

Session: Welcome and Opening
Presentation by: Bert Jan Lommerts
Latexfalt (NL) and Dutch Top Sector Chemistry

Title: **Importance of biobased performance materials for the Netherlands**

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Curriculum:

Dr. Bert Jan Lommerts, has obtained his Ph.D. degree in polymer science with cum laude honors at the University of Groningen. He has over 35 years of experience in the field of Material Science and more in particular in Fiber Science and Material Science for Road Products. During his career at Akzo Nobel he was involved in development of high performance fibers for rubbery reinforcement applications and composite reinforcement. He was also the plant manager of the Twaron production facility of Akzo Nobel in Arnhem. After a non-material-science period in the pharmaceutical industry, Bert Jan Lommerts was appointed as the CEO of Latexfalt B.V. a merger between three smaller production units. Latexfalt's business involves the development, production, application and sales of high performance bitumen [asphalt] and clear binders for the road and flooring industry.

Mainly due to the development of innovative products for the road industry Latexfalt has grown with a factor 4 over the last 12 years. At present new innovative concepts are at the edge of market introduction like bio-based rejuvenators for asphalt recycling purposes and bio-polymer stabilizers for emulsions.

Latexfalt has developed a strong network with different Universities and this network has been instrumental for the various innovations. This particular cooperation model is one of the reasons that Bert Jan Lommerts has been appointed as the SME representative in the Top Team Chemistry. He is also a member of the board of InnovationLink, a co-operation between the Top sector Chemistry and Top sector Energy to support SME's with regard to science and valorization of science and he is member of the 'Gebiedsbestuur Chemische Wetenschappen of NOW.

Abstract:

The bio-based materials program is an essential part of the advanced materials program within the Topsector Chemistry. Also various cross sectoral activities are related to the bio-based program. Furthermore, new developments in the field of conversion technology will give rise to new opportunities to develop new bio-based material concepts.

To turn the Topsector approach into a success it is essential that innovative ecosystems are constructed in such a way that a chain of knowledge is created by the various parties and that knowledge and technology development will finally yield in valorization and market introduction of new products and services.

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Corporation is key for success and this shared goal is essential to achieve the set objectives by the Topsector Chemistry, viz.,

- The Netherlands is known worldwide in 2050 as the country of green chemistry. For the production of food, energy and plastic materials are mainly biomass-based raw materials used. The chemistry has developed clean and sustainable production processes that convert biomass in a sustainable way in a whole range of existing and new products.
 - In 2050, the Netherlands is in the global top three manufacturers of smart materials. Netherlands-based companies make creative and innovative products with high value added materials for energy storage and catalysts made from widely available and accessible raw materials instead of scarce metals for example. Plastics are lightweight, self-healing, self-cleaning and fully recyclable.
 - In the Netherlands high-quality cutting-edge scientific research creates new areas of science and innovation.
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