

PRESS RELEASE

March 20, 2024

**European project BlackCycle wins an award at
Tire Technology Expo!**

***We are proud to announce that BlackCycle has won the 'Year's Environmental Achievement of the Year - Industry Contribution category' award, at this year's Tire Technology Awards for Innovation and Excellence.***

***The BlackCycle Project, started, in 2020 is coordinated by Michelin and involves 12 European partners from different origins and sizes (Orion, Ineris, Quantis, Icamcyl, Aliapur, CSIC, CPERI/CERTH, Sisener, Pyrum, Estato, Hera, and Axelera). It aims to create, develop and optimize a full Value Chain for a tire circular economy.***

***After 4 years of existence, this award is especially important for the BlackCycle project because it rewards outstanding results showing that its objective can be met.***

Thanks to the cooperative work between the academic and industrial partners, the BlackCycle project has demonstrated the possibility of creating a tire circular economy by developing the technologies needed to obtain very high-quality raw materials from the recycling of end-of-life tires.

It has been demonstrated that those raw materials can be used in the manufacture of new premium tires. In particular, it was shown that it is possible to produce carbon blacks from refined tire pyrolysis oil on a scale of several tons and of the same quality as their counterparts from fossil feedstock.

Carbon blacks are a major ingredient in tires in terms of tire performance (for example tire longevity) and volume (around 20% of the total amount of tire materials). These new carbon blacks have demonstrated their equivalence even for the most technical and demanding tires.

The unique end-of-life tires transformation process proposed by BlackCycle, which makes it possible to return to the original carbon black from fossil fuel production over a very wide range of carbon blacks, is one of the major technological advances needed to succeed in our circular revolution.

This European-supported project has set the whole ecosystem in motion and is leading the way towards a powerful circular tire economy with a positive impact on the environment.

This award is the 2nd one for the project after the Recircle Award for the “Best tire recycling research project” won in 2023.

Before its closure in June 2024, a final workshop will be organized on May 28 and 29 in Saarbrücken, Germany, to share all the results of the project.

*About the BlackCycle project:*

*BlackCycle (Grant agreement No 869625) is one of the R&D research and innovation projects funded by the European Commission under the EU’s Horizon 2020 research program to implement the concept of circular economy to the end-of-life tyres at the European level. The BlackCycle project has an upcycling ambition, targeting to create a circular economy of the end-of-life tyre (ELT) into technical applications like tyre industry by producing high technical second raw materials (SRMs) from ELTs. These SRMs will be used to develop new ranges of passenger car and truck tyres, which will be sold commercially in European and global markets. The BlackCycle project consortium is formed by 12 partners from 5 different countries (Orion, Ineris, Quantis, Icamcyl, Aliapur, CSIC, CPERI/CERTH, Sisener, Pyrum, Estato, Hera, and Axelera) and led by the French world leader in tire manufacturing Michelin,* [*https://blackcycle-project.eu/*](https://blackcycle-project.eu/)