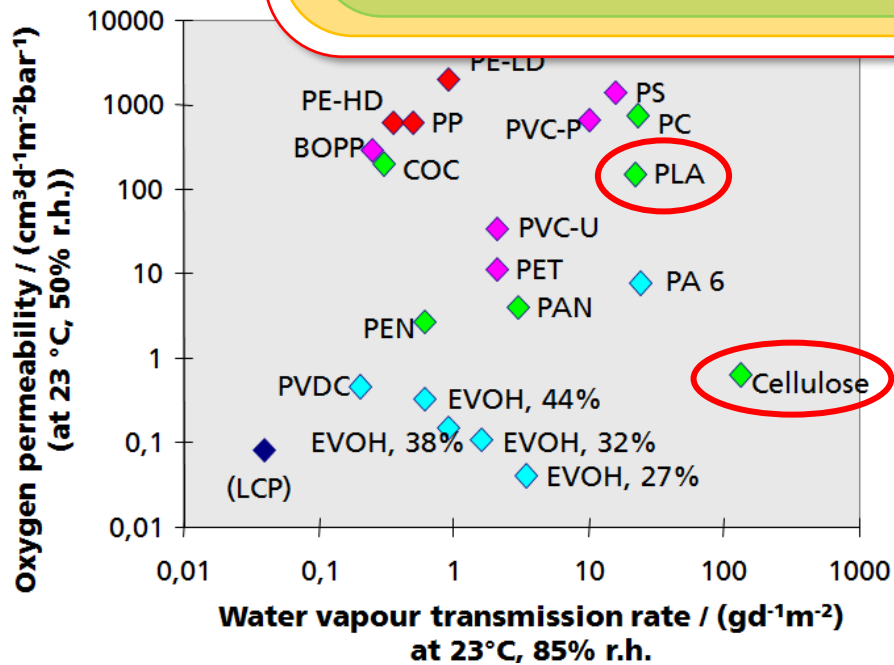
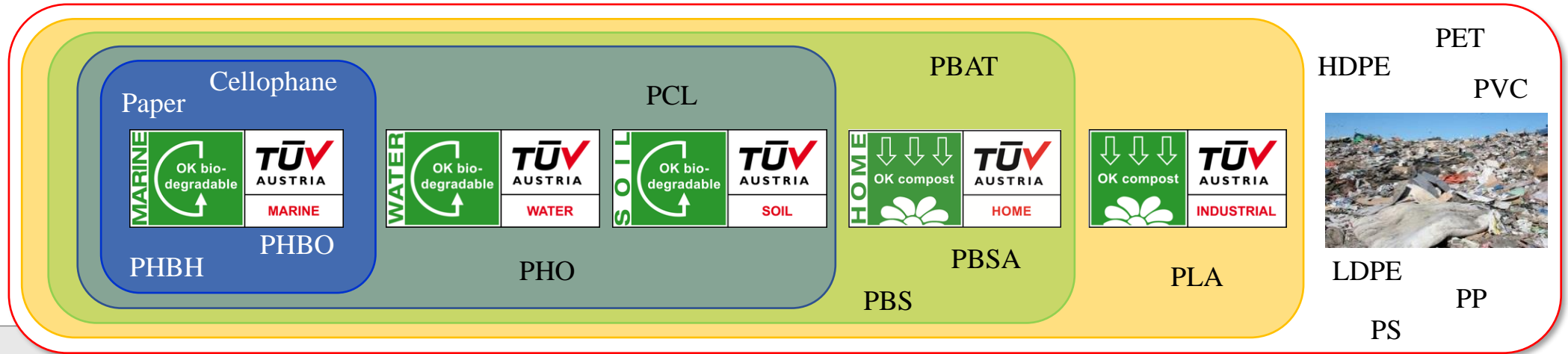
In 2015:

- 49 000 000 tons plastic demand in EU
- **25 800 000 tons plastic waste** generated in Europe
- **500 000 tons of plastic waste released to the Ocean** every year



