



The European voice of the **adhesive and sealant industry**

FEICA WEBINAR

# Adhesives and sealants' unique properties in electronics under the EU Ecodesign Regulation

23 November 2023

10:30 - 11:30 Brussels CET

# Proceedings

- Please be advised that this webinar will be recorded. By joining, you are consenting to the recording
- Note that you will be muted and your camera will be turned off automatically upon entry
- During the Q&A session following the presentations, you will be able to use the chat box to ask questions
- In case we don't have sufficient time during the Q&A session to address your question, please feel free to send your question to [info@feica.eu](mailto:info@feica.eu)
- The presentation slides and recording will be sent to all webinar registrants

# Speakers



**Mr Dimitrios Soutzoukis**

Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, FEICA



**Dr Annett Linemann**

Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability, H.B. Fuller, Chair  
FEICA Electronics Technical Task Force



**Dr Matthias Popp**

Group Leader Adhesive Formulation, Fraunhofer Institute



**Mr Ive Vanderreydt**

Circular Economy Expert, VITO NV

# Agenda

**10:30** **FEICA introduction & regulatory context**

***Mr Dimitris Soutzoukis, Senior Manager Regulatory Affairs, FEICA***

**10:35** Adhesives and sealants' unique properties in the electronics sector

*Dr Annett Linemann, Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability, H.B. Fuller,  
Chair FEICA Electronics Technical Task Force*

**10:50** Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants for reusability, repairability and recyclability of electronics 'Debonding on Demand'

*Dr Matthias Popp, Group Leader Adhesive Formulation, Fraunhofer Institute*

**11:05** The circular economy potential of reversible bonding in smartphones

*Mr Ive Vanderreydt, Circular Economy Expert, VITO NV*

**11:20** Q&A moderated by Mr Dimitrios Soutzoukis

**11:30** Close of the webinar



**Mr Dimitrios Soutzoukis**

Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, FEICA

## FEICA introduction & regulatory context

# Contribution of the adhesives and sealants industry in Europe

**19.9 billion** euros contribution to the EU economy

**800** adhesives and sealants manufacturers, of which **90% are SMEs**

**4.8 million tonnes** of adhesives and sealants used in everyday products

Investing **470 million euros in Research and Innovation**

Employing over **45,000 people**



16 National Associations  
representing 17 Countries  
450+ members



25 Direct Company Members



25 Affiliate Company Members



# ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS ARE THE HIDDEN BINDING FORCE THAT SHAPES OUR WORLD

Industrial applications

Healthcare

Agriculture & food production

Transportation



Construction & installation

Furniture

Art, crafts & culture

Textiles, fashion & sports

**Electronics**



# FEICA Expert Group - Electronics Technical Task Force (TTF)

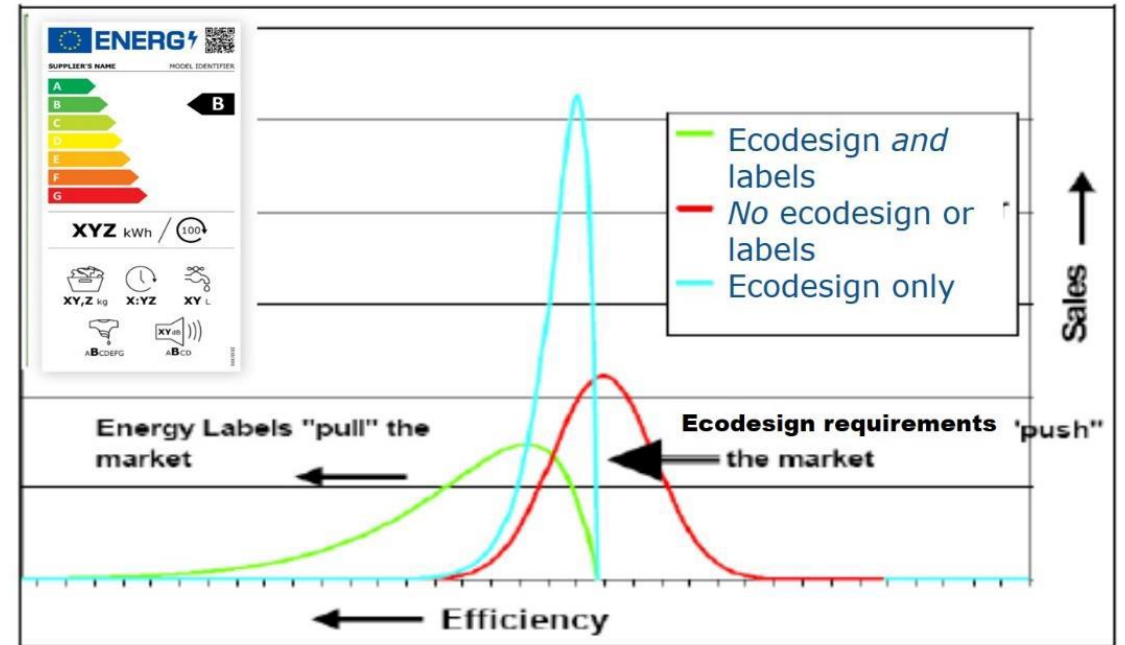
National Associations

Company Members



# EU Ecodesign

- The Ecodesign Directive is in force since 2009 undergoing regular revisions
- It sets minimum efficiency (and other) requirements
- Regulatory measures for electronics and ICT including mobile phones, tablets and laptops under the Ecodesign Directive so that devices are designed for energy efficiency and durability, reparability, upgradability, maintenance, reuse and recycling.
- Entry into force: **20 June 2025**



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- 10:30 FEICA introduction & regulatory context  
*Mr Dimitris Soutzoukis, Senior Manager Regulatory Affairs, FEICA*
- 10:35 **Adhesives and sealants' unique properties in the electronics sector**  
***Dr Annett Linemann, Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability, H.B. Fuller, Chair FEICA Electronics Technical Task Force***
- 10:50 Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants for reusability, repairability and recyclability of electronics 'Debonding on Demand'  
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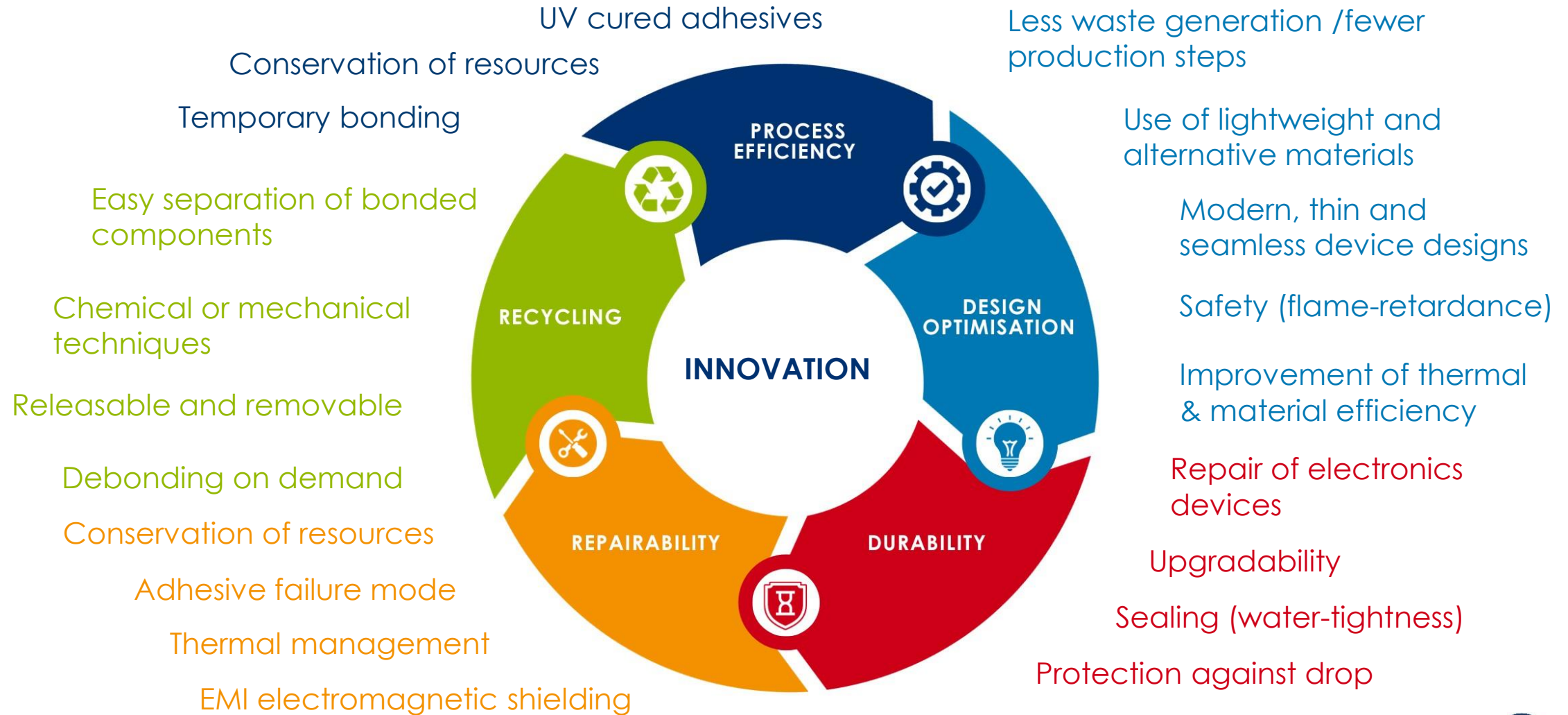


## **Dr Annett Linemann**

Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability, H.B. Fuller,  
Chair FEICA Electronics Technical Task Force

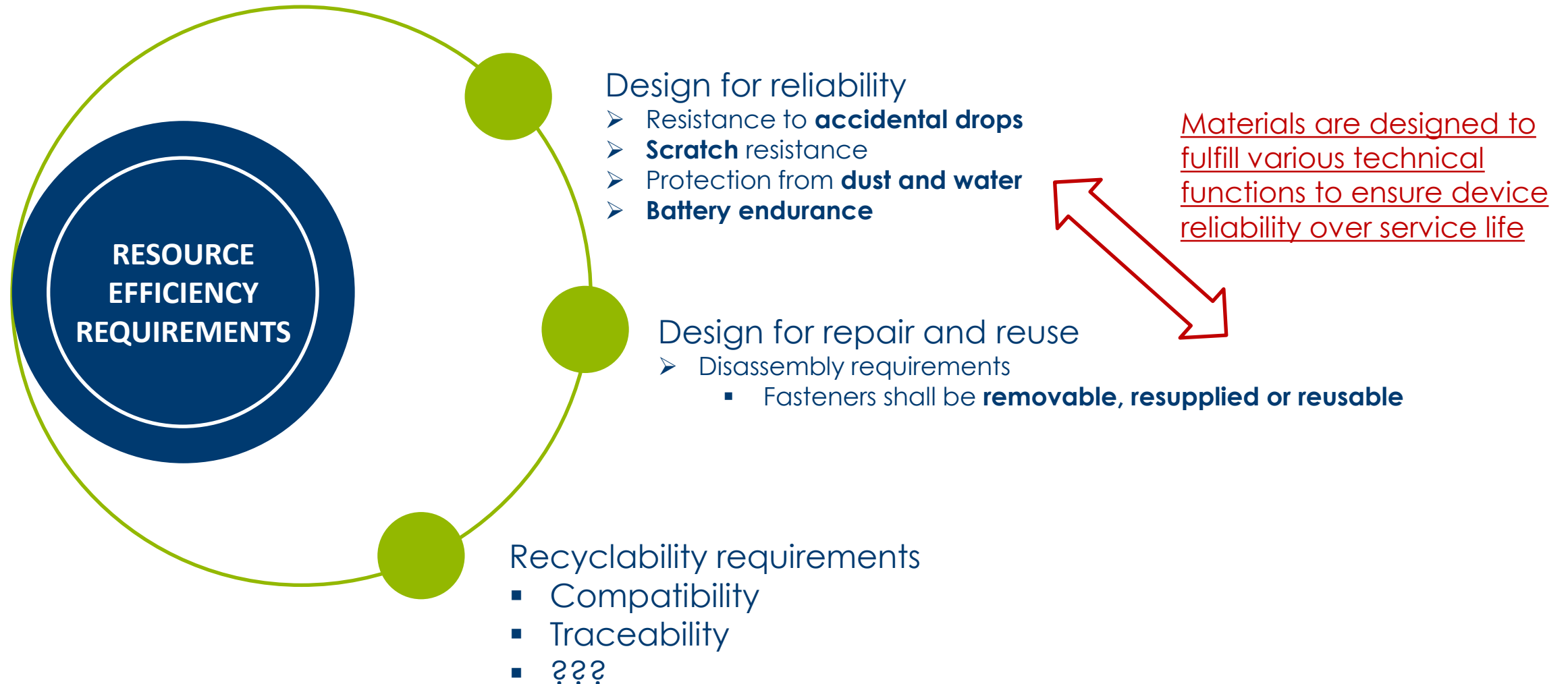
**Adhesives and sealants' unique properties in  
the electronics sector**

