



Press Release  
14th June 2021

## Ecological transition: Vicat and Paprec create industrial waste-to-energy processing scheme

**Waste-management specialist Paprec and construction-materials specialist Vicat have jointly founded a company, ALTèreNATIVE, based in the south of France, for processing non-recyclable waste into Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF). The plant will be run by 20 employees, together with 80 subcontractors. SRF, ‘the fuel of the future’, will replace the fossil fuels still used by the local Vicat cement plant.**



Guy Sidos, Chairman and CEO of the Vicat group, and Sébastien Petithuguenin, CEO of Paprec

Vicat and Paprec, two leaders in their respective sectors in France, have created ALTèreNATIVE, an equally-owned company for implementing an alternative to disposal of waste as landfill. This joint project calls for the design, construction, and operation of a plant dedicated to the production of SRF from non-recyclable waste.

The plant will operate in the south of France, ultimately producing 50,000 metric tons of SRF per year, which will make it the largest facility of its kind in the country. Its feedstock will be post-sorting residue from plants of the Paprec group, for which the only current solution is landfill.

Design studies began in April, the start of construction is programmed for the summer of 2022, and commissioning is scheduled for January 2023. The investment cost is €15 million.

*“This project is fully consistent with the French law on energy transition which calls for landfill to be halved by 2025”, points out Sébastien Petithuguenin, CEO of Paprec. “Setting up a regional industrial processing stream based on the principles of circular economy and French technological excellence corresponds exactly to the mindset of my people”.*

Circulère, a Vicat group subsidiary devoted to circular economy, will secure outlets for SRF, initially Vicat’s La Grave de Peille cement plant near the Mediterranean coast, and subsequently other Group plants or SRF heating plants that will gradually emerge in the area. This industrial waste-to-energy stream will help make the area self-sufficient in energy.



Guy Sidos, Chairman and CEO of the Vicat group, insists that *“Making circular economy a central focus of our manufacturing processes is constantly at the forefront of our employees’ minds. It is our fervent ambition to substitute alternative fuels for 100% of our European cement plants’ fossil-derived energy by 2025. We are firmly and actively committed to ecological transition and reduction of our carbon footprint. Our investments contribute to local development”*.

### **What is Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF)?**

SRF is made from dry, non-recyclable and non-hazardous waste such as discarded furniture, bulky waste, ordinary industrial waste, and waste rejected by sorting centers. After several steps—sorting, crushing, screening, metal recovery, etc.—the waste is reduced to particles of less than 20 mm and delivered to cement plants where it replaces coal and petroleum coke, not only reducing the need for fossil fuels but also reducing greenhouse-gas emissions in the same proportions.

### **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.

### **About Vicat**

With 200 years of experience, Vicat is a key industrial player in mineral and bio-based construction materials. In following a trajectory for carbon neutrality throughout its value chain by 2050, the listed family firm operates three core lines of business: Cement, Ready-Mixed Concrete, and Aggregate, together with complementary activities. The Group has almost 9,900 employees, and generated consolidated sales of €2.8 billion in 2020. It operates in twelve countries: France, Switzerland, Italy, United States, Turkey, Egypt, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Kazakhstan, India, and Brazil. More than 2/3 of its sales are generated outside France.

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