



Press release  
Paris, 23 January 2020

## **A consortium of industrial partners and sellers from the milk industry demonstrates the feasibility of “bottle to bottle” recycling of opaque PET**

**Unique in France: a consortium of stakeholders from the milk industry have got together to prove the technical and economic feasibility of closed-loop recycling of opaque PET bottles. Wanting to move on to the industrial stage, they are now calling for Citeo and public authorities to implement collection and sorting conditions to guarantee the volumes required to set up this new virtuous circle of recycling.**

Firms in the milk production and packaging industry, including manufacturers (LSDH), distributors (Carrefour), preform manufacturers (SGT and PDG Plastiques), and recycling specialist Paprec, have been working together, assisted by Citeo, to develop a food-grade recycling process for opaque PET and a milk bottle that uses this recycled material.

In response to the limits on integrating opaque PET in traditional coloured PET recycling operations (fibres, straps, etc.) and the call for projects initiated by Citeo in 2017, these companies have gradually validated:

The possibility of separating opaque PET from other PET waste using optical sorting methods,

- The capacity to regenerate it into food-grade material,
- The manufacture of preforms then new bottles, including up to 100% RPET, in strict compliance with food standards.

On 22 January, Citeo, the eco-organisation responsible for packaging management in France, presented the results of its various calls for projects for the recycling of opaque PET to the interested associations and industrial firms. The project presented is unique in that it proposes to create a “bottle to bottle” closed-loop recycling stream. This innovative solution corresponds perfectly to the European strategy for plastics. The single-use plastics (SUP) directive requires drinks bottles made from PET to contain 25% recycled plastic material by 2025. It makes the “bottle to bottle” closed-loop an industrial and regulatory priority.

Thanks to the success of these technical developments, the consortium’s sellers, particularly Carrefour, have made a strong commitment to sell bottles containing recycled raw materials. Industrial firms are also planning to use the available volumes of recycled opaque PET in their preforms and bottles.

However, to guarantee the volumes required for the industrialisation phase and thus commit to the technical investments required, the consortium’s members are calling on the public authorities and Citeo to set up separate channels for white opaque PET in all extended sorting operations as soon as

possible (to separate it from opaque coloured PET mixtures, which are mainly used for non-food packaging).

Consortium members took this opportunity to thank the population for their everyday sorting efforts; this sorting enables collection via recycling bins and recycling of all the opaque PET bottles sold on the market.

### **About Carrefour**

*In France, Carrefour has more than 5,200 shops, in four different formats (hypermarket, supermarket, local store, cash&carry). For more than fifty years, Carrefour has been positioning itself as a partner in the everyday lives of millions of customers, by proposing a wide range of competitively-priced products and services. In response to new consumption trends and to make shopping easier for its customers, Carrefour develops multi-channel solutions (online shopping, Drive-through, Click and Collect, express delivery, mobile applications). Carrefour has 110,000 employees and sells to over three million customers every day in France. Through its everyday initiatives, Carrefour is committed to more sustainable and responsible trade. The group's CSR approach is based on three main areas: fighting all forms of waste, protecting biodiversity, and supporting the company's partners.*

*For more information: [www.carrefour.com](http://www.carrefour.com) (press area), [www.carrefour.fr](http://www.carrefour.fr)*

*Follow us on Twitter: @CarrefourFrance, @GroupeCarrefour*

### **About LSDH**

*LSDH is an independent, family-owned business that was founded in 1909. Since it started in the milk sector, the company has acquired various other skills over the years, ensuring the diversification of its activities. It is now organised into two main areas of business. The liquids division produces and packs all kinds of aseptic and chilled food liquids in cartons or bottles (plastic and glass) for its customers (distributors, industrial partners, out-of-home catering). The vegetable centre transforms and distributes ready-to-eat salads and fresh vegetables and vegetable-based snacks under its own brand, Les Crudettes, or distributor brands. LSDH is a fervent defender of strong values: Passion, Ambition and Humanity. The company implements proactive approaches to meet its CSR commitments and to help create an economy to serve people and the environment. Based in the Loiret area, LSDH currently has seven production plants in mainland France, employing almost 1,900 people and generating turnover of almost €900 million. [www.lsdh.fr](http://www.lsdh.fr)*

### **About PDG Plastiques**

*PDG Plastiques develops and produces PET preforms and bottles, mostly for the agri-food industry, but also for the detergent and cosmetic sectors.*

*PDG Plastiques ranks no. 1 in France for preforms for the milk and dairy products market.*

*It provides innovative, eco-designed and economical solutions to enable constant improvement of the packaging, protection and promotion of its customers' products.*

*This family business, which has been based in Malesherbes (Loiret) for 70 years, has 120 employees and generates turnover of €80 million from its two sites (France and Algeria). [www.pdg.plastiques.com](http://www.pdg.plastiques.com)*

*About SGT Société Générale des Techniques (SGT) is a family business based in Rezé, Loire-Atlantique, specialised in the manufacture of PET and RPET preforms. Since 1981, SGT has been innovating to meet the requirements of all bottling operations and its five production sites propose a wide range of products comprising more than 260 customisable preforms and 7 types of PEHD caps. SGT currently has 450 employees, produces more than 5.6 billion preforms/year and exports worldwide. For more information, see our website: [www.sgt-pet.com](http://www.sgt-pet.com)*

**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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