

Preliminary Program

July 23, 2026

CHEMREC II: 2nd International Conference on Thermochemical Recycling of Plastics

September 13 - 17, 2026

Porto, Portugal

Conference Co-Chairs:

M. Pilar Ruiz, Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Sascha Kersten, University of Twente, The Netherlands

Erik Heeres, University of Groningen, The Netherlands



Engineering
Conferences
International

Engineering Conferences International

369 Lexington Ave., Suite 389 - New York, NY 10017, USA

Phone: 1 - 212 - 514 - 6760

www.engconfintl.org – info@engconfintl.org

Sunday, September 13, 2026

16:30 – 18:00	Conference check-in
17:00 – 18:00	Organizing Committee Meeting
18:00 – 19:00	Welcome reception
19:00 – 21:00	Dinner

Monday, September 14, 2026

- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast
- 08:30 – 08:45 Welcome and Conference Opening
- 08:45 – 09:25 PLENARY: Chemical Recycling of Plastics: From Constraint to Opportunity
Ahmad Al Farra, TotalEnergies, France
- 09:25 – 10:05 PLENARY: The Chemistry and Engineering of Plastic Waste Upgrading
Matias Alvear Cabezon, John Hopkins University, USA
- 10:05 – 10:45 PLENARY: From Household Waste to Pyrolysis Feedstock: Contaminants and Pretreatment
Marcel van Eijk, NTCP and Maastricht University, The Netherlands
- 10:45 – 11:30 Coffee Break

TOPIC: CATALYTIC PYROLYSIS

- 11:30 – 11:55 Catalytic Pyrolysis of Polyurethane Rigid Foam: From Laboratory to Pilot Scale Development
Leonie Golka, Covestro Deutschland AG, Germany
- 11:55 – 12:20 ROTARY KILN PYROLYZER EQUIPPED WITH FIXED-BED CATALYTIC REACTOR: FROM DESIGN TO CONTINUOUS OPERATION FOR RECYCLING PLASTIC WASTE
Hoda Shafaghat, RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB, Sweden
- 12:20 – 12:45 Catalytic Pyrolysis of Mixed Plastic Waste in a Two-Stage Fluidized Bed Reactor: comparison of different catalysts
Piotr Trochimczyk, Warsaw University of Technology, Martex, Poland
- 12:45 – 13:10 Microwave-assisted catalytic pyrolysis of polyethylene for selective carbon nanotube production: a kinetic investigation
Jamal Chaouki, Ecole Polytechnique of Montreal, Canada
- 13:10 – 14:40 Lunch

TOPIC: GLYCOLYSIS / HYDROLYSIS / HYDROTHERMAL

- 14:40 – 15:05 Glycolysis toward elastane recycling
Antoine Vardon, Aalborg University, Denmark
- 15:05 – 15:30 Development of a continuous lab-scale reactor for solvent-assisted glycolysis of PET
David Palacios Garcia, Maastricht University, The Netherlands
- 15:30 – 15:55 Techno-economic evaluation of hydrothermal liquefaction for chemical recycling of synthetic textile waste
Guido Ceragioli, Politecnico Di Torino, Italy
- 15:55 – 16:20 Water efficient chemical recycling of poly(ethylene) terephthalate (PET) rich waste via neutral hydrolysis
Aiman Shabbir, Aalborg University, Denmark

16:20 – 16:45 Fast and Slow Hydrothermal Liquefaction of High-density Polyethylene: Process Optimization and Intensification
Harisankar Subramanian, Aarhus University, Denmark

TOPIC: CHARACTERIZATION

16:45 – 17:10 Identification and Tracing of Contaminants in Plastic Waste Pyrolysis Oils Using Comprehensive 2D GC and Ultrahigh Resolution FT-ICR MS
Gilles Dossche, Laboratory for Chemical Technology, Ghent University, Belgium

17:10 – 18:30 **Poster Session** and networking

Dinner on your own

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 – 09:10	PLENARY: TBA Helge Jaensch, ExxonMobil Chemical Europe, Inc., Belgium
09:10 – 09:50	PLENARY: The Chemistry and Engineering of Plastic Waste Upgrading Andre Heeres, Hanze, The Netherlands
09:50 – 10:15	Commercializing Chemical Recycling: Enablers and Barriers Muhammad Saad Qureshi, Lamor, Finland

TOPIC: PYROLYSIS

10:15 – 10:40	Lessons learned on pyrolysis of plastics Sascha Kersten, University of Twente, The Netherlands
10:40 – 11:10	Coffee Break
11:10 – 11:25	Understanding and Managing Oil Quality from Variable Feedstocks in Pilot Scale Chemical Recycling Geoff Smith, Itero, UK
11:25 – 11:50	Pyrolysis of PVC-contaminated plastic waste Giulia Boccaccini, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
11:50 – 12:15	Promoting circularity through scalable plastic pyrolysis technology Tooran Khazraie, Valmet Technologies, Finland
12:15 – 12:40	Pyrolysis of Lead-Acid Battery Plastic Waste for Hydrogen Production and Halogen Capture Maddalena Laghezza, ICFAR/Western University, Canada
12:40 – 13:05	Enhancing chemical recycling efficiency by integrating minor waste streams: A case study on tennis ball pyrolysis Manuel Nather, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany
13:05 – 14:35	Lunch
14:45	Depart for conference excursion Dinner on your own

