

PolyUrethane Recycling Towards a Smart Circular Economy

Deliverable

D4.2 First CAPU elastomer showing foamability via the scCO₂ technique

WP4 – Smart Design

Project Information

Grant Agreement n°	814543
Dates	1st January 2019 – 31st December 2022

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 814543. The PUReSmart project results presented reflect only the author's view. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains. PUReSmart RESTRICTED - Under Consortium Agreement, Confidential until Oct 1st 2026.





Publishable Summary

The PUReSmart consortium aims to develop a new reprocessing technology targeting to recycle polymer foams back to foams, ideally usable in the same type of applications. This deliverable report comprises the results of the re-foaming tests performed on various PU-based elastomers. The most remarkable results, allowing to reach a proof-of-concept for the refoaming and to fulfil this deliverable, were obtained with a preliminary triazolinedione (TAD)/Indole-based covalent adaptable polyurethane (CAPU) elastomer made at UGent.

Additionally, some experiments were also performed on more standard PU matrices in order to build some knowledge with the technique and to have reference samples. In each case, preliminary compatibility studies of the samples with the foaming technique were conducted, and characterisation of the PU samples before and after foaming was performed in order to identify any non-desired modification or degradation of the samples.

More experiments and investigation are still needed to determine the rules and conditions that allow the reprocessing of any type of CAPU material. However, it is important to mention that the foaming technique of interest was now demonstrated as a promising way for the refoaming of polyurethane-based polymers.