

PLATIRUS project Press Release

November 2016



PLATIRUS project Kick-off-meeting – San Sebastian-Spain, 3-4 November 2016

The Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) are among the least abundant of the Earth's elements and are classified by the European Commission (EC) as critical raw materials (CRM). They combine a high economic importance to the EU with a high risk associated with their supply. Europe, in fact, is the first consumer of Platinum in industrial products and the second biggest consumer of Platinum in the world. Autocatalyst is the major application in Europe.

The recycling of critical raw materials such as PGMs from waste is recognised by the European Innovation Partnership on raw materials as an essential pillar to mitigate the supply risk. It is therefore of uttermost importance for Europe's competitiveness, as well as resource efficiency, to secure the supply of PGM materials and to reduce dependency from global supply chains.

In this context the PLATIRUS project was launched as from 1st November 2016 for 4 years.

The PLATIRUS project, funded by the EU in the frame of Horizon 2020 TOPIC SC5-13-2016 grant agreement number 730224, aims at reducing the European deficit of Platinum Group Metals (PGMs), by upscaling to industrial relevant levels a novel cost-efficient and miniaturised PGMs recovery and raw material production process.



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Program under Grant Agreement 730224.

The targeted secondary raw materials will be autocatalysts, electronic waste (WEEE) and tailings and slags from nickel and copper smelters, opening-up an important range of alternative sources of these critical raw materials, with the potential to substitute a large amount of primary raw materials which are becoming more and more scarce in Europe.

The PLATIRUS technology will represent a step forward with respect to the state-of-the-art, allowing a cost and energy reduction as well as miniaturization of the recovery process that will enable the wider proliferation of new PGMs recovery facilities, also to smaller scale decentralised locations.

PLATIRUS is comprised of 12 recognised and experienced key actors across the value chain representing industry, research, and academic organisations. PLATIRUS is coordinated by Dr. Amal Siriwardana from Tecnalia . The kick-off meeting of PLATIRUS was held at Tecnalia's facilities at San Sebastian-Spain on 3-4 November 2016. All partners discussed the technical content, tasks to be done during the next six months and administrative and financial issues

About KU Leuven

Situated in Belgium, in the heart of Western Europe, KU Leuven (www.kuleuven.be) has been a centre of learning for nearly six centuries. Today, it is Belgium's largest university and, founded in 1425, one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe. As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of international master's programmes, all supported by high-quality, innovative, interdisciplinary research.

Since its founding, KU Leuven has been based in the city that shares its name. Leuven is a pleasant, safe and bustling student town, where centuries-rich history meets cutting-edge science. The university also offers degree programmes at campuses in 11 Belgian cities, including Brussels, Ghent and Antwerp.

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