# Adhesives and sealants making a difference



# EU Ecodesign requirements

for smartphones, mobile phones other than smartphones, cordless phones and slate tablets



# Mobile phone tear down

## The World's Most **Waterproof** Smart Phone! – Teardown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9Qf1dTbhsU>



JerryRigEverything ✓

8.14M subscribers



A **sticky rubber gasket** inlaid into a groove all around the edges → **water-tightness**



Removable 4500 milliamp hours battery with **wireless charging** permanently glued on the top



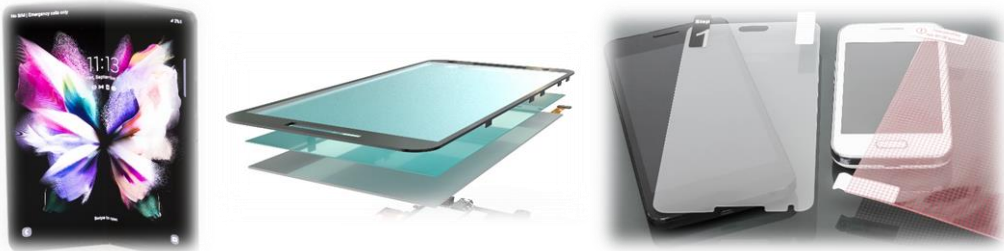
Charging port with its own **red rubber ring** → **ingress protection**



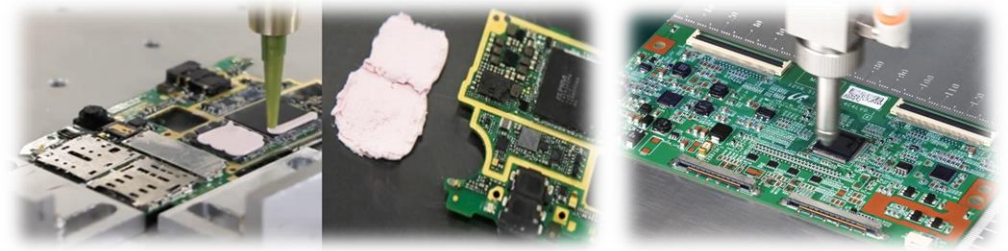
Everything is **held in place by screws** (over 32 screws)

# Design for reliability | Material examples

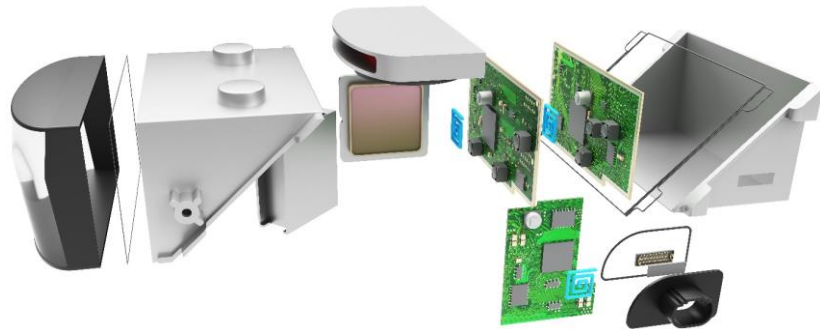
## Display solutions



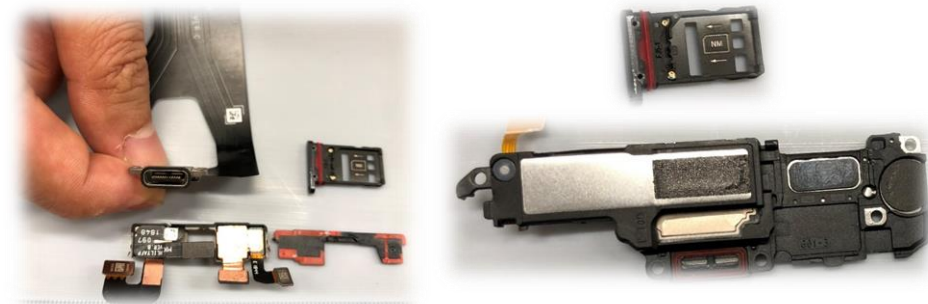
## Thermal management and PCB protection



## EMI shielding



## Gasketing





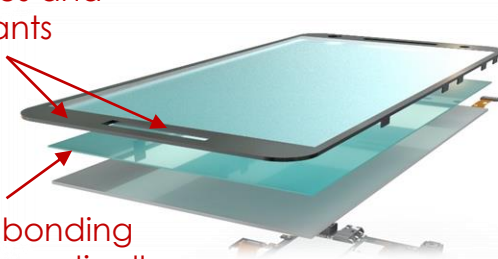
# Design for reliability | Material examples

## Display solutions



adhesives and sealants

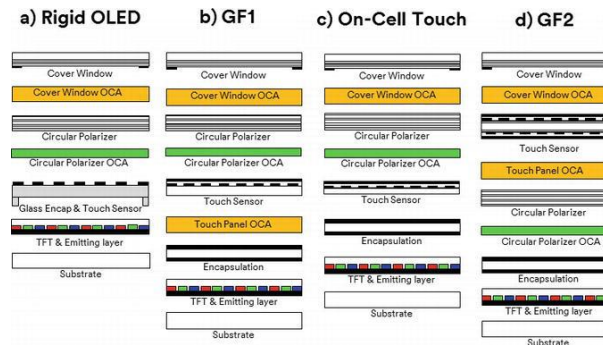
optical bonding materials = optically clear adhesives = OCA



**Waterproof sealing adhesives** for foldable & rollable smart phones: sealing adhesive provides good water- & dust-proof, high reliability and jetting & dispensable process-ability for PCB and LCD/OLED system assemblies

**Optically clear adhesives** for reliable functionality of various display designs

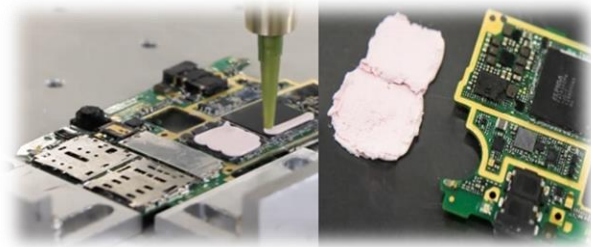
**Protective film** for scratch resistance of displays enhancing design reliability



Source: (<https://www.intechopen.com/chapters/68746>)

# Design for reliability | Material examples

## Thermal management and PCB protection



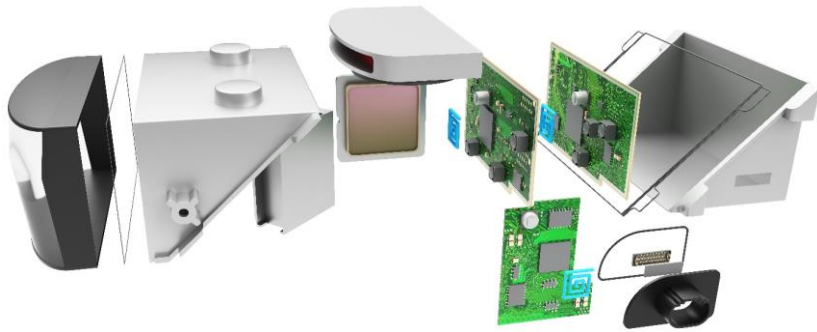
**Thermally conductive reworkable gel** for heat dissipation of smart phone components enhancing reliability



**Protective coating** to avoid dust and water on sensitive printed circuit board for device reliability

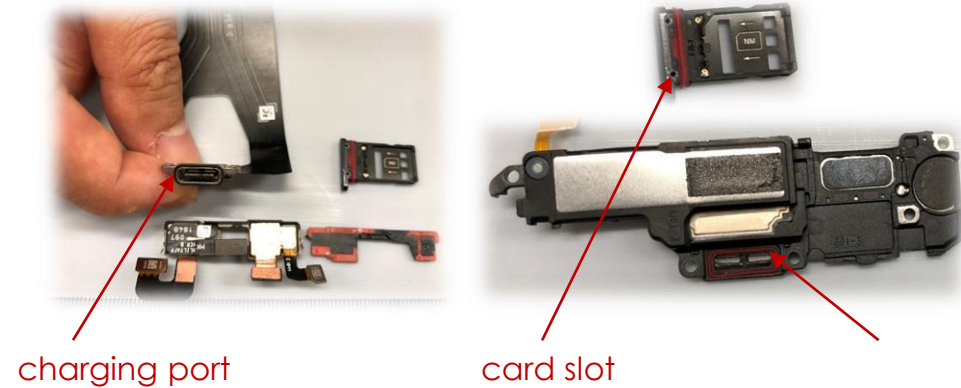
# Design for reliability | Material examples

## EMI shielding



**Electrically conductive adhesives** allow for EMI (**e**lectromagnetic interference) shielding to avoid electric cross-talk between different electronic components allowing device reliability

## Gasketing



**Cured in place gaskets** for water-proof connectors to enhance device reliability

# How to tackle the electronics recyclability demand?

The answer is not obvious!



Research Institutes and Academia

Material suppliers

OEMs

This year FEICA met EuRIC for the first time to understand the role of adhesives and sealants in e-waste recyclability → Keep up the conversation!

Material suppliers formulate according to the technical requirements defined by OEMs

OEMs work towards eco-design to ease **recyclability** while **keeping reliability and durability** → This is not easy, because technical requirements need to be met!

Consumers also need to take responsibility and understand their role in the value chain!

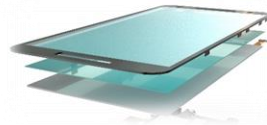
# Conclusions



Adhesives and sealants play an important role in design for **reliability** of the eco-design requirements for smartphones

## Design for reliability

- Resistance to **accidental drops**
- **Scratch** resistance
- Protection from **dust and water**
- **Battery endurance**



displays



thermal management and PCB protection



EMI shielding



gasketing



- The role of adhesives and sealants in the context of **repair and recycle** of electronic waste needs to be better understood
- Communication across the value chain is crucial
  - FEICA will continue discussions with EuRIC
- Consumer awareness needs to be established



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**Dr Matthias Popp**

Group Leader Adhesive Formulation, Fraunhofer Institute

**Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations  
of adhesives and sealants for reusability,  
repairability and recyclability of electronics  
'Debonding on Demand'**

November 23, 2023

FEICA Webinar - Adhesives and sealants unique properties in electronics under the EU  
Ecodesign Regulation

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Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and  
sealants for reusability, repairability and recyclability of electronics  
'Debonding on Demand'



