



Press release
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Paprec Recycling and Groupe Guillin join forces to accelerate the recycling of PET plastic food trays

Determined to support plastic recycling efforts, the French recycling leader and Europe's number 1 food packaging specialist have launched the REUSAL project to accelerate the sorting and recycling of PET plastic trays and bolster the eco-design of commercialised products.

In mid-August, Brune Poirson, state secretary to the French Minister of the Ecological and Solidarity Transition, announced the introduction of a bonus/penalty system to encourage manufacturers to eco-design their products and use more recycled plastic. The government aims to recycle 100% of plastic materials used by 2025 (compared with today's 20%).

"Using recycled plastic in packaging is technically feasible and safe; we have already proved this with our partners, notably with Groupe Guillin, a recognised expert in food packaging solutions", explained Sébastien Petithuguenin, General Manager of the Paprec Group. "We are obviously in favour of creating an incentive scheme, although the system presented by the secretary of state needs to be defined in more detail".

Groupe Guillin, pioneer of innovation, has always been keen to apply eco-design principles to its packaging solutions. *"Our group is environmentally-conscious and has been manufacturing food packaging from PET comprising more than 50% food-grade recycled materials for more than 15 years. This virtuous principle means our products have an infinite lifespan," confirmed Sophie Guillin-Frappier, Managing Director of Groupe Guillin. "This project aims to take our circular economy approach one step further, and enable us to maximise the percentage of recycled materials in the manufacture of our products."*

The two companies therefore decided to pool their research and development resources to work on the launch of a specific unit to recover, treat and regenerate food-grade plastic packaging, according to the tray-to-tray principle.

Paprec and Groupe Guillin thus aim to implement the following development programme:

- Develop and optimise the secondary sorting of trays from selective collection flows,
- Develop regeneration technology for these flows,
- Improve the eco-design of food packaging, and

- Optimise the incorporation of recycled food-grade materials.

The secondary sorting of plastic trays is already being tested on an industrial scale at Paprec Trivalo 35. This unit, inaugurated in 2016, is one of the group's plants that is equipped to apply extended sorting instructions and therefore to separate plastics from packaging other than bottles and flasks (trays, yoghurt pots, plastic bags, etc.).

"To take plastic recycling to the next level, the most effective model is an alliance between an industrial user and a recycling expert", observed Sébastien Petithuguenin. Paprec is the leading plastics transformer, processing 300,000 tonnes per year, i.e. one-third of all plastics collected in France. *"Combining the knowledge and expertise of our two groups will help us to determine the best technical choices and to develop specific tools to suit our requirements, which demand recycled raw materials that comply strictly with food safety regulations and the technical criteria required for proper use of our packaging,"* added Sophie Guillin-Frappier.

The two French family-owned groups, each a leader and recognised expert in their respective markets, have come together with the joint ambition of being influential and proactive players in a virtuous circular economy approach, in line with their long history of commitments in favour of the environment.

About Groupe Guillin

Groupe Guillin was founded in 1972 by François Guillin; it is the European leader in food packaging solutions.

With its 4 divisions and 25 companies, Groupe Guillin works hand in hand with customers throughout the agri-food industry, from restaurants to food processing, from fruit and vegetables to institutional catering. With a commercial presence in more than 50 countries, the group innovates constantly to offer its customers impeccable service and the widest range on the market, comprising more than 12,000 product references available from stock.

The circular economy, eco-design, use of recycled raw materials and the recyclability of the packaging used have been concerns for the group since the beginning, representing a priority commitment for our 2,500 employees.

By encouraging initiative, excellence and professionalism, Groupe Guillin, listed on EuronextGrowth, generated turnover of almost €600 M in 2017.

About Paprec Group

The group was founded and has been headed since its creation by Jean-Luc Petithuguenin. With the acquisition of Coved on 5 April 2017, the recycling specialist has become a specialist in the full waste management chain. Over 25 years, it has grown from 45 to 12,500 employees working at over 220 sites in France and Switzerland. It has a turnover of €2bn.

Active in all existing recycling sub-sectors, the group is number one in plastic, paper, cardboard, and building waste recycling, as well as selective household collections. It is number two for the recycling of electrical and electronic equipment, and number three for organic waste, wood, biomass and routine industrial waste. Following the acquisition of Coved, the group is now the third-largest player in the French waste treatment sector and the largest recycling industry player.

From the outset, Paprec Group has been known and acknowledged for its commitment to promoting diversity, secularism and the fight against all forms of discrimination within the company. In October 2016, the Paprec Group received the Trophée Global Axa des Entreprises Responsables (Overall trophy of responsible companies,

presented by Axa). And in November 2016, Jean-Luc Petithuguenin won the Entrepreneur of the Year award at the BFM Business Awards.

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