

Press Release

ASTER ANNOUNCES STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING INNOVATION IN AUSTRALIA: TRANSFORMING HARD-TO-RECYCLE PLASTIC WASTE INTO FOOD-GRADE PACKAGING

- Aster collaborates with APR Plastics, Taghleef Industries Group, and Pro-Pac Group to transform multi-layer soft plastic waste into food-grade packaging film through advanced recycling technology.
- Joint partnership aims to deliver an enhanced solution in Australia, turning hard-to-recycle plastic waste into pyrolysis oil, which is then converted into food-grade packaging.



Singapore, 27 May 2025 — Aster Chemicals and Energy (Aster) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with three companies in the plastics manufacturing value chain – APR Plastics, Taghleef Industries Group and Pro-Pac Group – to design and implement a revolutionary value chain that transforms hard-to-recycle soft plastic waste into food-grade packaging film.

The collaboration aims to reshape Australia's recycling landscape through the combined use of advanced technologies from each contributing partner, while ensuring there is secured processing and offtake for APR Plastics' new pyrolysis line in Maddingley, Victoria, Australia.

Once implemented, the partnership aims to convert up to 3,000 tonnes of multilayer soft plastic waste into pyrolysis oil for further refinement and processing into recycled polypropylene film. This film can then be printed and laminated into snack packaging for biscuits and confectionary.

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UEN: 202349112H



APR Plastics is leading the pyrolysis project, with Aster processing the pyrolysis oil into olefins. The olefins will then be converted into polypropylene resin, which Taghleef Industries will convert into high-quality polypropylene film. Finally, Pro-Pac Group will complete the circular value chain by manufacturing the film into snack food wrappers.

Group CEO of Aster, Erwin Ciputra said: “We recognise that real progress on the environmental impact of plastic waste requires more than ambition — it requires collaboration and action. For Australia, we forged these strategic partnerships that will truly enable and enhance circularity value chain – from plastic waste feedstock, through pyrolysis oil processing, to advanced recycled packaging for snacks that we could unwrap and enjoy! We are taking tangible steps to leverage our joint capabilities to deliver a more sustainable outcome for our customers. Through our fully integrated refinery and downstream chemical assets on Bukom and Jurong Island, and the recent acquisition announcement of Chevron Phillips Singapore Chemicals, we are advancing sustainable industrial growth while delivering reliable industrial solutions.”

Aster is Singapore’s leading producer with pyrolysis oil processing capability into mass-balanced circular products, including Olefins and other chemicals that have the same performance as fossils-based products. This process will help businesses reduce their reliance on virgin plastic materials and fossil-derived feedstocks.

CEO of APR Plastics, Darren Thorpe emphasised the importance of building local recycling capacity. “Multi-layer soft plastic packaging remains a hard-to-recycle material with few local recycling options. Advanced recycling of this material is a feasible and viable solution for Australia. We are looking forward to working with our partners to ensure this important initiative is successful.”

COO of Taghleef Industries, Elie Jarrous welcomes the initiative and reiterated the commitment of Taghleef to be part of the journey to make available to the Australian market filmic products that have recycled content: “Realisation of this partnership is critical to demonstrate the circularity from collection of Australian plastic waste to consumer products wrapped in recycled flexible packaging.”

Pro-Pac Packaging CEO, Ian Shannon added the importance of turning packaging back into packaging: “Food grade recycled content for packaging films is currently imported as Australia lacks domestic advanced recycling capability. This partnership will be groundbreaking for the local circular economy as it will turn Australian packaging waste back into locally manufactured packaging.”



Aster is Singapore’s leading producer of circular chemicals from waste-plastic derived pyrolysis oil

Aster is at the forefront in Singapore with the capability to convert pyrolysis oil into mass-balanced circular solutions, such as Olefins and a range of other chemicals that match the quality and functionality of traditional fossil-based products. By leveraging this innovative technology, companies can reduce dependence on virgin plastics and fossil-sourced raw materials.

By providing recycled alternative feedstock, Aster supports packaging and automotive industries alike to meet their sustainability goals and support global efforts to tackle plastic pollution by minimising plastic waste and reducing the environmental footprint of plastic production. Other than Circular chemicals products, Aster also has Bio-based chemicals products, supporting our customers in reducing Carbon Footprint and delivering high-quality, Eco-Friendly solutions.

This unique capability contributes to the emphasis on sustainable manufacturing in Singapore, supporting Singapore’s 2030 Green Plan by contributing towards energy resilience, sustainable waste management, and the advancement of the circular economy.

ABOUT ASTER

Aster is a leading provider of energy, chemical, and infrastructure solutions in Southeast Asia, supplying products and services to various manufacturing industries in both domestic and international markets. It is a Chandra Asri-led joint venture with Glencore. Since Chandra Asri Group’s establishment in 1992, the Group has grown from strength to strength to build its reputation as a reliable growth partner, with strategically well positioned assets in Indonesia and Singapore. The Group’s total asset base includes a refinery with a capacity of 237,000 barrels per day alongside a 1.1 million metric ton naphtha cracker on Bukom Island, 2.5 million metric tons of downstream chemical assets on Jurong Island, and a 0.9 million metric ton naphtha cracker in Cilegon. The company's business is supported by core infrastructure assets, including energy, electricity, water, jetty, and tank farm facilities. For more information, visit www.aster.com.sg

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