
RENEWABLE MATERIALS CONFERENCE

ABSTRACT

PLA Success Story: History, Status and Outlook

The rise of conventional fossil-based plastics shaped the 20th century but also revealed the limits of a fossil-dependent materials economy. While they rapidly took over the global market, research and development on polylactic acid (PLA), a bio-based, low-carbon, and biodegradable polymer, was still in its infancy. Only in the 1990s did PLA gain industrial traction, making it a relatively young polymer with significant untapped potential

Today, PLA stands as one of the most dynamic, credible, and scalable biopolymers on the market. Building on more than 30 years of experience, Futerro will trace the origins of PLA, outline its key properties and benefits, showcase its growing range of applications across sectors, and provide an overview of the current PLA market. More importantly, the presentation will share Futerro's vision for future growth potential, the role PLA can play in accelerating the transition to renewable materials, and why supportive legislation around the globe will be crucial to unlocking this transition.

About Futerro

Futerro is a leading Belgian company in the lactic acid (LA), lactide (LD) and polylactic acid (PLA) sector, a bio-based, industrially compostable and recyclable biopolymer capable of replacing fossil-based plastics in everyday life.

A pioneer in research since 1992, the company is the only one in the world to have complete control over the entire LA/LD/PLA production chain. Officially launched in 2007 with the construction of its first LA to PLA pilot plant in Belgium, Futerro is today the second largest PLA manufacturer with the opening of its PLA industrial production plant in China in 2021 (100 ktpa capacity). Futerro now plans to set up a new fully integrated and circular biorefinery in France by maximum 2029 (75 ktpa capacity). Representing an estimated investment of €500 million and projected to create 250 direct and up to 900 indirect full-time jobs, the project has been acknowledged by the European Commission as a transition initiative supporting the achievement of the digital and green transition of the EU chemical industry¹, and by the French government through its recognition at the Choose France 2025 Summit².

For further information, please visit: www.futerro.com

¹ Transition initiatives – [Link](#)

² 8th edition of the Choose France Summit, Press Kit – [Link](#) (in French)