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

DIN EN 923

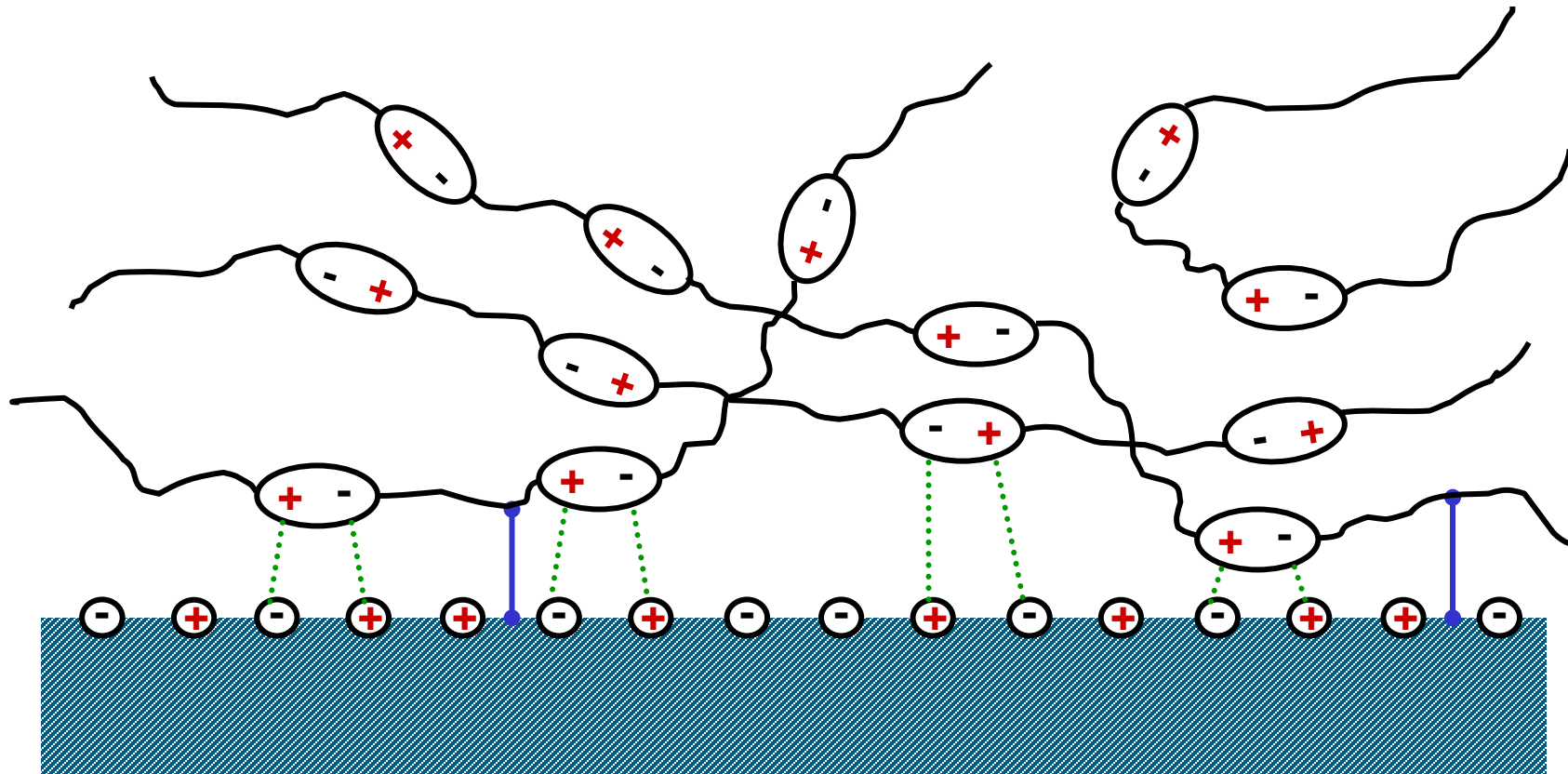
**Bonding:**  
Joining substrates using an adhesive

**Adhesive:**  
A non-metallic substance which can join substrate materials by surface adhesion in such a way that the joint has satisfactory inner strength (cohesion)



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

## Physical interactions and chemical bonds



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

## Organic adhesives and silicones

### Chemically curing

Epoxides (EP)

Polyurethanes (PUR)

Hot curing rubbers

Cyanoacrylates (CA)

Methyl methacrylates (MMA)

Unsaturated polyesters (UP)

Anaerobically curing adhesives

Light curing adhesives

Silicones (SI)

MS-polymers (MS)

Phenolic resins (PF)

Polyimides (PI)

### Physically hardening

Hotmelts

Wet solvent-containing adhesives

Dispersion adhesives

Plastisols

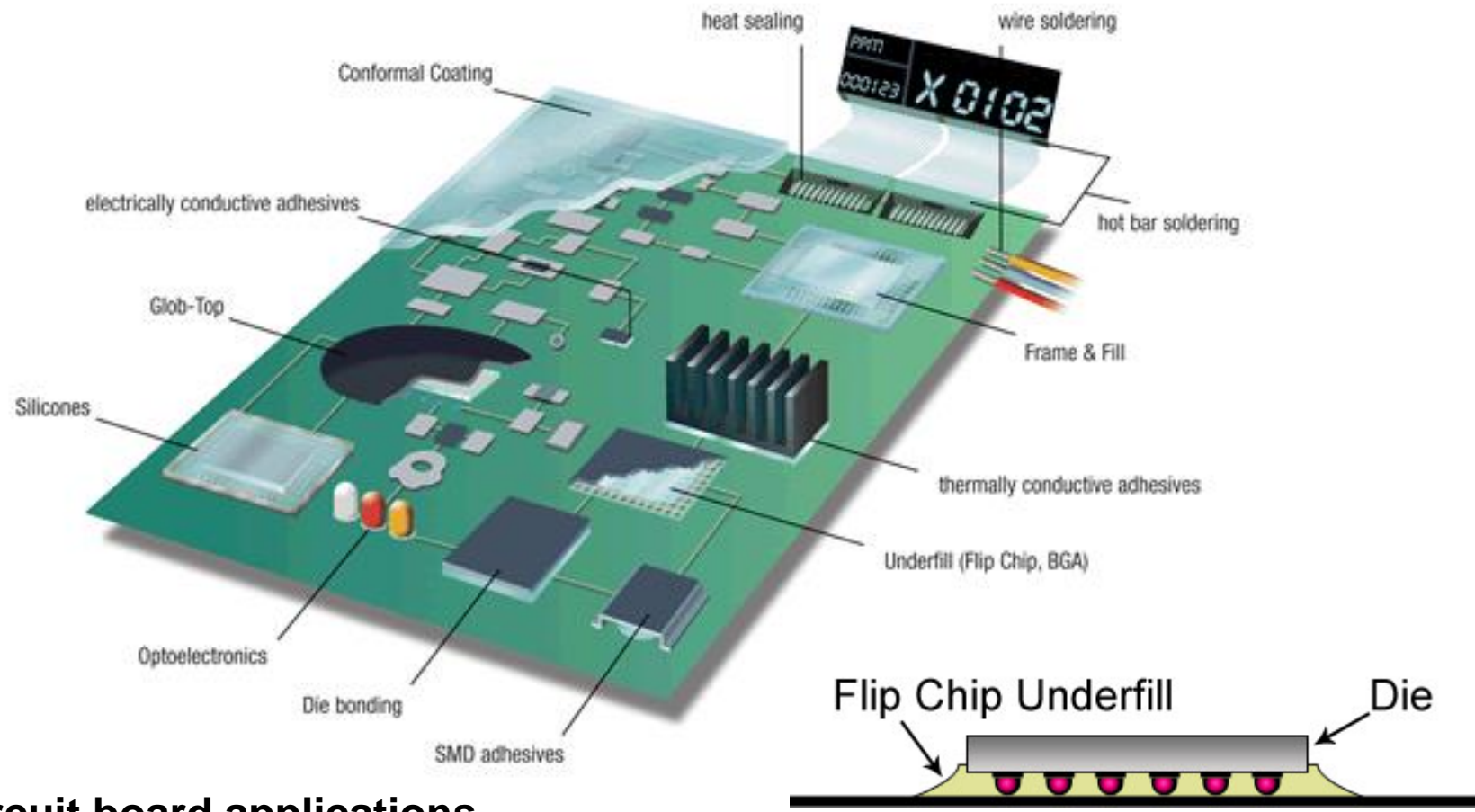
### Pressure sensitive adhesives (PSA)

Legend:

- Polyaddition adhesives
- Polymerisation adhesives
- Polycondensation adhesives



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'



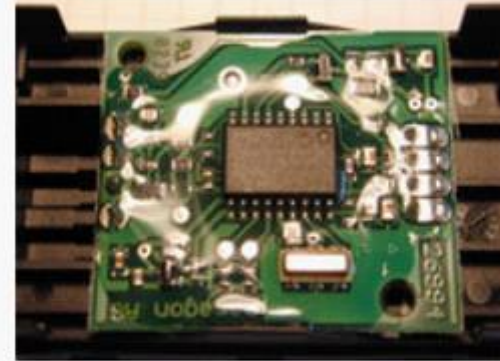
**Circuit board applications**



## Conformal Coating

### Typical application:

- Protection of circuit boards from environmental factors



### Properties of the adhesives

- Flexible, applicable over large areas, excellent running characteristics
- UV-curable epoxy resins and acrylates with dry surface
- Single-component solvent-free, partly ion-free
- Transparent, scratch- and chemicals-resistant and thermally stable
- Fluorescing possible for detection of dispensed product
- Sprayable with ASYMTEC robot, also for partial coating, etc.



## Chip bonding, Component assembly

### Typical application

Bonding of chip or component assemblies on circuit boards.

### Properties of the electrically conductive adhesives: Die bonding

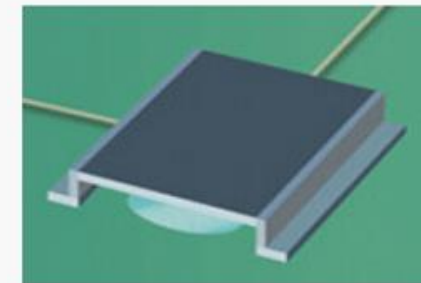
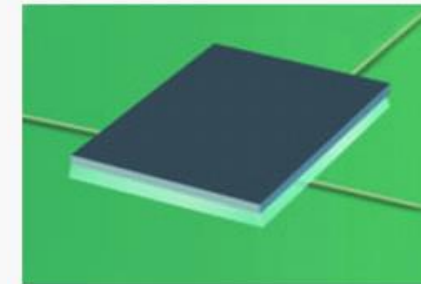
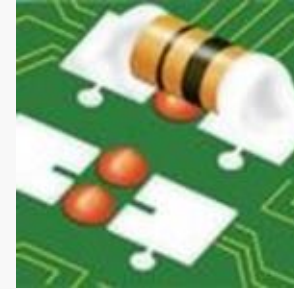
- Various silver-filled, solvent-free one- and two-component epoxy resin systems
- Processing with dispenser, printing or screen printing
- Short curing times at low temperatures
- Curing in reflow or forced-air oven
- High thermal stability and shock resistance

### Properties of the thermally conductive adhesives: Sensor, thermocouple and chip bonding

- Adhesives with heat-conducting fillers
- High mechanical strength
- Good thermal stability and low thermal expansion
- Single- and two-component products
- Thermal curing, for example in reflow or forced-air oven

### Properties of the non-conductive adhesives: SMD adhesives

- Bonding of subassemblies before soldering
- Short curing times with UV and/or heat
- Strong red colour for visual inspection
- Processing with dispenser, screen printing or needle transfer



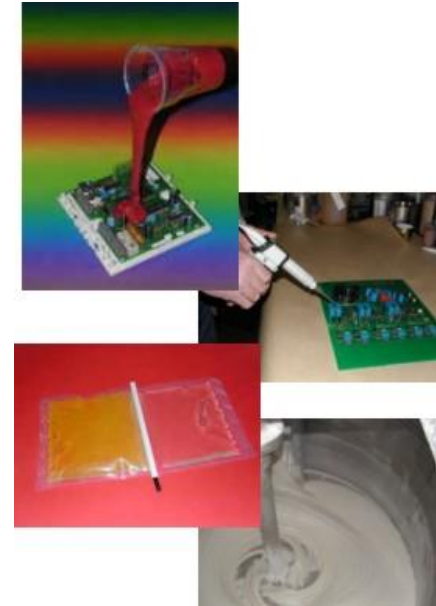
# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

## Most important functions of polymer potting:

- heat dissipation
- mechanical protection
- Protection against media
- electrical insulation

## Trends in the automotive sector in particular are increasing requirements with regard to:

- moisture resistance
- temperature resistance
- thermal shock resistance
- Insulation
- Electrical and thermal conductivity



Source: Iso-Elektra

Source: Rampf

## Why Debonding on Demand?

1. Recycling
2. Circular economy (reuse)
3. Repair

EU Commission wants a circular economy for plastics. In addition to environmental pollution and CO2 targets, data on the economic value of such waste have encouraged the EU Commission to push for the introduction of a circular economy. The goal is to avoid waste and to recycle more of it. Important instruments for this are the EU-wide WEEE Directive (Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment), known in Germany as the Elektroschrottverordnung (**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Ordinance**) - according to which two-thirds of the expected 12 million tonnes of electrical waste are to be recycled by 2020. In addition, the "Plastics Strategy" aims to reduce environmental litter and promote growth and innovation. This is to create the basis for a new circular economy for plastics and mobilise investments.

