

ALPLA supports ship-based recycling plant

PROCESSING PLATFORM TO RECYCLE UP TO 64,000 TONNES OF PLASTIC WASTE PER YEAR IN WESTERN AFRICA AND TO PREVENT PLASTICS ENTERING THE SEA.

In future the ALPLA Group, which is one of the leading companies for plastic packaging, will support the KuWert project of the Bremen University of Applied Sciences and has promised to purchase around 10,000 tonnes of rPET per year from western Africa.

Plastic is a worldwide problem in our oceans. Particularly in less developed countries such as western Africa which lack their own recycling industry and where value chains are interrupted because of the absence of adequate incentives to collect and recycle plastic waste to any significant extent. This results in large quantities of valuable plastic waste being released into the environment. The potential added value and jobs which would be created in the high-quality recycling of plastic waste are not being developed.

In a project funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the funding programme "Plastics in the Environment, Research for Sustainable Development" (FONA3) which ran to the end of 2019, the Institute for Energy and Recycling at Bremen University of Applied Sciences GmbH (www.IEKrW.de), Technolog Service GmbH (www.technolog.biz) and Nehlsen AG (www.nehlsen.com) developed a concept for an exemplary ship-based recycling plant (see Fig.) for plastic waste on the coastal countries of West Africa (www.kuwert.hs-bremen.de). The University of Mauritius and the University of Sierra Leone collaborated on the project development and the ministries of Sierra Leone, Gambia and Senegal have pledged their support towards the implementation of the project. The Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone, H.E. Dr. M'Baimba Lamin Baryoh most recently confirmed this in September 2020 at an information event in the Paul-Löbe-Haus in front of a number of members of the German Federal Parliament. With the implementation of this project, up to 64,000 tonnes of plastic waste per year would be recycled and prevented from being released into the environment. Up to 1,500 full-time jobs would be created in West Africa. Emissions which are harmful to the climate would be reduced by approx. 60,000 t CO_{2eq.} per year.

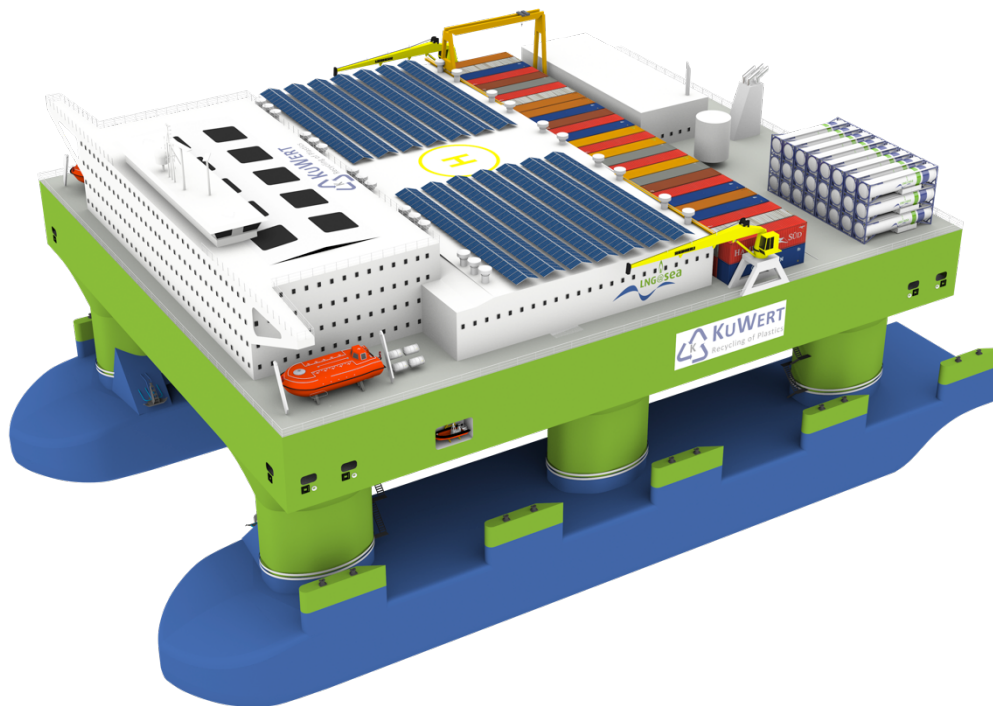
The key to the successful implementation of this project is the sale of recyclates. The ALPLA Group has announced that it will purchase around 10,000 tonnes of rPET per year from West Africa, provided these quantities are available and of the right quality.

About the ALPLA Group

ALPLA is a leading company in the field of plastic packaging. Around 21,600 employees produce customised packaging systems, bottles, lids and injection moulded parts at 178 different locations in 45 different countries worldwide. The areas of application for their quality packaging are diverse: food and beverages, cosmetics and care products, household detergents and cleaning agents, pharmaceuticals, motor oil and lubricants.

ALPLA operates its own recycling plants for PET and HDPE in Austria, Poland and Spain and as a joint venture in Mexico and Germany. Other further projects are also currently being implemented internationally.

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