

# Evonik Catalysts and Oerlikon Barmag form strategic partnership for chemical recycling of PET

## The challenge

As the world grapples with the mounting problem of plastic waste, chemical recycling is emerging as a promising solution.



Cost-effective process drives PET recycling



Sustainable method enables PET recycling



Fully scalable to meet your needs

This process involves breaking down polymers into their constituent monomers, which can then be used to produce new materials. One of the most widely used plastics is PET, commonly found in bottles, packaging and textiles. Chemical recycling of PET can help reduce the environmental impact of plastic waste by diverting PET waste unsuitable for physical recycling away from landfills and incineration, while also reducing the need for virgin materials.

## Evonik Catalysts' solution

Evonik Catalysts has formed a strategic partnership with Oerlikon Barmag to develop new, cost-effective technologies and sustainable business models that would increase value chain reach for PET recycling.

Together, both companies are committed to developing technologies for robust and efficient depolymerisation and purification processes, coupled with an integrated concept for repolymerisation and the associated engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) business models.

By the end of 2030, Evonik Catalysts and Oerlikon Barmag plan to implement the jointly developed chemical recycling technology solution, with the involvement of additional partners for feedstock, technology and production. The technology will be made available to third parties through a global development partner network, encouraging active participation across the ecosystem to unlock the growth potential of PET as a circular plastic, without ecological or economic disadvantages.

*“This partnership marks a great step forward in the chemical recycling of PET. Our new catalytic processes and chemical technologies will complement the current mechanical recycling approach, enabling high recycled PET content from heavily contaminated and mixed PET waste that would otherwise be incinerated or landfilled. This way we are actively supporting a sustainable circular economy.”*

Alex Weber,  
Head of Catalysts at Evonik

*“We are firmly convinced that with Evonik we gained a strong and experienced partner in the field of specialty chemicals, and together we will establish a significant market position as a total solution provider in the growth market for chemical recycling of PET, but also drive the next generation of sustainability within the plastics industry.”*

Georg Stausberg,  
CEO of Oerlikon Manmade Fibers Solutions

### Seamless integration into PET production processes

PET recycling technology offers several key advantages. Chemically, it is a highly efficient process that integrates seamlessly into existing PET production systems, with benefits in operational costs, investment requirements and scalability.

By combining expertise in catalyst and process technologies, the approach enables the chemical recycling of polyester materials from both closed- and open-loop sources, delivering high-quality, fossil-like recyclates that conventional mechanical methods cannot achieve.

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