<https://www.chemanager-online.com/news/elektroschrott-von-der-umweltbelastung-zur-goldgrube>





**Important: Selective ability for debonding is never a property just added!**

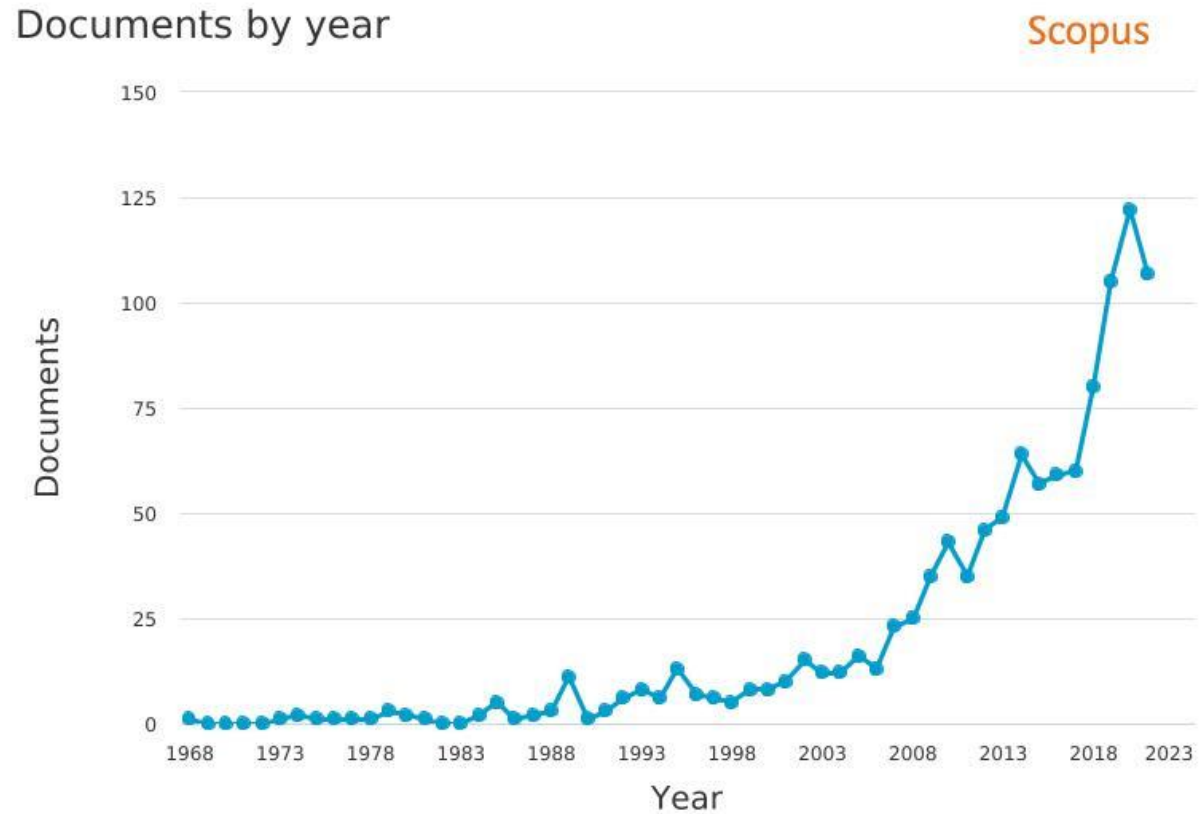
It is one among numerous properties of a distinct property profile

The product design is for debonding as important as the selection of the right adhesive

Numerous specific debonding mechanisms available but most not applicable in practice



## Number of publications over the last few years



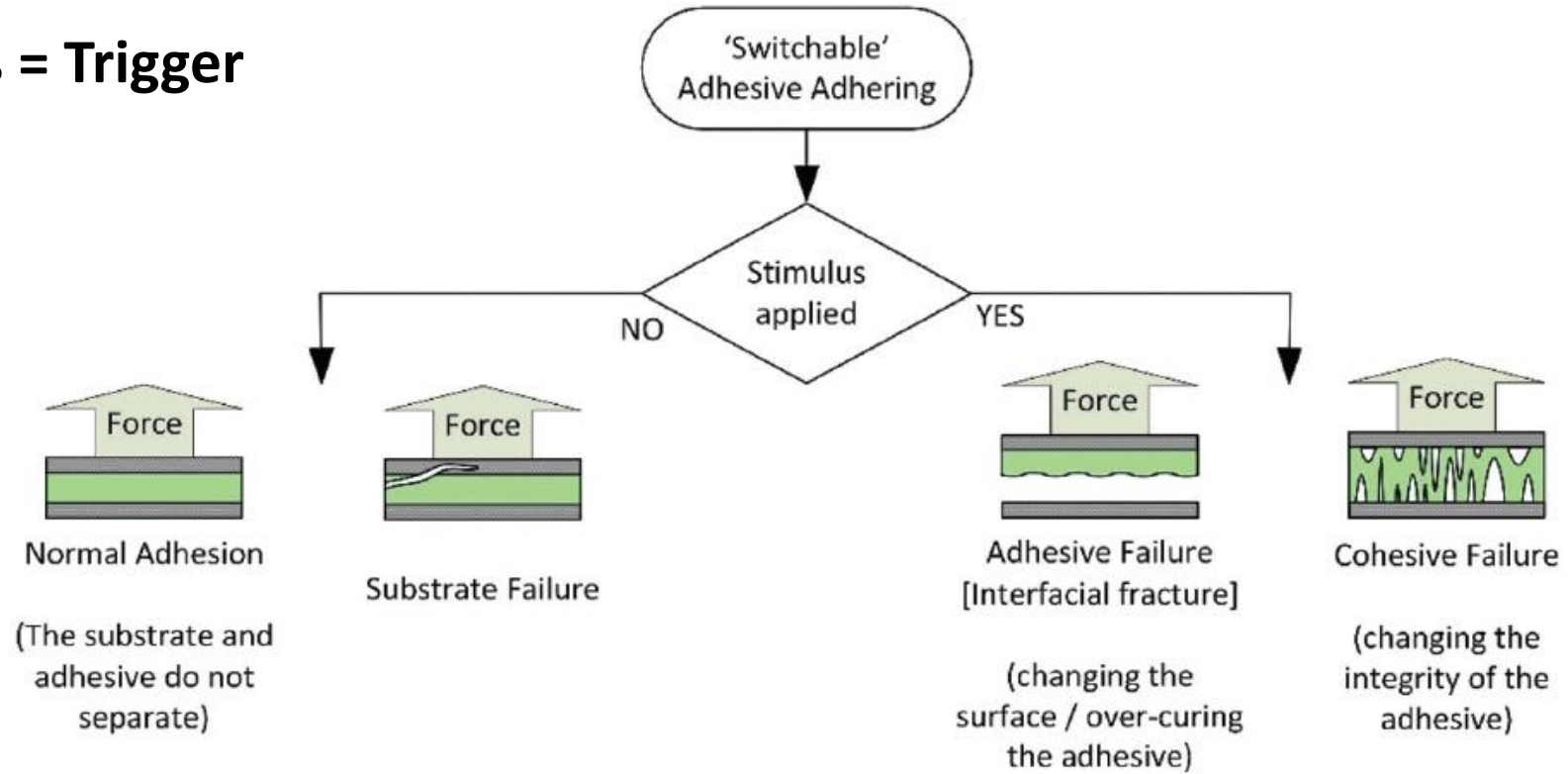
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Datenmenge „BoD + weitere Synonyme“ – 1100 Veröffentlichungen



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

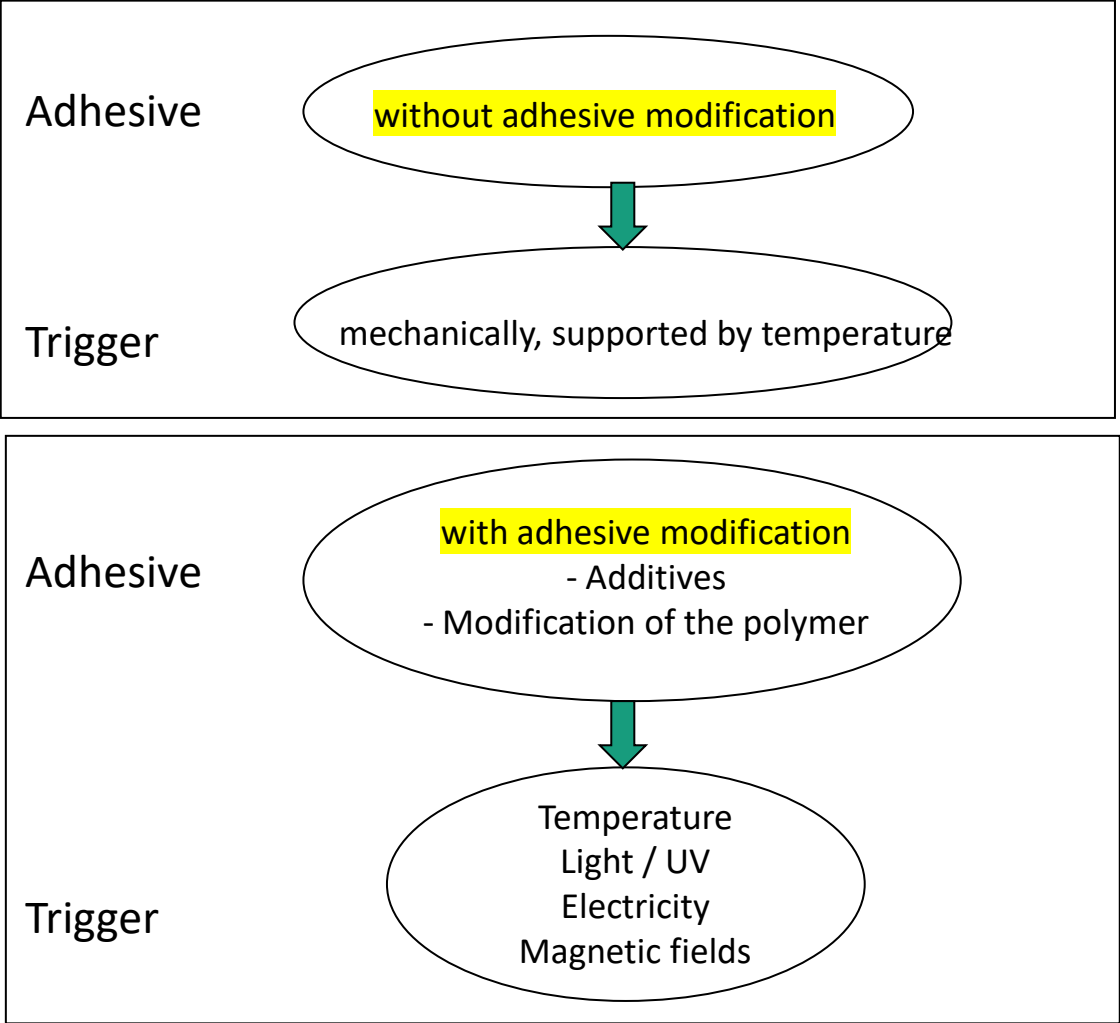
## Stimulus = Trigger



MULCAHY, Kira R., et al. Debondable adhesives and their use in recycling. Green Chemistry, 2022, 24. Jg., Nr. 1, S. 36-61.


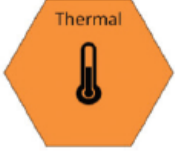


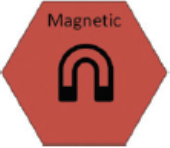

# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

Summary of principle mechanisms and external triggers



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

Table 2 Summary of debonding stimuli, functional groups and applicability

Stimulus						
Potential uses	Thin transparent materials	Inorganic and metallic components	Bonding metals and conductive substrates	Reactive composite adhesives with stable substrates	Biological/ electronic applications	Better for weak adhesive bonds
Limitations	Opaque additives	Equipment operating at high temp. Non-thermally stable/ conductive substrates. Metals when using microwave radiation	Non-metals Non-conductive substrates (these must be bonded with an intermediate patch)	Needs to not etch the substrate	Magnetic substrates	Needs to be wet recycle process
Notes	Harder with complex geometries	Potentially applicable to most adhesives	Better for thin samples	Diffusion can be slow	Low cost, easy to develop	Surface wetting important

MULCAHY, Kira R., et al. Debondable adhesives and their use in recycling. Green Chemistry, 2022, 24. Jg., Nr. 1, S. 36-61.

