



Press release

## **Richwiller : Paprec invests €20 million in a new sorting centre for recyclable household waste: Trivalo 68**

*In response to changes in environmental law and notably to enable the recycling of all plastic household waste, Paprec, Coved's parent company, is investing €20 million in a new sorting centre, Trivalo 68, in Richwiller.*

Paris, 8 July 2021

France's leading recycling company, Paprec, is opening a new selective collection waste sorting plant at its Coved 68 agency in Richwiller. Adapted to the new standards of the extended sorting instructions, the plant will enable sorting and recycling of the packaging waste, and notably all plastics, produced by the 800,000 inhabitants of part of the Bas Rhin, Haut Rhin and Territoire de Belfort areas.

The plant will replace the existing operation, a pioneer in extended sorting since 2016, in Aspach-Michelbach, which is now saturated. This plant will continue to operate exclusively for the sorting of waste from businesses.

Two-thirds of the current sorting plant's staff will be relocated, benefiting from the optimal working conditions offered by this new project. The new activity will employ 50 people. The high-tech plant, with an annual capacity of 45,000 tonnes, represents an investment of €20 million for the Coved group's parent company. Work will begin in September and the plant is scheduled to open during the second half of 2022.

### **Trivalo 68, a technological showcase**

This new plant will enable Paprec to propose the latest technological innovations to its local authority customers and guarantee the best possible sorting performance. Inhabitants can therefore put all recyclable waste and packaging together in their yellow bags and bins (paper, cardboard, cans, tins, plastic bottles, pots and trays, etc.). A series of machines, ballistic separators, optical sorting machines, magnets, eddy current separation systems, etc. identify and separate the materials according to their physical characteristics (shape, wavelength, magnetic attraction, etc.).

These latest generation systems enable around a dozen different materials to be separated at output (paper, cardboard, steel, other metals, different types of plastic, etc.). The sorted plastics are recycled in other Paprec plants and the other materials are dispatched directly for

production (packaging, paper-making, steel industry, etc.). The site will also have an educational circuit, designed to give visitors (school groups, local residents, etc.) a better understanding of the recycling industry.

“Using these new recycled raw materials helps to limit the use of natural resources and cuts CO2 emissions. Improving waste sorting by placing all recyclable waste in the right bin is therefore a valid contribution to the development of the circular economy and the fight against global warming,” said Francis Hillmeyer, Chairman of the Mulhouse area association of municipalities.

### **Recycling creates non-relocatable jobs**

“More and better sorting is obviously good for the environment, but it also has positive benefits for the local economy,” pointed out Pierre-Marie Urvoy, Paprec’s director for the Alsace Lorraine Franche-Comté region. According to the French ministry of the ecological transition, “by developing activities to repair used goods, reuse or recycle waste, we can generate around 25 times more jobs than by disposing of such waste in landfill sites.\*” “These are local jobs that cannot be relocated,” emphasised Pierre-Marie Urvoy. “And there are all kinds of jobs. More than half of our sorting chain staff are in rehabilitation schemes. The extremely technical nature of the facilities also requires highly qualified profiles.”

\* <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/leconomie-circulaire>

### **About Coved 68, Richwiller**

Coved is a subsidiary of Paprec. The Richwiller site currently employs 90 people. It was inaugurated in 2019, having benefited from a €9 million investment. The 7-hectare site is located in the middle of a business and industrial park near Mulhouse. Every year, it processes some 50,000 tonnes of waste collected from the group’s 1,200 professional customers in the Alsace area. This waste is sorted by material category (plastics, paper, cardboard, aluminium, scrap metal, wood, WEEE, etc.), before being sent to new users. The site’s teams also manage 17 recycling centres for four local authorities. The Aspach-Michelbach site has 150 employees. As well as its selective collection sorting activity, the agency collects waste from approximately 125,000 inhabitants in central and southern Haut Rhin. It also operates a composting platform for 15,000 tonnes of biowaste per year, and a transfer platform for the bulk processing of household waste and waste from economic activities.

### **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.*

**Contact presse : Agathe Remoué**  
Responsable Presse et Media Paprec Group  
[Agathe.remoue@paprec.com](mailto:Agathe.remoue@paprec.com) au 06 27 47 60 69