**PRESS RELEASE**

**10M€ to Turn Lignin into Valuable Products for a European Circular Economy Model**

LIBERATE, a European project carried out by an international consortium, received a grant from European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme to *deliver a pilot scale electrochemical plant to demonstrate the commercial opportunities of converting low cost lignin feedstock in high value bio-sustainable chemicals.*

**Barcelona, 18th of October 2018** —The European Union has awarded a grant of 10 million Euro to [LIBERATE](https://projects.leitat.org/liberate/), a Horizon 2020 collaborative project carried out by an international consortium led by [Leitat](http://projects.leitat.org/). The project partners are research centres and universities such as the [Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft](https://www.fraunhofer.de/en.html), [TNO](https://www.tno.nl/en/), [SINTEF](https://www.sintef.no/), [Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz](https://www.uni-mainz.de/eng/), [University of Alicante](https://www.ua.es/en/), large enterprises like [Evonik](https://corporate.evonik.com/en/), [Perstorp](https://www.perstorp.com/), and [Oxiris](http://www.oxirischemicals.com/es-es/), and SME’s including [CHIMAR](http://www.chimarhellas.com), [Megara](http://www.megararesins.com/), [NX Filtration](https://www.nxfiltration.com/), [Condias](https://condias.de/), [ENSO](http://ensoinnovation.com/), [Idener](https://www.idener.es/), and [Gate2Growth](http://gate2growth.com/). The project was officially launched on the 10th of October in Barcelona at Leitat’s headquarters.

LIBERATE will deliver a pilot scale electrochemical plant to demonstrate the commercial opportunities of converting low cost lignin, extracted from biomass such as wood, in high value bio-sustainable chemicals. Currently, lignin is being burnt for energy purposes, but LIBERATE aims to change that. The project will extract basic chemicals for the European industry to produce valuable products such as polymers or antioxidants, currently coming from petrochemical industry.

“With LIBERATE, Europe goes a step further towards a circular economy model. It will make the industry less dependent from imported oil and reduce the impact of industries on the environment by reducing CO2 emissions and increase energy efficiency” says Angel Valdivielso, Project Technical Manager at Leitat.

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