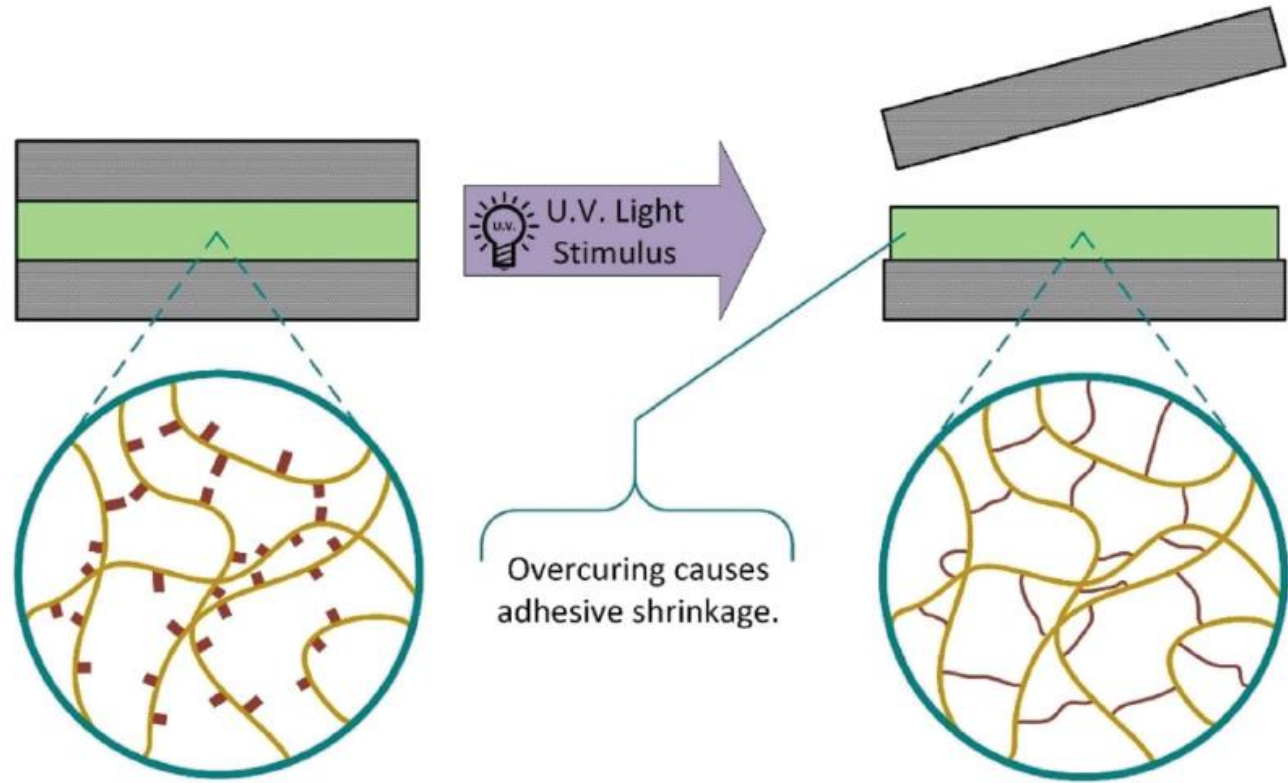
Summary of principle mechanisms and triggers adhesives in electronics

1. Temperature
2. Light / UV
3. Electricity
4. Microwave
5. Ultrasound
6. Magnetic fields
7. Solvents
8. Aqueous solutions



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

Light / UV



Schematic representation of photoinduced overcuring causing adhesive failure.

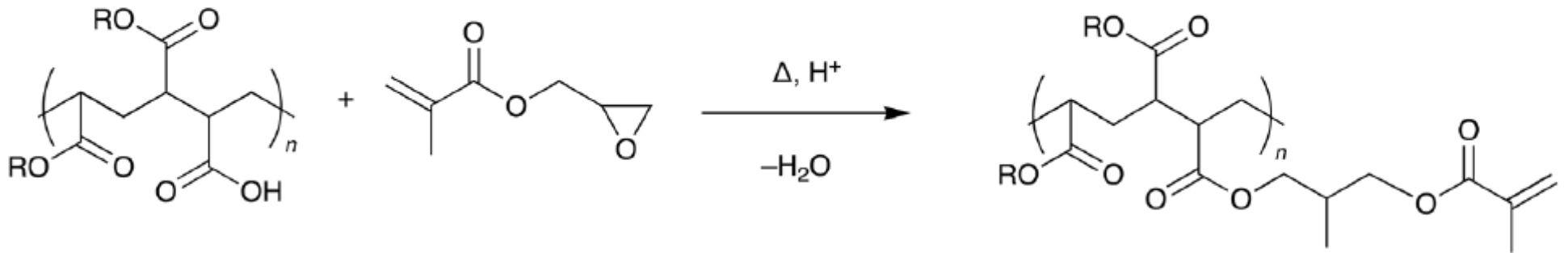
MULCAHY, Kira R., et al. Debondable adhesives and their use in recycling. Green Chemistry, 2022, 24. Jg., Nr. 1, S. 36-61.



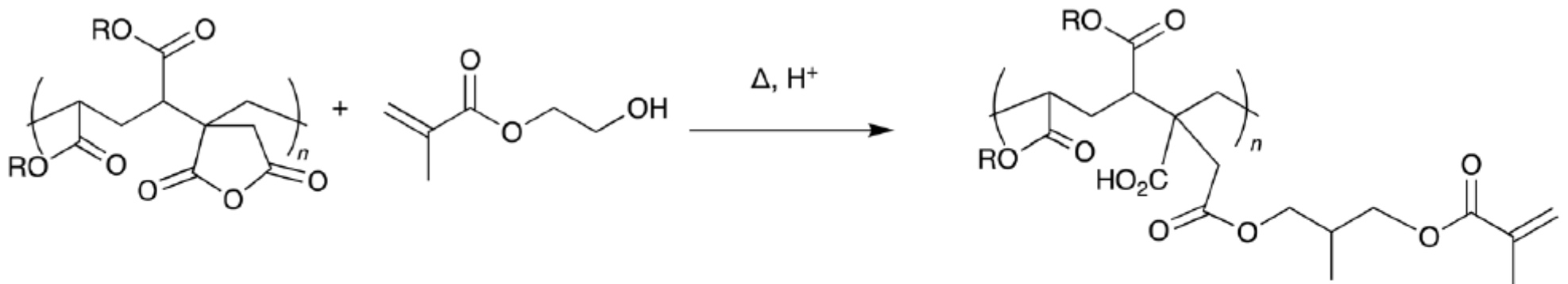
Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

Light / UV

(a)



(b)

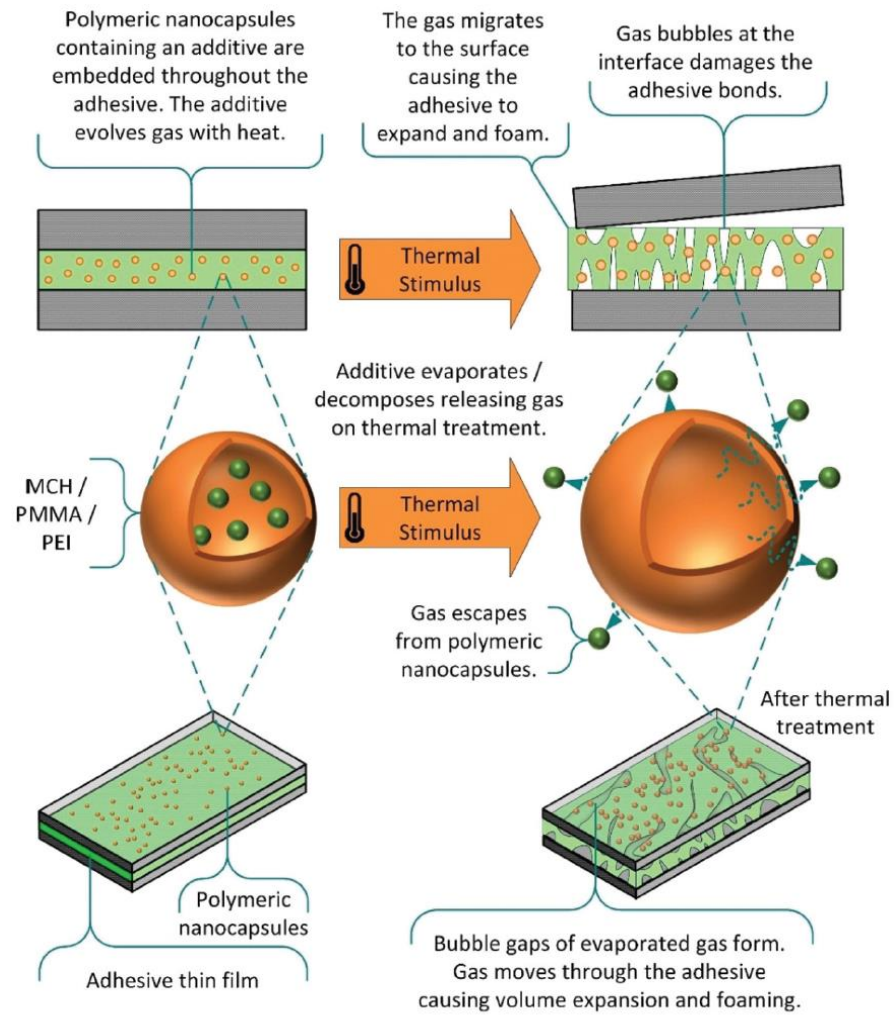


Representative examples of side chain functionalisation of acrylic copolymers with methacrylate residues.<sup>9,15</sup>



# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

Temperature



Scheme 11 Thermally induced debonding via evaporable and decomposable additives.<sup>124</sup>

MULCAHY, Kira R., et al. Debondable adhesives and their use in recycling. *Green Chemistry*, 2022, 24. Jg., Nr. 1, S. 36-61.

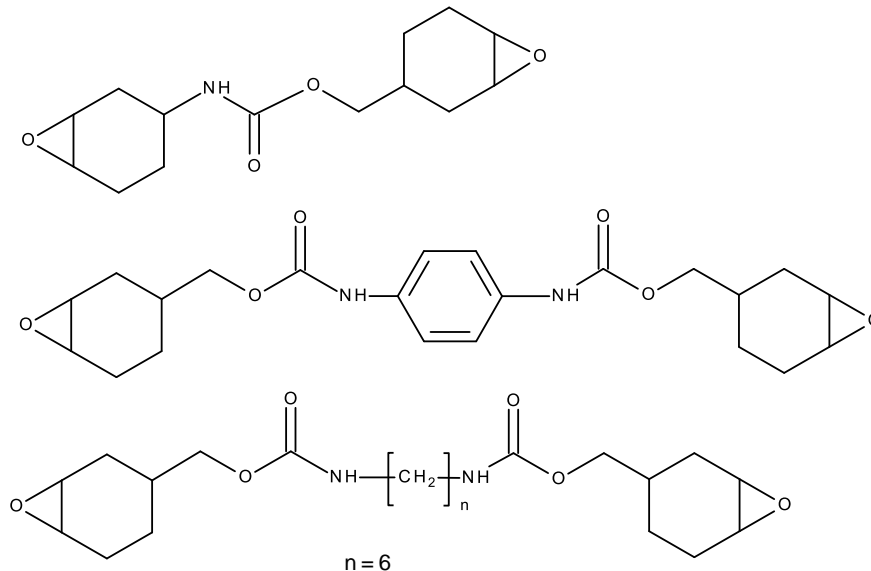
## Introduction of thermolabile groups

Temperature

Carbamates and carbonates as thermolabile groups:

- Mainly used for epoxy resins as encapsulation materials in microelectronics.
- Networks decompose when heated between 200 °C and 250 °C.

