In February 2019, ISWA and a Consortium of partners launched a new H2020 project addressing the recycling of coated and painted textile plastic materials – DeCOAT. Over the course of the next few newsletters, we will be showcasing the different project partners within the consortium. First up, it's the project lead, CENTEXBEL. Guy Buyle, who leads the EU research at CENTEXBEL introduces the project.

CENTEXBEL is the Belgian scientific and technical centre for the textile and plastic converting industry. The focus of Centexbel is on applied research and innovation, meaning that we assist companies in research and innovation. Our work is typically funded by private contract or by regional, national or European agencies. The focus of our activities is on sustainability: biobased materials, recycling, energy & resource efficiency. With our activities, we cover the following domains: (i) finishing and coating technology; (ii) extrusion processes and related polymer formulation (incl. biopolymers); (iii) smart textiles; (iv) plastics.

Further, we offer a complete range of standardized testing, are a notified body and can deliver CE marking and testing. CENTEXBEL is also involved in standardization committees and offers technological advice and training to companies in Belgium and abroad.

We, at CENTEXBEL, believe that Europe has a fascinating textile and plastic processing industry and we are proud to be part of it. We care for our industry and firmly believe that by building and sharing knowledge and know-how and by engaging in close and deep collaborations we can contribute to a sustainable future for our companies.

CENTEXBEL is the coordinator of the DECOAT project, as such we will be involved in several aspects linked to the DECOAT implementation, including exploitation and communication to the wider public. From technical point of view, our main task is the coating on textiles - we are also leader of the work package related to the development of debondable coatings and their characterisation.

At CENTEXBEL we are convinced of sustainable, circular use of raw materials for the plastics and textiles industry. One of the many challenges is recycling of coated items. That is why we initiated DECOAT together with some core partners with the goal to develop novel solutions that will enable the recycling of coated plastics and textiles. At the end of this Research and Innovation Action, we hope to have solutions that are suitable for pick up by the European textiles and plastics industry.

For more information on the project, visit www.decoat.eu