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PRESS RELEASE

## **26 companies present R-Cycle at K 2022: digital product passport enables circular economy for plastic products**

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R-Cycle - the digital product passport for plastic products - enables all stakeholders in the value chain to easily exchange recycling-relevant information in an open standard format across company boundaries and make it accessible for various applications, such as improved waste sorting. A total of 26 leading companies and organizations will present R-Cycle at K 2022 as part of a joint booth in the Circular Economy Forum (OA 16 / CE 07).

Dr. Benedikt Brenken, Director R-Cycle, explains, "More and more leading companies along the entire value chain are relying on R-Cycle and benefiting from the added value of standardized data exchange along the life cycle of plastic products. At K 2022, we will be showing a wide variety of applications and product samples that have already been manufactured in high volumes and whose data can be accessed via automated digital product passports."

Looking at today's waste streams, recyclable products - especially plastic packaging - cannot be sorted with sufficient accuracy for high-quality recycling. With R-Cycle, production machines read and record relevant data in a digital product passport, route it through the value chain, and make it retrievable via appropriate marking (e.g., QR codes or digital watermarks) on semi-finished and final products. In this way, waste sorting lines can easily identify recyclable

packaging and form recycling-friendly and single-variety fractions. This is the basis for obtaining high-quality recyclates and building a functioning circular economy.

In addition to improving product sustainability, manufacturers also increase their process efficiency and product quality by using the digital product passport. Accurate information about source materials accelerates and optimizes production, while capturing proprietary product characteristics adds value for customers in the downstream value chain.

"Data exchange is the key to an efficient circular economy," Dr. Brenken adds. "The data is already available at the individual stations of the value chain. They just need to be transmitted, aggregated and made usable via an open standard. This is exactly what we offer with R-Cycle."

R-Cycle was developed to market maturity by various technology companies and organizations along the entire lifecycle of plastic products and can be networked with all systems (e.g., PPS, ERP) and production facilities: from film, blow molding or injection molding machines to processing, packaging and filling machines to waste sorting and recycling lines. The traceability technology behind R-Cycle is based on GS1 standards - the leading global network for cross-industry process development and a founding member of R-Cycle.

R-Cycle is an interoperable infrastructure offered as software-as-a-service. In addition, an open community exists for interested companies, institutions or stakeholders who want to use, support or further develop R-Cycle. Members gain access to a broad network of application-experienced partners and know-how in digitalization and sustainability. The goal is to realize individual applications, generate benefits by networking the value chain and jointly establish R-Cycle

worldwide. Interested companies can obtain all information about membership at:

**[www.r-cycle.org/en/community](http://www.r-cycle.org/en/community)**

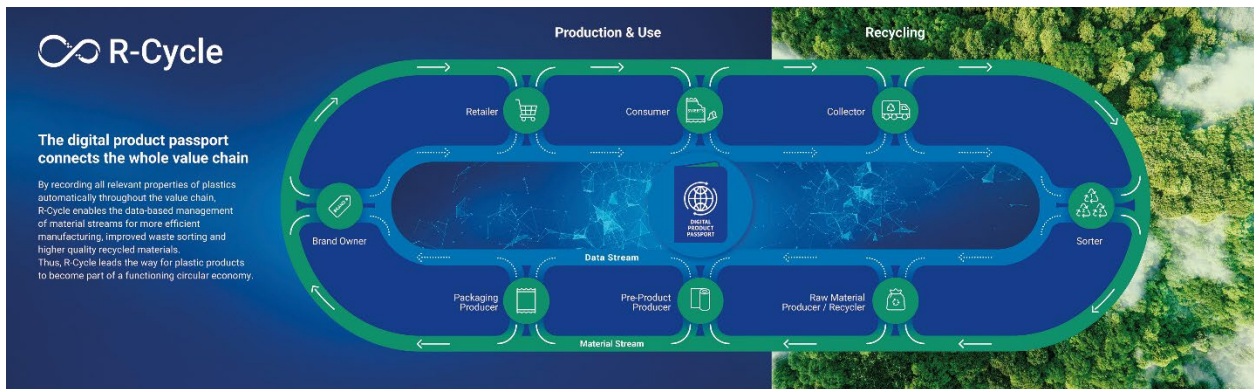
R-Cycle was awarded the prestigious "Sustainability Award" in the category "Driving the Circular Economy" in September 2022. The award was presented during this year's "Sustainable Packaging Summit" in Lisbon. The event is the leading international forum for sustainable packaging.

**[www.r-cycle.org](http://www.r-cycle.org)**

**[www.linkedin.com/company/r-cycle](https://www.linkedin.com/company/r-cycle)**

**[www.twitter.com/RCycle5](https://www.twitter.com/RCycle5)**





R-Cycle captures all recycling-relevant data along the entire value chain via digital product passports.

Picture: R-Cycle



The digital product passport can be accessed via the digital watermarks hidden in the printed image of this All-PE pouch.

Picture: R-Cycle