

Call for Entries - SA Plastics Pact Flexible Packaging Solution Showcase

Background

The South African Plastics Pact is a collaborative group of organisations working towards a South Africa where plastic is valued and retained in a circular economy, with benefits of job creation, economic growth, and the prevention of plastic pollution in the environment. Certain flexible plastic packaging streams constitute a significant challenge regarding achieving EPR targets and an adequate output recycling rate in South Africa. Finding alternative solutions represents a good opportunity for rapidly making progress towards the SA Plastics Pact targets.

Solutions needed

GreenCape, in partnership with the Anglo American Foundation, will be hosting the Flexible Packaging Solution Showcase. Join us in identifying alternatives for flexible multilayer and flexible polypropylene packaging to boost plastic recycling in South Africa. Entrants will have the opportunity to present their market-ready solutions to South African Plastics Pact member companies across the value chain and including supporting members; which may include Clicks, Food Lovers Market, Heineken, PepsiCo, Pick n Pay, Spar, Tiger Brands, Unilever, Woolworths, as well as resin producers, rigid packaging converters, collectors, recyclers, PROs and plastic industry bodies. Note: no members supplying flexible packaging onto the market will be in the audience for the showcase, however such members are welcome to apply.

Flexible polypropylene (PP) packaging is widely used for food products due to its clarity, and moisture resistance, which helps preserve product quality. It is versatile in shape and size, suitable for packaging items like stationery items, secondary packaging on personal care products, fruits, vegetables, baked goods, chocolates, sweets, and snacks. However, recycling rates for flexible PP and multilayer multi-polymer packaging in South Africa are very low. South Africa has a small market size for flexible PP (at about 14% of LDPE film). The limited economy of scale makes it unlikely that a market push for separation into suitable grades to enable good recycling rates will be achieved in the near future.

In terms of multilayer multi-polymer structures, there are many variations on the market, designed to improve barrier performance of the packaging for more products requiring oxygen, moisture and UV protection amongst other properties. These packaging types are used for a range of products including cheese, cold meats, cereals, fresh soups, and some snacks. Most of these packaging types constitute incompatible polymers for mechanical recycling. As a result, the packaging can only be recycled into lower value products such as plastic 'wood' and plastics combined with fibre or mineral materials as construction elements.

Enter via the following link:

- [Link to Google Form](#)

Who should enter?

- Converters and packaging manufacturers with a presence in South Africa, offering solutions available locally
- Converters manufacturing locally are encouraged to apply, and highlight the capability to workshop solutions with members to develop an appropriate bespoke solution
- **Note: packaging solutions which could be streamed with adequately recycled materials in South Africa (i.e. recycled at a greater than 30% output recycling rate) are preferred. In the flexible plastics, this means that PE solutions are requested.**

Why enter?

- This is an opportunity for your solution to gain market access through the brand owner and retailer members of the SA Plastics Pact
- The event will include one-on-one matchmaking with brand owner and retailer members of the SA Plastics Pact for both virtual and in-person attendees
- The solutions will also be distributed through the Plastics Pact Network, which has a presence in 18 countries, including Canada, Chile, Columbia, France, India, Kenya, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, United States of America, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island Nations.

Key Dates:

- Entries open: July 2024
- Entries close: 15 August 2024
- Engagement with of entrants: August to mid-September

Event details:

- Date: 17 September
- Time: 10h00 – 15h00
- Venue: Johannesburg TBC
- Attendance options: Online & in-person

The brief:

- Shortlisted candidates from the entrants will be invited to give a 10-minute presentation, with an additional 5 minutes for questions from the SA Plastic Pact members.
- An in-person presentation is preferable, but online will be available for selected entrants not based in Johannesburg.

- It will be important to focus on the technical details of the solutions to replace flexible polypropylene and/or multipolymer multilayer packaging with recyclable alternatives.
- Shortlisted candidates' presentations should cover the following broad questions:
 - What test results on the product in terms of performance can you supply?
 - In what products and market have you had any uptake of this alternative?
 - What test results do you have confirming recyclability? Certificates from who can be provided regarding recyclability?
 - Have you tested with recyclers in South Africa?

Terms and conditions

- Up to 10 entrants will be afforded the opportunity to attend the showcase as shortlisted candidates.
- The decisions on shortlisted candidates will be made by the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat in consultation with SA Plastics Pact members and will be final, no additional correspondence to be entered into.
- Individuals, businesses or consortia can submit entries, but no directors, members, partners, employees, agents or consultants of or any other person who directly or indirectly controls or is controlled by the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat, any marketing service providers or their spouses, life partners, business partners or immediate family members may enter.
- Entries can only be submitted online via the entry form provided.
- Neither the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat, nor any SA Plastics Pact members will be liable to cover any costs associated with entries, subsistence or travel of or any other expenses of entrants or shortlisted candidates.
- All technology and innovation or any other intellectual property rights shall remain vested with the entrants and/or shortlisted candidates, subject to the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat having the right to make use of any content submitted or presented at the showcase for marketing and media purposes and otherwise to report to SA Plastics Pact members.
- The SA Plastics Pact Secretariat reserve the right to disqualify an entrant or deem a submission invalid in its sole discretion.
- The selection outcome by the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat of the shortlisted candidates, will be final and cannot be contested.
- By entering the showcase, entrants and/or shortlisted candidates consent to having their names, image(s) and other personal information used in promotional and marketing materials, unless they expressly request otherwise and by entering consent to having their information used in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat.
- No SA Plastic Pact Member, nor the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat will be obligated to contract in any way with any entrant or shortlisted candidate what so ever. Such choice remains at their sole option and discretion.

- Each entrant or shortlisted candidate indemnifies the SA Plastic Pact Members, and the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat and will hold them harmless against all claims, demands, fines, penalties, actions, proceedings, judgments, damages, losses, costs or any other liabilities, caused in any way due to their application for or participation in the showcase.

Key points regarding Competition Law and Intellectual Property protection

- No entrants will be allowed to present in the same room / at the same time at the showcase (none of the shortlisted candidates, or SA Plastics Pact members who are flexibles converters or label manufacturers) and each shall only present to the SA Plastic Pact Members, and the SA Plastics Pact Secretariat and other key stakeholders.
- SA Plastics Pact Members attending the showcase will discuss presentations from each shortlisted candidate, and summary notes will be sent to all members of the SA Plastic Pact.
- These notes and discussions will not recommend any specific shortlisted candidate or be in any way seen as guidance to members to select a certain supplier/service provider.
- The evaluation sheet template will be available to all shortlisted candidates prior to the showcase.
- The showcase will not be recorded.

For any additional questions, please reach out to:

- Kirsten Barnes: info@saplasticspact.org.za