Carbamates:



Magnetic fields

## Heating in the magnetic field

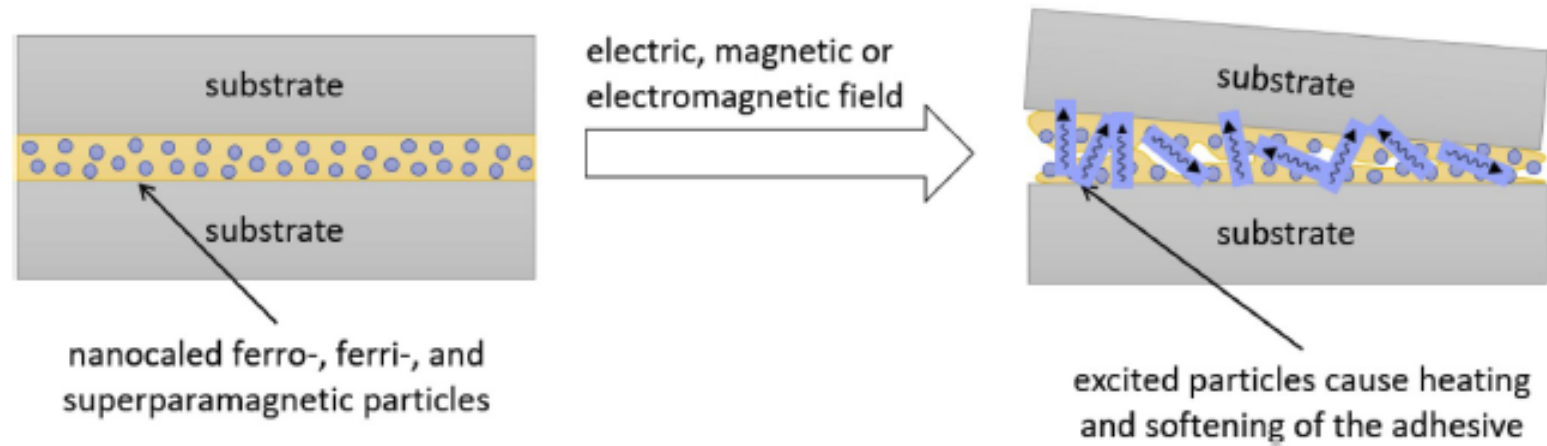


Fig. 18. Concept of magnetically induced debonding (on the basis of Ref [30]).

BANDL, Christine; KERN, Wolfgang; SCHLÖGL, Sandra. Adhesives for "debonding-on-demand": Triggered release mechanisms and typical applications. *International Journal of Adhesion and Adhesives*, 2020, 99. Jg., S. 102585.



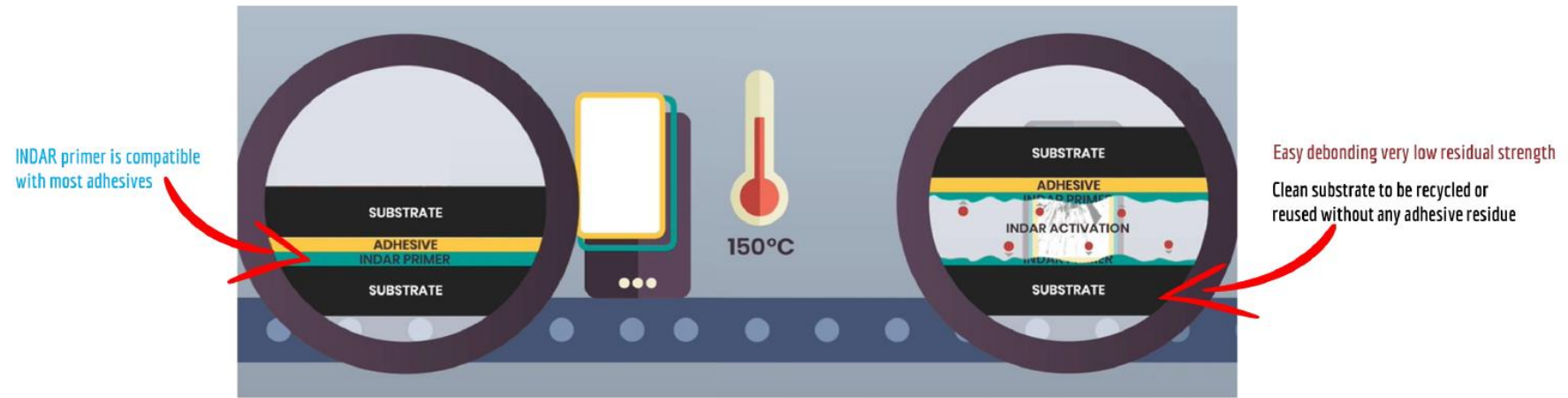
# Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants: 'Debonding on Demand'

## Use of modified Primers



### DEBONDING ON DEMAND INDAR PRIMER

Temperature



<https://rescoll.fr/debonding-2/>

No effect on the high mechanical properties of the adhesives during service life

Once activated, debonding is irreversible and separation can be done at lower temperatures

No activation during product lifecycle

Source: Rescoll



## Debonding for Improved Mechanical Tooling

Electricity

Modified hot melt adhesive

Debonding at combination of 48 V and 65°C with clean adhesive failure

Debonding conditions adjustable and transfer to other kind of adhesives

Works only for metallic substrates



Source: IFAM



Thank you for your attention

# Contact

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technik und Angewandte  
Materialforschung IFAM

# Agenda

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- 11:30 Close of the webinar





Mr Ive Vanderreydt

Circular Economy Expert, VITO NV

## The circular economy potential of reversible bonding in smartphones



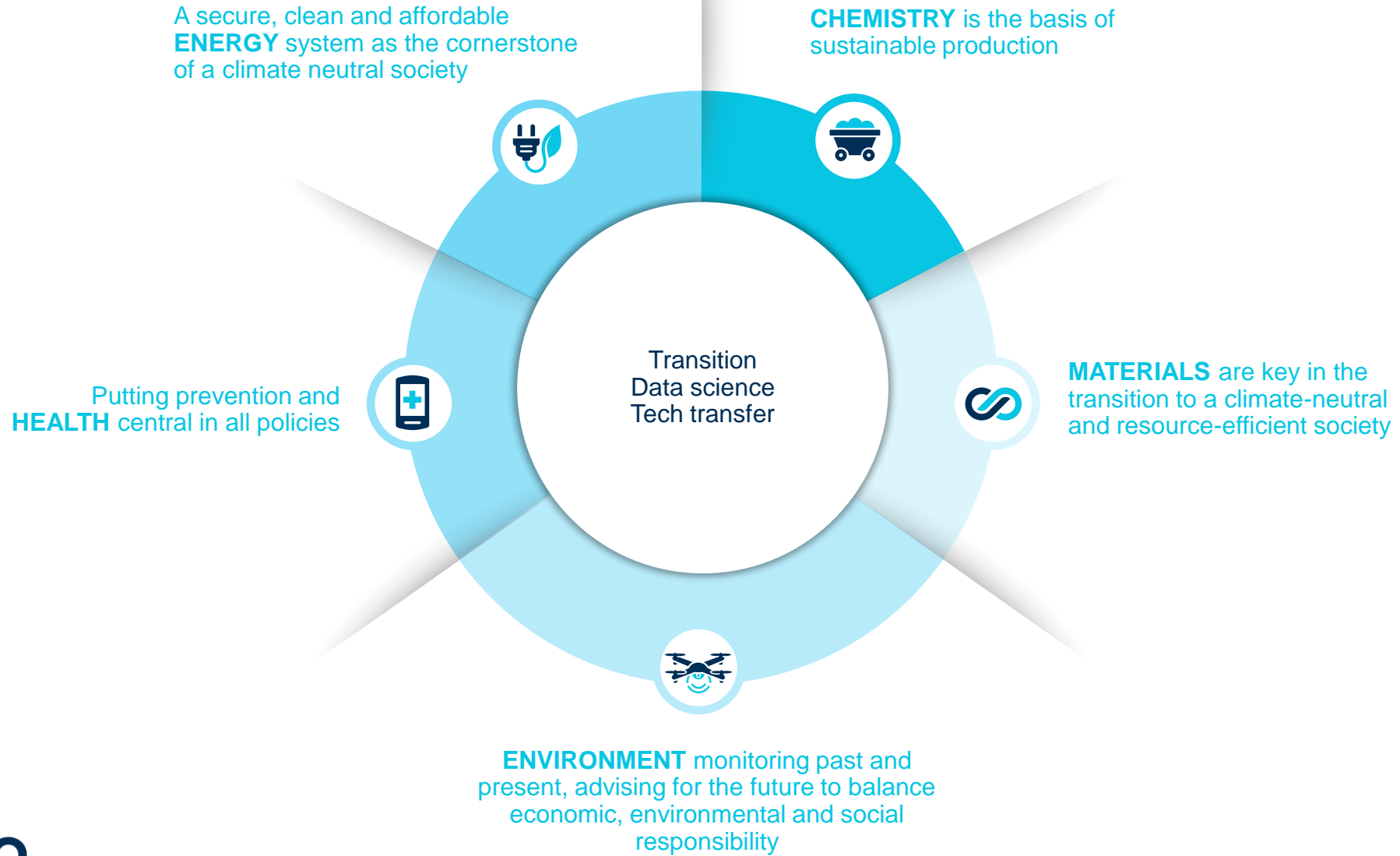
# Outline

- Intro to Circular Bonding Project
- Reversible bonding for a smartphone case
  - Approach
  - Results
- Demonstrators

# Turning fundamental research into solutions

Creating value and increased competitiveness for companies and governments







# We are VITO

In 2022



**1048**  
employees



**47**  
nationalities



**237M€**  
revenues



**24**  
patents/year



**281**  
publications



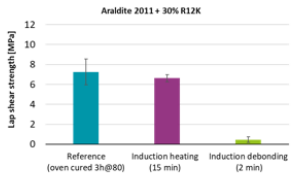
**11/3**  
11 sites on  
3 continents

# Intro to Circular Bonding Project

- What Reversible adhesive bonding technology and circular economy
- How Experimental data / Technology Selection tools / Business cases / ...
- Objective Inform and demonstrate to activate industry, in order to create technology adoption

## WP1 Project management

### WP2 Reversibele verlijmingstechnologie



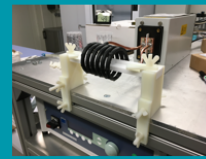
### WP3 Circular bonding design Toolkit

Material	Mechanical	Operational parameters	Operational maintenance	Other functionalities
Material: Araldite 2011 + 30% R12K	Mechanical properties: Modulus, Strength, Elongation, etc.	Operational parameters: Temperature, Time, Power, etc.	Operational maintenance: Cleaning, Repairs, etc.	Other functionalities: Adhesion, etc.
RESULTS				
Material: Araldite 2011 + 30% R12K	Mechanical properties: Modulus, Strength, Elongation, etc.	Operational parameters: Temperature, Time, Power, etc.	Operational maintenance: Cleaning, Repairs, etc.	Other functionalities: Adhesion, etc.

### WP4 Het circulair potentieel van reversibel verlijmen



### WP5 Demonstratoren



## WP6 Disseminatie - demonstratie - valorizatieopvolging

### Partners:

- Flanders Make (coordinator)
- VITO
- BIL

VLAIO COOCK project  
[www.circularbonding.be](http://www.circularbonding.be)

# **CE potential of reversible bonding of a smartphone:**

a theoretical case study

# Waste management versus circular economy

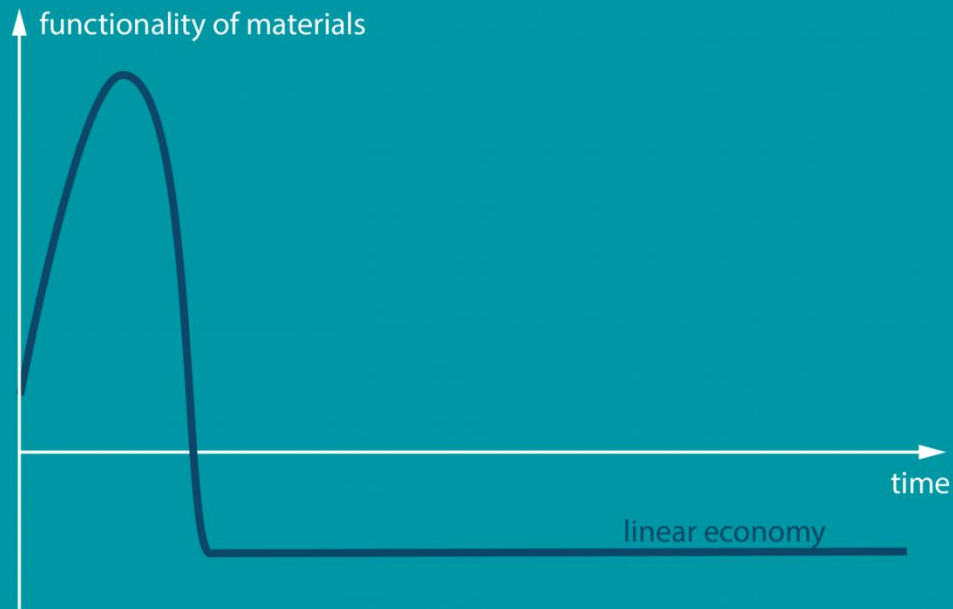


\*As a minimum, waste should be disposed at a "controlled dump," which includes site selection, controlled access, and where practical, compaction of waste. Incineration requires a complimentary sanitary landfill, as bottom ash, non-combustibles and by-passed waste needs to be landfilled.