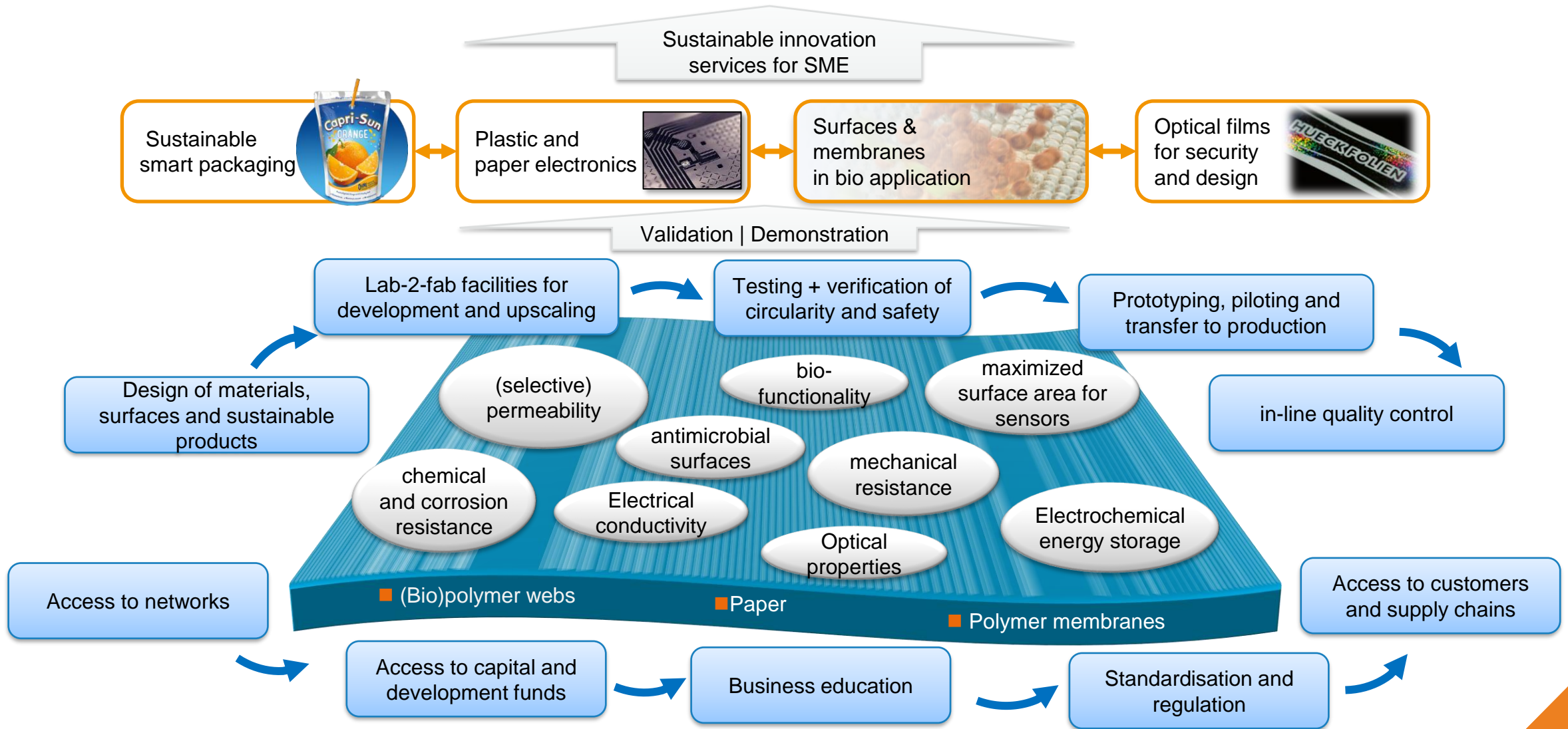
source: European Commission: A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy

# Materials for a circular plastics economy



- Packaging today:
    - Composite materials such as PE / adhesive / Al / PE)
    - Non recyclable; non-degradable
  - Objective: replace laminates by
    - Monomaterial (poly-olefine based)
    - Biodegradable plastics
  - Challenges of such materials
    - Insufficient functional properties (gas permeability, etc.)
    - Low dimensional stability in processing
- ➔ Surface nano-fuctionalization to regain functional performance

