

Session: Panel discussion with Dutch R&D organisations
Panel member: Yvonne van der Meer
Maastricht University (NL)

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Contact details:

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Curriculum:

Yvonne van der Meer has 15 years of experience in developing sustainable chemistry programs and public-private partnerships. She obtained her Master degree in Molecular Sciences from Wageningen University and her PhD degree from Delft University of Technology on the characterization of NiW and CoW hydrodesulfurization catalysts. She worked at the Dutch research council NWO for six years where she initiated and managed national and European public-private research programs in sustainable and biobased chemistry.

She joined Maastricht University (UM) as an advisor to the Executive Board in 2008. The past five years, she worked on setting up the biobased program at UM. She is co-founder of the biobased materials Master, the Chemelot Institute for Science and Technology (InSciTe) and the Aachen Maastricht Institute for Biobased Materials (AMIBM). As of 2015 she is heading the new department Biobased Materials. She is appointed associate professor on sustainability of biobased materials. Yvonne van der Meer is member of the Program Council InSciTe-Biobased, principal investigator in AMIBM, advisory board member of the lectorate materials science at Zuyd Hogeschool, and chair of the Board of Studies of the UM Master Biobased Materials.

Abstract:

The mission of the Biobased Materials department is to promote world-class multidisciplinary research and education in the field of Biobased Materials. It is located at the Brightlands Chemelot Campus surrounded by the chemical industry. Its unique Master Biobased Materials focuses on biological and chemical production of functional materials and products from renewable sources. The program trains students with the multiple skills needed to be future leaders in this field. The research program covers the entire bio-based materials value chain. The multidisciplinary team has accumulated scientists with expertise in organic chemistry, biocatalysis, biobased building blocks, polymer science & engineering, (bio)materials, tissue engineering, textile engineering and sustainability evaluations. The research is part of two institutes at Brightlands Chemelot Campus:

- The Aachen-Maastricht Institute for Biobased Materials (www.amibm.org) is a collaboration between UM and RWTH Aachen University with support from the Province of Limburg. AMIBM offers a unique approach covering the entire biobased materials value chain and aims at creating breakthroughs in sustainable and renewable materials for advanced material applications.
- The Chemelot Institute for Science and Technology (www.chemelot-inscite.com) is a public-private partnership. Founding fathers are Royal DSM, Maastricht University and University Medical Center, Eindhoven University of Technology and the Province of Limburg. The biobased program focuses on the switch to biobased building blocks by the development and piloting of novel chemistry and technology options that consume less energy and produce less waste.