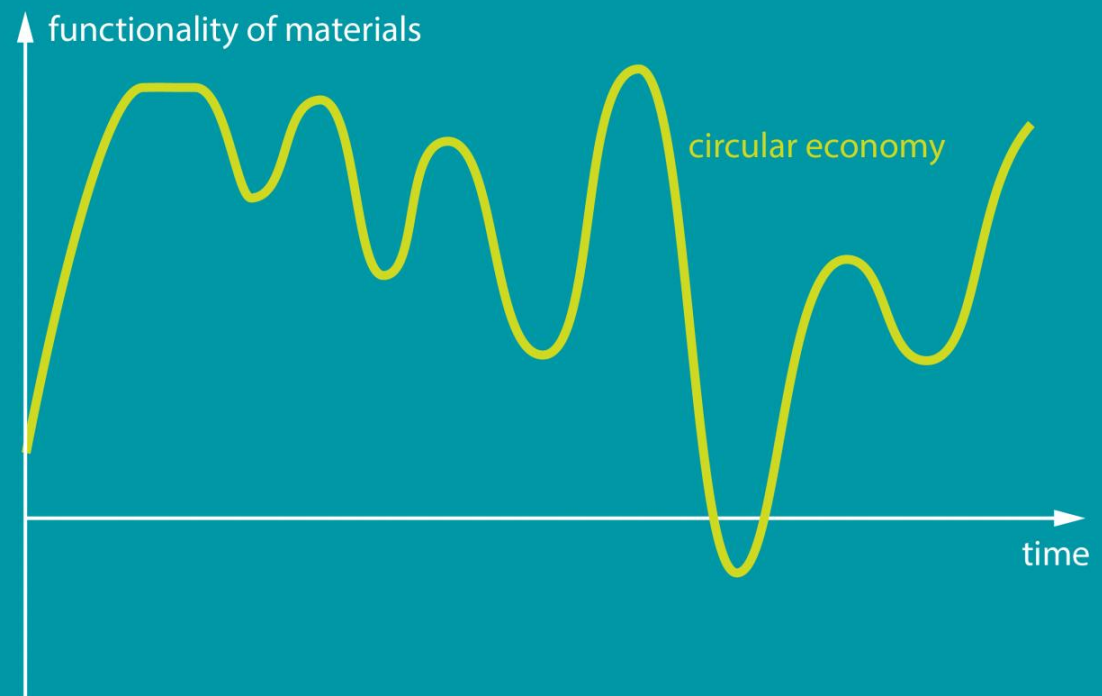
A circular economy aims to maintain the value of products, materials and resources for as long as possible by returning them into the product cycle at the end of their use, while minimising the generation of waste. The fewer products we discard, the less materials we extract, the better for our environment.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/circular-economy>


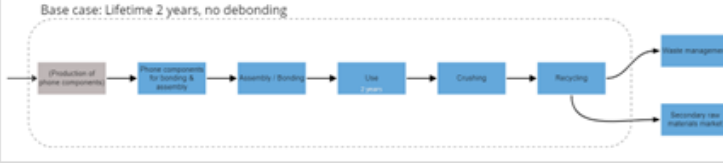

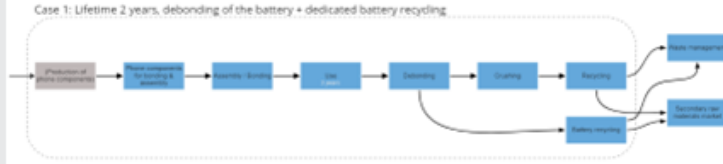

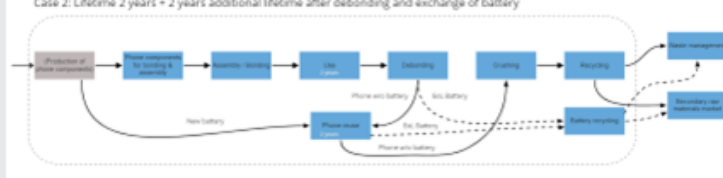






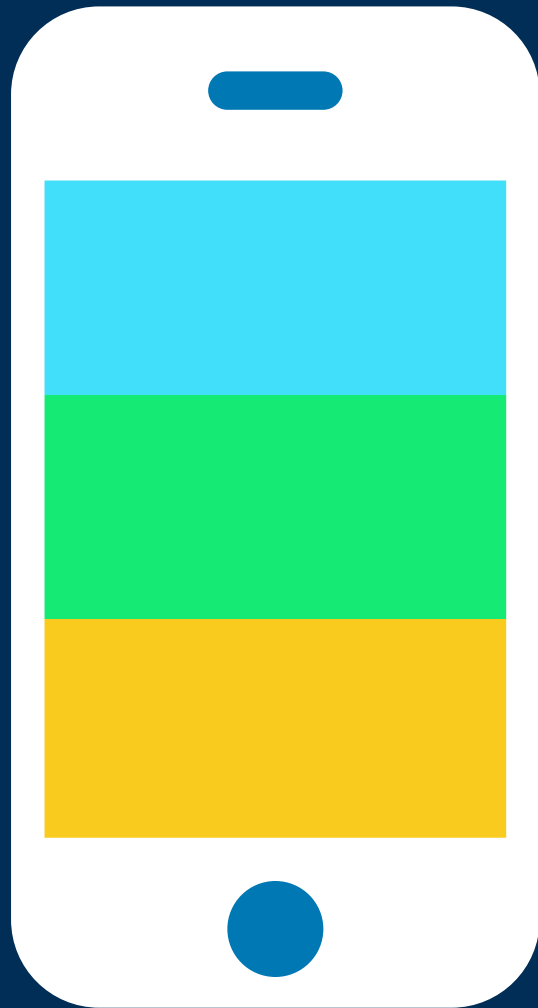
**CE = preservation of  
functionality over time**



# Three different circular scenarios are investigated for the debonding of a smartphone battery...

Scenario	Description		Process chart
<b>a</b> No debonding + recycling (baseline)	Smartphone is used for 2 years and then recycled (as a whole – given no debonding). An additional new smartphone is bought and again discarded and recycled after 2 years		
<b>b</b> Debonding & separate battery recycling	Smartphone is used for 2 years then debonded and battery and rest of the phone are recycled separately. An additional new smartphone is bought and again discarded and recycled after 2 years, with debonding and recycling the battery of the second phone as well.		
<b>c</b> Debonding & exchange of battery	Smartphone is used for 2 years then the battery is replaced and the smartphone (with new battery) is used for another 2 years. The battery of the second phone is also debonded and recycled separately.		
<b>d</b> Debonding & maintenance	Smartphone is used for 4 years (thanks to good maintenance). After 4 years, the battery is debonded and separately recycled.		

...from three different perspectives.



**Functionality**



**Environmental**



**Economic**



# Key takeaways

## Functionality

- Higher circularity = higher preservation of functionality
- Higher recycling rates do not necessarily lead to higher functionality preservation



## Environmental



## Economic



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## Environmental

- Battery makes up only minor part of total impact (PCB is the environmental hotspot)
- Scenarios avoiding production of an additional smartphone (c & d) showing significant gains



## Economic



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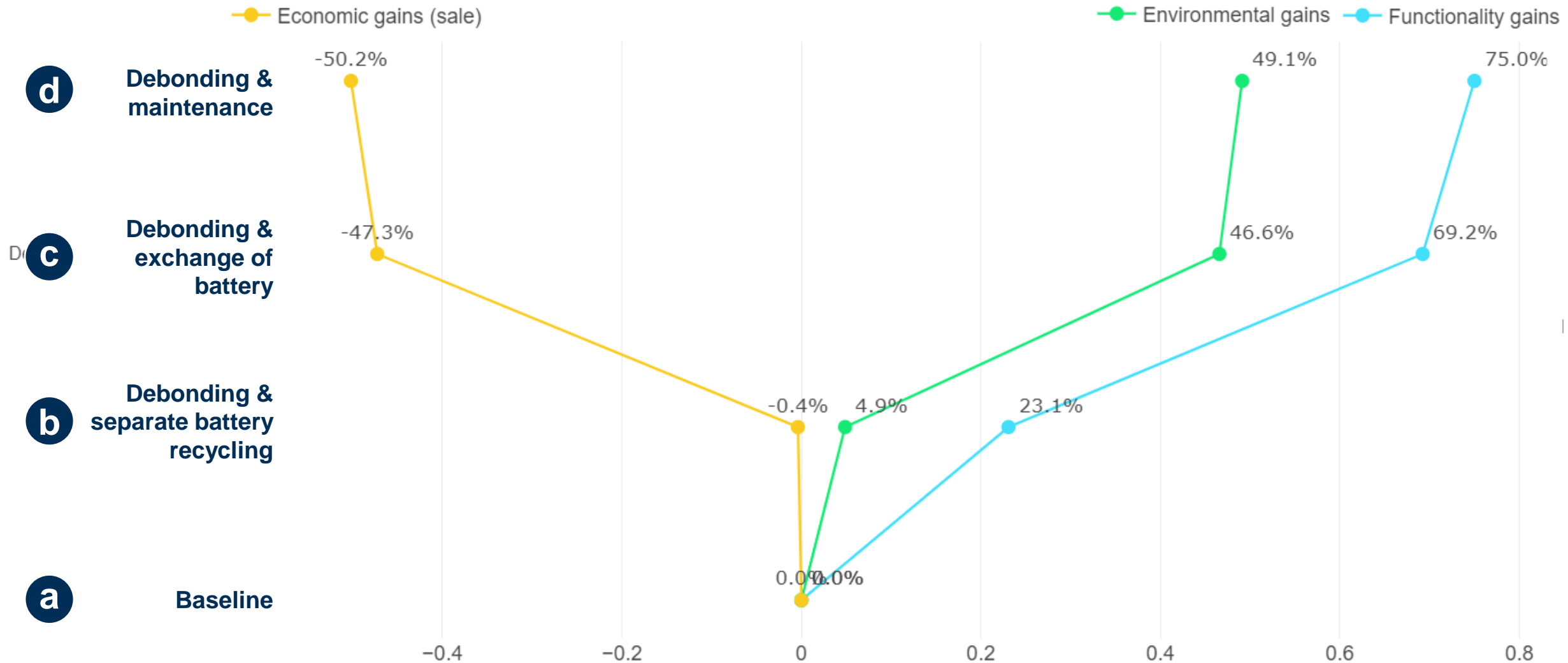
## Economic

- Bonding and debonding make up only a minor fraction of total lifecycle costs
- In a linear system sale is more profitable, for circular strategies leasing