# FlexFunction2Sustain OITB Concept



# The FlexFunction2Sustain Ecosystem

OITB Members

Industrial Validation

Potential Clients

External Stakeholders

Logos of OITB Members:

- amcor
- Fraunhofer FEP
- HOPE-A (Hellenic Organic & Printed Electronics Association)
- Coatema® (Coating Machinery GmbH)
- oet (ORGANIC ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGIES)
- NanoBiomed (Nanomedicine Catalyst for implants)
- JOANNEUM RESEARCH
- ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI
- Fraunhofer IAP
- Fraunhofer IVV
- GEMIFO (Gesellschaft für Mittelstandsförderung mbH)
- AMIRES
- INNOVATION PLASTURGIE COMPOSITES
- INL (INTERNATIONAL IBERIAN NANOTECHNOLOGY LABORATORY)

Logos of Industrial Validation partners:

- HUECK FOLIEN
- P&G
- CRF
- CENTRO RICERCA FIAT
- i3
- membrane (bringing power to separation)
- Capri-Sun
- SONAE (IMPROVING LIFE)

Logos of Potential Clients:

- crystalsol™
- DOMICRO
- hatzopoulos (FLEXIBLE PACKAGING EXCELLENCE SINCE 1931)
- SWAROVSKI
- vidavo (HEALTH TELEMATICS)
- Melodea (Bio Based Solutions)
- SENERGY (DELIVERING THE POWER OF NATURE)
- TORRECID
- HPX Polymers

Board of Investors and Foundations

External Advisory Board

(Networks, Regulations, Standardisation, and others)



# Technical Facilities

## Nanofunctionalisation of Surfaces



R2R Vacuum Coating



Atmospheric pressure coating, printing and surface treatment



R2R micro- and nanostructuring



Printed electronics pilot lines

## Circularity by Design

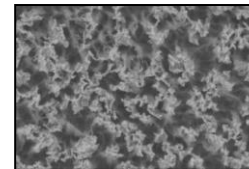


Compounding and Film Extrusion

Recycling and Bio-degradability Pilot Lines



## Characterisation, Quality Control, Verification



Physical and chemical properties

Functional Performance Evaluation



Application Certification



Nano-safety assessment

# Technical Facilities

TRL4 [FHG-FEP]

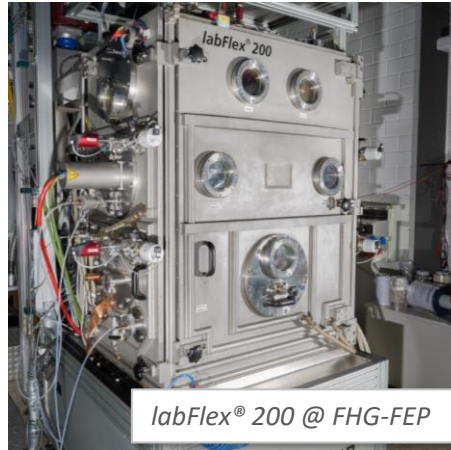
→ TRL5 [FHG-FEP]

→ TRL6 [FHG-FEP]

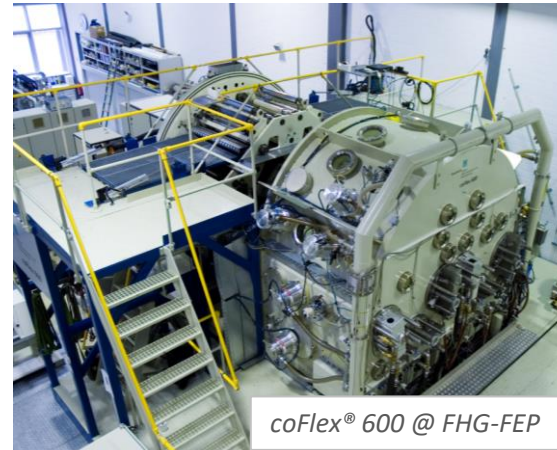
→ TRL7 [AMCOR]



