

PRESS RELEASE

CYCLEVIA LAUNCHES "REGENERATION2024" A MAJOR PROJECT TO FURTHER BOOST THE CIRCULARITY OF OILS

Rueil-Malmaison, 16 February 2024

Two years after commencing its activity, Cyclevia, the producer responsibility organization for the oils and lubricants sector, is today launching its call for projects to build the very first waste oil regeneration plant in France capable of producing Group 2 and/or 3 base oils. This initiative is eagerly awaited by the sector because within the next few years it will boost the volume and quality of regenerated oils to match the demand of a market which is not only environmentally-aware but also striving for excellence.

A project for excellence, unique in France

Within the framework of its authority approval and according to its undertaking in the authority specifications, Cyclevia has worked for nearly a year on the setting up of an extensive, national project which will enable French regeneration operators to achieve a level of excellence eagerly awaited not only by formulators but also by the industrial users of lubricants.

The purpose of REGENERATION2024, the producer responsibility organization's call for projects and on-line as from today, is to build an operational plant producing Group 2 and/ or 3 regenerated base oils within Cyclevia's authority approval period (ending 31 December 2027). In other words, high-quality oils presenting with the right characteristics to be able to be incorporated into "new" lubricants intended for state-of-the-art equipment, and namely Euro 5 and 6 engines. This new plant, which will require very significant investments, will produce several thousand tons of regenerated oil every year. For Cyclevia, this project constitutes and important stage in its development with respect to its stakeholders. It is also further proof of its beneficial contribution with respect to our sector. A strategic topic for the future *par excellence*, regeneration will be at the heart of our agenda.



Funding commensurate with the stakes

In addition to its role as project initiator and overseer of the call for projects, Cyclevia will provide significant backing to the industrial solution put in place by the candidate selected. An estimated 7 million euros (excl. VAT) of funding will be provided, the final amount of which will be fixed at the end of the final phase.

Once the industrial plant has been built and is operational, the producer responsibility organization will supply the operator with specific funding for all Group 2 and/or 3 oils that are produced and placed on the French market. This funding can be accumulated with existing funding that rewards regeneration operators that already use waste oil supplies collected in France.

More generally, Cyclevia will also identify and facilitate new outlets for regenerated oil. Candidates who meet all the eligibility criteria in the call's specifications and its resulting financial investment, will have until 30 September 2024 to submit their projects. Examination of the projects will end in December 2024 and the decision on the awarding of the project will take place between 1 and 15 February 2025.

"Even if "circularity" has never been so present in conversations as it is now, it is clear that the "linear" economy as practised for the last 200 hundred years (extraction > manufacturing > consumption > disposal) is still very much the norm. Like other Cyclevia initiatives, this call for project projects is further proof that it is possible to take action and push boundaries. "Similarly, this unique project in France falls within the reindustrialization policy put in place by the public authorities, a policy which is a source of both job creation and innovation," confided André ZAFFIRO, Managing Director, Cyclevia.

Cyclevia, behind a new sector dynamic

With 209,000 tons of used oils collected in 2022, 79% of which were sent for regeneration, the oils and lubricants sector is rather well-organized. However, the arrival of Cyclevia in March 2022 gave the sector a new framework in which to initiate this dynamic, essential to achieving the ambitious objectives set by the public authorities. In this respect, 90% of collected oils must be regenerated by 2027.



Regeneration in France seeks quality

Three quarters of waste oils treated in France are regenerated or recycled. This market is shared between two players located in northern France. The remaining quarter is recovered as energy in cement kilns and thermal power plants.

Whilst Group 1 regenerated oils in France are able to successfully find outlets, they fail to comply with developments in the sector and do not meet the quality expected by lubricant formulators holding the lion's share of the French market. In the absence of an offer of this type at national level, numerous formulators consequently acquire Group 2 and 3 regenerated base oils in other European countries, namely in Germany and Italy. But once again, the quantities available are insufficient to meet needs given that demand is constantly rising.

Regenerating the image too

The insufficient quality of regenerated oils in France gives the sector a negative image which must be improved. Through this future latest-generation production plant, unique in France and rare in Europe, Cyclevia will do its utmost to promote the image of the entire sector, starting from the regenerated oils themselves: products that formulators and professional and individual holders alike will be proud to use.

>> Find all the information concerning the call for projects at cyclevia.com





Resulting from the French AGEC Law in 2020, CYCLEVIA is the producer responsibility organization for the oils and lubricants sector. It meets the Extended Producer Responsibility (ERP) principle. A private non-profit making company and approved by the French State in March 2022, it now has 300 members who are all lubricant producers and account for 90% of the market. Through eco-fees paid by its members, the producer responsibility organization also manages the collection and treatment of waste oils in France and more generally promotes responsible development in the sector.

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