

Press Release
January 31st, 2020

REPETCO INNOVATIONS INVESTS 47 MILLION EUROS IN A RECYCLING PLANT IN ALBACETE TO PROCESS MULTILAYER PET/PE CONTAINERS THAT WILL CREATE 48 DIRECT JOBS

- The factory, scheduled to be operational in spring 2021, will have a processing capacity of 75,000 tons of plastic per year, and a 75% recovery rate.
- The company has developed a cutting-edge recycling process to recover PET/PE multilayer trays for food use. The absolutely innovative process will produce Recycled PET (rPET) and Recycled PE (rPE) which can be reused in the production cycle
- RepetCo's commitment to the Circular Economy and its positive environmental impact is one of the fundamental pillars of the company's strategy.

RepetCo Innovations announced the construction of a PET composite plastics treatment and recycling plant in the Industrial Park Romica in Albacete, during a presentation attended by the President of the Comunidad Autonoma of Castilla La Mancha, Emiliano García-Page and the Regional Minister for Economy, Business and Employment, Patricia Franco. The new plant will focus on recycling PET/PE multilayer packaging from the food industry, with an absolutely innovative technology.

The president and CEO of RepetCo, Rafael Sánchez-Castillo Lodares, explained that "we are laying the foundations of a revolutionary and pioneering global project in the recycling of PET/PE multilayer materials, previously non-existent. We are very pleased to do so here, where I am from and with which I have close ties".

RepetCo plans to build a recycling plant in Albacete, with an estimated investment of over 47 million euros, which will provide direct employment to 48 people and create hundreds of indirect jobs. The factory will have the capacity to process an average amount of 75,000 tons per year, with a recovery rate of the material of over 75%.

RepetCo's plans are to begin the construction of the new factory this spring, once the necessary licenses have been obtained. The objective is to start the test period in June 2021 and to be fully operational by the end of the summer.

Innovation in the circular economy

Currently, single-layered PET materials, such bottles, are already being recycled. However, Repetco's technology, its international patent application underway, takes this one step beyond, recycling multi-layered PET/PE material, widely used in the food industry.

This type of multilayer materials has been, until now, taken to landfills or incineration plants, with the consequent negative effects on the environment.

By contrast, with the new technology of RepetCo, as explained by Rafael Sánchez-Castillo Lodares."we are providing a solution within the Circular Economy, with no environmental impact, and which is totally clean and cost-effective".

Over the past few years, the company has researched the difficulties of recycling certain plastic waste, specifically PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) products, a plastic derivative used in packaging and bottles. It has identified the unresolved need to recycle certain types of packaging, mainly used in the food sector.

The result of such research is RepetCo's process of delamination of multilayer plastic using internally developed technology. This activity clearly follows the principles of the Circular Economy, that is, cost-effectiveness and, at the same time, environmentally friendly.

Impact on the environment

The main problem with PET is the disposal at the end of its useful life. Once this plastic becomes waste, it is a significant source of environmental pollution, both to soil and water.

Around one million plastic bottles are purchased every second in the world, with degradation processes increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

In Spain, approximately 2.2 million tons of plastic waste are produced per year which represent an average of 47 kg per capita. It must be highlighted that 30% of this plastic waste is PET. Therefore, reducing the demand for raw PET is a vital step to reduce waste. Clearly, one way to do this, is through recycling.

RepetCo's industrial project will not only comply with the environmental protection measures required by the current regulation on landfills, emissions and waste management. It goes beyond such mere compliance of the current legislation, with a substantial investment in technologically advanced equipment.

The water treatment technologies applied, which include a sewage treatment plant in the production facility, and the advanced storage system of raw material, which will avoid piling waste in the open, will result in zero generation of odours and the sanitary improvement of the worksite. This, in addition to the containment of emissions to the atmosphere and the waste management procedures to be implemented in the industrial project, will ensure legal compliance on a continuous and permanent basis.

For more information:

ViewPoint Communication

Pablo Fernández (+34 619 21 25 96)

Nazaret Rodriguez (+34 608 35 35 57)

viewpoint@viewpoint.es