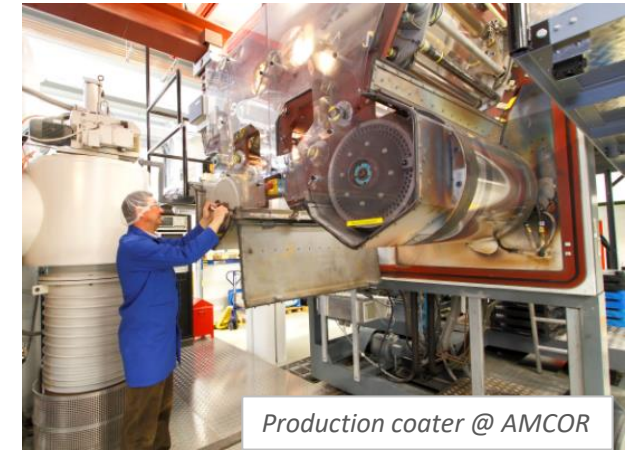
A4 Sheets – 1 process



200 mm – 3 stations



650 mm width – 5-6 stations



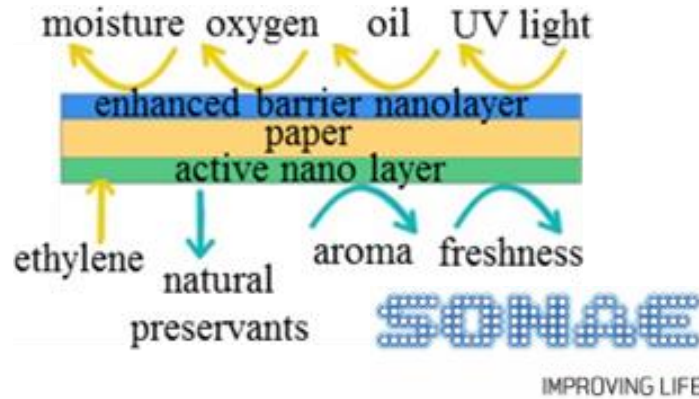
715 mm ... 2000 mm width

- Lab-2-Fab approach for all processing facilities → Each process available from TRL 4 to TRL 7+
- Facility upgrades target
  - (1) Ability to process biopolymers and poly-olefines
  - (2) enhanced productivity and efficiency
  - (3) improved reliability and process yield
  - (4) advanced inline quality control