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

- 07:30 – 08:30 Breakfast
- 08:30 – 09:10 PLENARY: Thermal versus Catalytic Pyrolysis: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Kevin van Geem, Ghent University, Belgium
- 09:10 – 09:50 PLENARY: Scaling Chemical Recycling: From 3 to 21 to 70 kta
Rik Goldsmits, BlueAlp, The Netherlands

TOPIC: GASIFICATION / THERMAL CRACKING

- 09:50 – 10:15 Understanding polymer effects in thermal cracking of mixed plastic waste
Surika Van Wyk, TNO, The Netherlands
- 10:15 – 10:40 A Catalytic Tar Cracker for the Hot Syngas Clean-Up Section of a Large Pilot Scale Gasifier
Umberto Arena, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Italy
- 10:40 – 11:10 Coffee Break
- 11:10 – 11:35 Evaluation of operating conditions on the pyrolysis and in-line steam dry reforming of plastic waste for syngas production
Gartzen Lopez, University of the Basque Country, Spain
- 11:35 – 12:00 A Catalytic Tar Cracker for the Hot Syngas Clean-Up Section of a Large Pilot Scale Gasifier
Umberto Arena, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Italy

TOPIC: CONTAMINANTS

- 12:00 – 12:25 A hybrid modeling framework for plastic pyrolysis: tracing the fate of contaminants
Laura Pires Da Mata Costa, University of Ghent, Belgium
- 12:25 – 12:50 Preparation and decontamination of household plastic packaging waste as benchmark feedstock for pyrolysis
Homer Genuino, NTCP, The Netherlands
- 12:50 – 13:15 The Effects of Fillers, Functional Additives, and Pigments on mixed plastic pyrolysis
Jesper Thygesen, Aalborg University, Denmark

- 13:15 – 14:45 Lunch

TOPIC: CATALYTIC CONVERSION / UPGRADING

- 14:45 – 15:10 Self-cleaning catalysts to enable film recycling
Steven Crossley, University of Oklahoma, USA
- 15:10 – 15:35 Decreasing reaction times for hydrogenolysis of polyolefins by overcoming mass transfer limitations
Louis van der Ham, University of Twente, The Netherlands
- 15:35 – 16:00 Steam gasification of plastics: A CO₂ capture system from polymer to monomer
Leandro Leucci, Polytechnic of Turin, Italy

Wednesday, September 16, 2026 (continued)

16:00 – 16:40	Coffee Break
16:40 – 17:05	Improved h-zsm-5 catalysts for aromatics formation from polypropylene Erik Heeres, University of Groningen, The Netherlands
17:05 – 17:30	Upgrading waste plastic pyrolysis oil via sequential adsorption and hydrotreatment Farah Siddiq, VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland, Finland
17:30 – 17:55	Uncovering and Addressing Internal Transport Limitations in Polyolefin Hydrogenolysis Preethi Venugopal, University of Twente, The Netherlands
17:55 – 18:20	Catalytic Co-processing of Plastic-Derived Oil with Crude Oil for Enhanced Olefin and Aromatic Production in a Multi-Zone Fluidized Bed Reactor Mohammad Awwad, KAUST Catalysis Center, Saudi Arabia
18:20 – 18:45	Optimization of plastic pyrolysis vapor aromatization using model hydrocarbons Arne Hommes, University of Groningen, Netherlands
18:45 – 19:30	Break
19:30 - 21:30	Gala dinner

Thursday, September 17, 2026

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast
08:30 – 09:10	PLENARY: The mass balance methodology; pyrolysis can make a bright future for plastics recycling Ronald Korstanje, ISPT, The Netherlands
09:10 – 09:50	PLENARY: Lab- and pilot-scale development of waste plastics pyrolysis at DICP Songbo He, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics (DICP), Chinese Academy of Sciences, China
09:50 – 10:15	Aramazing – Chemical Recycling of Aromatic Polyamides: Fast kinetic studies in autoclave reactors Niels Hakkert, University of Twente, The Netherlands
10:15 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 – 11:25	Synergistic Effects of Biomass in Plastic Waste Feedstocks: A Study on Product Distribution and Pyrolysis Oil Quality Maíra Taynara da Silva, Universidade Federal Do Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
11:25 – 11:50	Decoupling Halogen Capture and Hydrogen Production via Carbonate-Assisted Double-Stage Pyrolysis of Lead-Acid Battery Plastic Waste Maddalena Laghezza, ICFAR/Western University, Canada
11:50 – 12:15	Life Cycle GHG Emissions of Plastic Pyrolysis: The Role of Reactor Modelling and End-of-Life Choices Akram Alabsi, University of Calgary, Canada
12:15 – 12:30	Closing remarks
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
	Departures