

Press release



Paris, 20 June 2023

SUEZ and Pyrum join forces to build a sustainable tyre recycling plant based on an innovative pyrolysis technology

The announcement marks the end of the road for unsustainable tyre disposal

SUEZ recycling and recovery UK (“SUEZ”) today announced it has entered into a one-year exclusivity agreement with Pyrum Innovations AG (“Pyrum”) to build the UK’s first plant using a new patented pyrolysis technology for recycling end-of-life tyres.

Over the coming 12 months, the agreement will see SUEZ identify a location for the first plant and initiate the approval process with support from Pyrum. The planned plant will comprise three pyrolysis reactors with a recycling capacity of around 20,000 tonnes of end-of-life tyres per year.

Pyrum’s patented pyrolysis reactor technology is a first for the UK, resulting in the recovery of high-quality raw materials from tyres, saving up to 72% of CO2 emissions in the process when compared with current recycling methods.

Around 50 million tyres (480kt) are disposed of in the UK, currently 13.4 million of these are used as alternative fuel, with the remaining tyres shredded and ground into a new material called crumb which is used on sports pitches or playgrounds - the rest are sent for energy recovery or to landfill.

During the pyrolysis process, tyres are separated into their component raw materials – oil, carbon black, and pyrolysis gas. The carbon black is re-used in the manufacturing of new tyres, the oil is taken by BASF and recycled into new products and the Pyrolysis gas is used to power the plant.

Through the partnership with SUEZ, the Germany-based Pyrum Innovations AG is expanding its extensive and promising pipeline for developing pyrolysis plants across Europe.

In partnering with Pyrum, SUEZ is tapping into the UK’s recycling market for end-of-life tyres, where more than half of used tyres are currently not recycled.

SUEZ brings to the project its track record in providing resilient and innovative solutions for its customers’ waste, with its significant expertise and experience in delivering new infrastructure, from design through to operation. Elsewhere in the Group, SUEZ is innovating with pyrolysis technology in its water business, leading a research program to evaluate the benefits of pyrolysis for treating sewage sludge to capture carbon.

SUEZ, Société anonyme, a company incorporated under the laws of France, with a share capital of €63,757,000.
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John Scanlon, Chief Executive Officer at SUEZ recycling and recovery UK, said:

“This agreement marks an exciting milestone for SUEZ as leaders in the development of a more circular, resource efficient UK economy. With our expertise in delivering new infrastructure, SUEZ are the natural choice to pioneer this innovative technology in the UK, which will see a vast improvement in the recycling of end-of-life tyres, and a significant reduction in CO₂ emissions compared with current tyre recycling technologies. We look forward to working together with Pyrum over the coming year to develop plans for the first UK plant.”

Pascal Klein, CEO of Pyrum Innovations AG, said:

“The European rollout of our unique technology continues to progress. In SUEZ, we were able to partner with one of the leading companies in the field of sustainable solutions and innovative technologies for the British circular economy. Working together, Pyrum and SUEZ will benefit from each other's expertise. The first site will now be identified as soon as possible. We will then work together to complete the approval process with the local authorities.”

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About SUEZ:

Faced with growing environmental challenges, SUEZ has been delivering essential services that protect and improve our quality of life for more than 160 years. SUEZ provides its customers with innovative and resilient solutions for water and waste services. With 40 000 employees across 40 countries, the Group works with customers to create value over the full lifecycle of their assets and services, and to drive their low carbon transition. In 2022, SUEZ provided drinking water for 68 million people worldwide and sanitation services for more than 37 million people. The Group generated 3.7 TWh of energy from waste and wastewater, and avoided 4 million tons of CO₂ emissions. In 2022, SUEZ has generated revenues of 8.8 billion euros*. For more information: www.suez.com/ Twitter @suez

*restated on a 12-month basis.

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About Pyrum Innovations AG

With its patented pyrolysis technology, Pyrum Innovations AG is active in the attractive recycling market for used tyres. Pyrum's pyrolysis process is energy self-sufficient, according to the Fraunhofer Institute, saves significantly more CO₂ emissions than today's recycling processes for used tyres – especially compared to incineration in cement plants – and produces new raw materials such as pyrolysis oil, gas and recycled carbon black (rCB) from the waste used as input materials. Thus, Pyrum closes the recycling cycle and pursues a sustainable business model. As a pioneer, Pyrum Innovations AG was the first company in the field of scrap tyre recycling for the pyrolysis oil produced to receive REACH registration from the European Chemicals Agency ECHA in 2018. Thus, the oil is recognized as an official raw material that can be used in production processes. In addition, Pyrum has received ISCC PLUS certification for its pyrolysis oil and rCB. Both products are therefore considered sustainable and renewable raw materials. These successes have also been recognized by international experts in the tire industry. For example, Pyrum was awarded in the category Best Tyre Recycling Innovation at the first Recircle Awards and nominated for the Grand Prix of Medium-Sized Businesses by the state of Saarland.

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