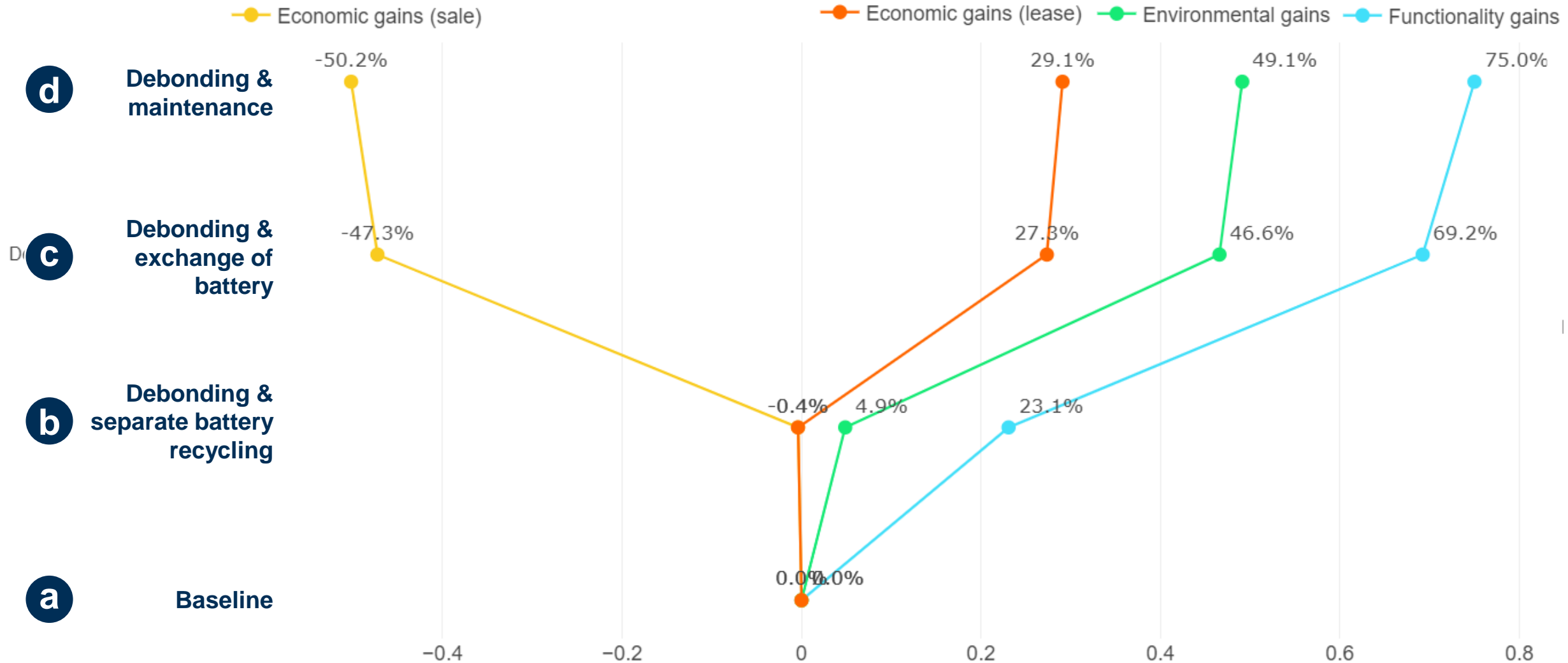
# Trade-off between functionality and environmental gains and economic gains...

Summary smartphone case study results



# Trade-off between functionality and environmental gains and economic gains **solved by introducing circular business models**

Summary smartphone case study results





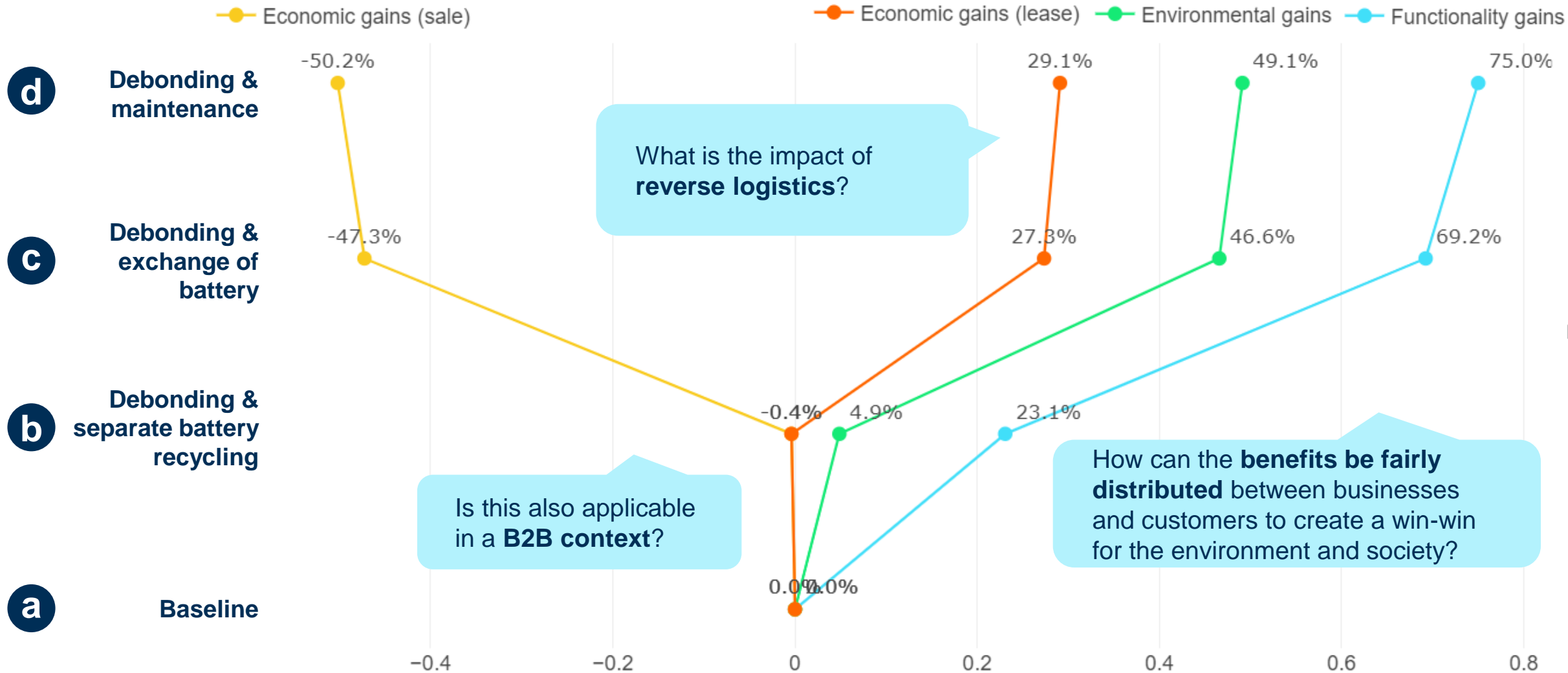
# Trade-off between functionality and environmental gains

Which **policy instruments** can be used to trigger a similar outcome?

What about **customers'** preference for sale over lease?

Case study results

ins solved by intro business models



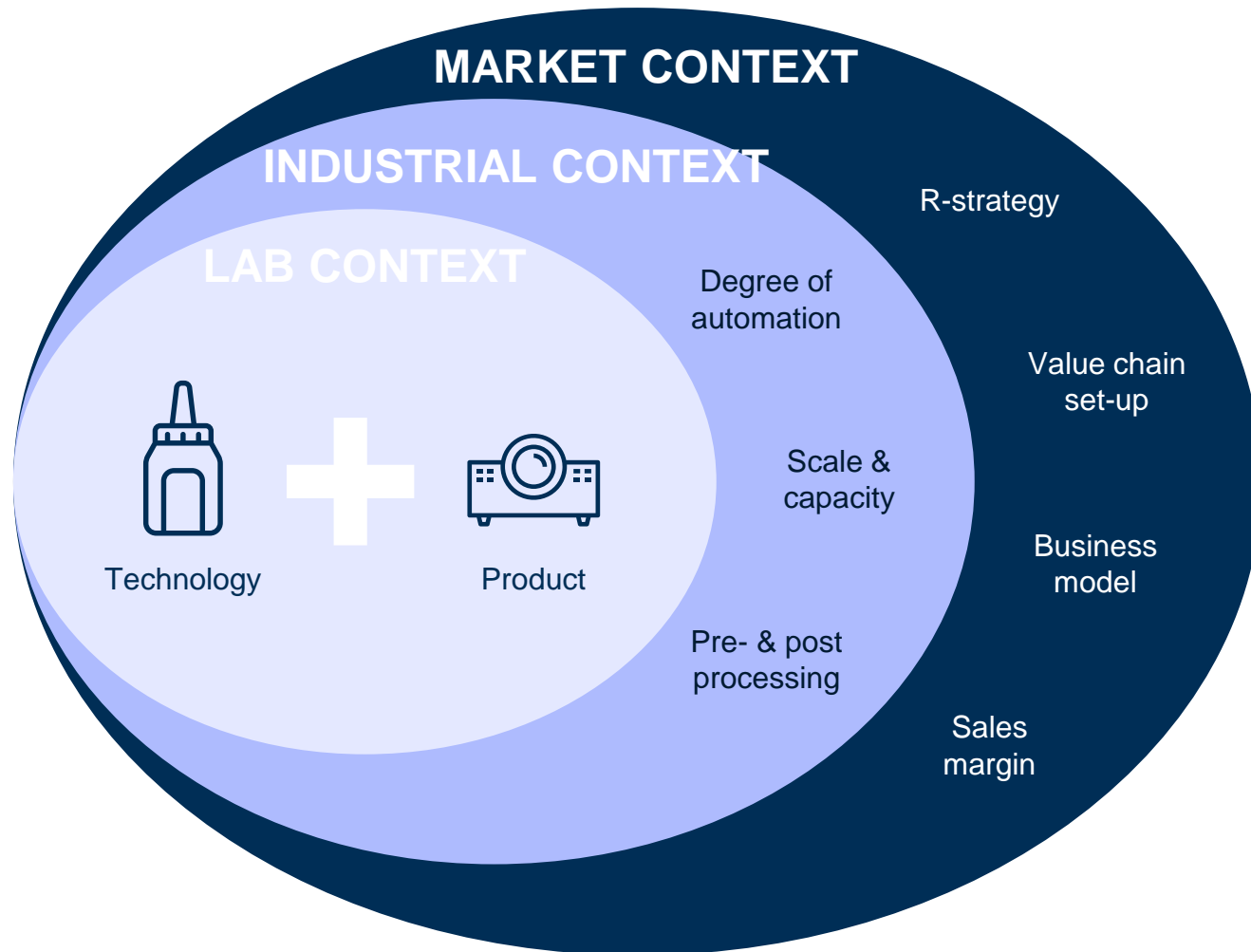
What is the impact of reverse logistics?

Is this also applicable in a B2B context?

How can the **benefits be fairly distributed** between businesses and customers to create a win-win for the environment and society?

# Circularity assessment of demonstrators

## → in a certain market context



- Key degrees of freedom in **lab context**:
  - **Technology**, e.g. induction, convection, TEP... or a combination
  - **Product**, e.g. Projector + lens + adhesive used
- Key degrees of freedom in **industrial context**:
  - **Degree of automation**, e.g. automated to manual
  - **Scale & capacity**, e.g. max. products / debonding cycle
  - **Pre- & post processing**, e.g. (type of) cleaning required after debonding
- Key degrees of freedom in **market context**:
  - **R-strategy**, e.g. Repair, Reuse, Recycle...
  - **Value chain set-up**, e.g. reverse logistics, partner responsible for debonding, partner responsible for recycling / repair...
  - **Business model**, e.g. sale, lease, maintenance contract...
  - **Sales margin**, e.g. sales price, lease contract set-up, margin on repair / recycle...

# Generic demonstrators

## 1. Automotive/transport

- GFRP & metal (cfr chassis)
- Large surface
- Fatigue, sun, temperatuur
- BC: less production failure



## 2. Equipment manufacturing

- Glass & aluminum
- Small surface (local debonding)
- Temperature, vibrations
- BC: Remanufacturing (reuse of component(s))



## 1. Technological demonstration

## 2. Product-Company-Value Chain-Market Perspective

## 3. Circularity aspects (material flows, business model, environmental benefits)

# More information



[www.circularbonding.be](http://www.circularbonding.be)



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# Agenda

- 10:30 FEICA introduction & regulatory context  
*Mr Dimitris Soutzoukis, Senior Manager Regulatory Affairs, FEICA*
- 10:35 Adhesives and sealants' unique properties in the electronics sector  
*Dr Annett Linemann, Director Technology Outlook & Sustainability, H.B. Fuller, Chair FEICA Electronics Technical Task Force*
- 10:50 Disassembly of electronics and possible adaptations of adhesives and sealants for reusability, repairability and recyclability of electronics 'Debonding on Demand'  
*Dr Matthias Popp, Group Leader Adhesive Formulation, Fraunhofer Institute*
- 11:05 The circular economy potential of reversible bonding in smartphones  
*Mr Ive Vanderreydt, Circular Economy Expert, VITO NV*
- 11:20 **Q&A moderated by Mr Dimitrios Soutzoukis**
- 11:30 Close of the webinar

## Q&A

- Please use the chat box if you have a question
- Questions in the chat box will be covered as we go along
- In case we don't have sufficient time during the Q&A session to address your question, please feel free to send your question to [info@feica.eu](mailto:info@feica.eu)



**Dimitrios Soutzoukis**

Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager, FEICA

# THANK YOU

Interested in future FEICA webinars ?

<https://www.feica.eu/information-center/events-conferences/upcoming-events>

Other interests or questions ?

[info@feica.eu](mailto:info@feica.eu)