# Industrial Use Scenarios



P&G Marine degradable Shampoo sachets



Paper-based fresh food packaging



Biodegradable security labels



Recyclable mono-polymer drink pouches



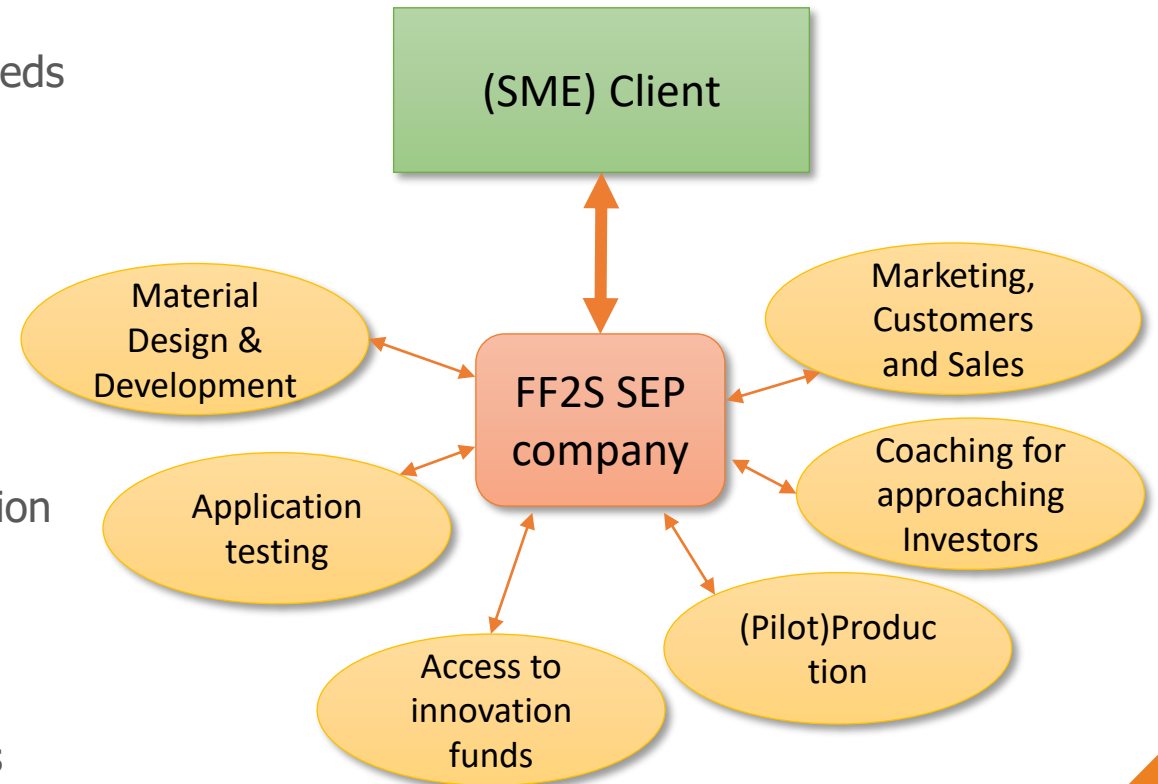
Innovative plastic surfaces in cars



Selective and switchable water filter membranes

# Why should I use an OITB ?

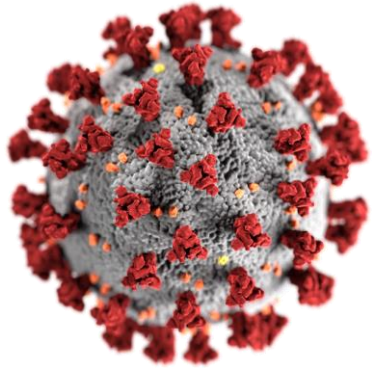
- Holistic Services from a single contractor (SEP company)
  - **One contract – multifold services** focused on customer needs
  - Innovation **Services from > 10 EU countries, but in your language!**
  - Renowned experts assemble best-suited, “best value for money” services for your innovation
  - SEP does all management and progress tracking!
- **Customer-friendly liability and warranty terms** for pilot production
- **Integrated Business Services**, Coaching and Finance Access
  - Link to Investors and Access to R&I Funds
  - Coaching and consulting on business models and markets
  - IPR services and due diligence



# Timeline



# 2020 – COVID-19 Epidemic Emergency Response



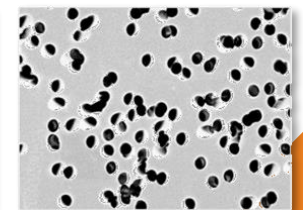
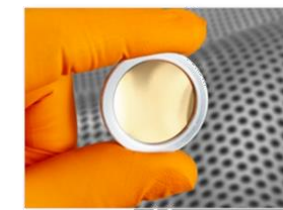
120 nm

„Viruses are electrically charged organic nanoparticles“

- Anti-Glare Coatings on Plastic Personal Face Shields
- Anti-microbial and anti-viral surfaces
  - Anti-viral nanoparticle-in-matrix and nano-porous coatings  
→ virus-repellent surfaces in public transport
  - Nanoimprint Lithography of micro- & nanostructured surfaces
- Large-area high-throughput sterilisation of surfaces and medical devices
  - With electron beams
  - With atmospheric pressure inert or reactive plasma treatment
- Metal coated membranes for virus diagnostics in fluids
  - Electrically charged membranes for virus accumulation  
→ Faster and more reliable diagnostics



Image source: Berliner Zeitung



# Thank you very much for listening!

## Coordinator Contact

Fraunhofer Institute for Organic Electronics, Electron Beam and  
Plasma Technology FEP

Dr. rer. nat. John Fahlteich  
John.Fahlteich@fep.fraunhofer.de  
+49 351 2586 136

[www.flexfunction2sustain.eu](http://www.flexfunction2sustain.eu)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No **862156**