Sustainable Chemistry on Stage: Global Start-ups Drive Change at Impact Festival

Ten finalists of the ISC3 Innovation Challenge 2025 compete for a total of €25,000 in prize money in the finals at the ISC3 Investor Forum

Ten international start-ups will present their groundbreaking solutions in the field of Sustainable Chemistry at the **ISC3 Investor Forum 2025**. The seventh edition will be held as part of the Impact Festival **on 26–27 November 2025** at Messe Frankfurt. The event will culminate with the **Award Ceremony of the ISC3 Innovation Challenge** – this year dedicated to innovations in Sustainable Chemistry and Climate Change. The winner will receive the **main prize of €15,000**, alongside **two "Special Impact Awards" of €5,000 each**. Hosted by the **International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3)**, the Investor Forum promises an inspiring two-day programme highlighting how Sustainable Chemistry can drive transformative change across industries and regions. Visitors will discover a range of innovations advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation – from chemical recycling of hard-to-recycle plastics in Luxembourg and Japan, to climate-smart building panels in Azerbaijan, long-range electric vehicles in Bangladesh, and women-empowering biomass solutions in Zambia. Other breakthroughs include bio-butadiene production (to produce synthetic rubber, plastics, and everyday products) in the Netherlands, low-carbon concrete in Ghana, renewable aviation fuels in Germany, and soil-enhancing nanofibers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Harnessing Impact Investment for Sustainable Chemistry Innovation

The ISC3 Investor Forum connects start-ups, scientists, investors, and decision-makers to foster collaboration and investment in Sustainable Chemistry. "We are excited to host the ISC3 Investor Forum at Impact Festival for the second time," said Dr. Alexis Bazzanella, Director of the ISC3 Innovation Hub. "With this year's topic, 'Sustainable Chemistry and Climate Change,' the forum showcases start-ups tackling challenges like waste, energy supply, and carbon emissions, providing innovative solutions for a sustainable future."

Over two days, visitors can look forward to **pitches from ten global start-ups**, **an investor talk**, and **a masterclass on Identifying Sustainability in Chemical Innovation.**

Programme Highlights

26 November – 10:40 – 11:45, Innovation Stage

- Pitches from ten finalists of the ISC3 Innovation Challenge
- Meet all start-ups at the **ISC3 Booth (Forum Messe Frankfurt, Level 0, Booth CR1)**

26 November – 15:15 – 16:15, Masterclass Room 3

- ISC3 Masterclass: "Identifying Sustainability in Chemical Innovation" – interactive session introducing the ISC3 Sustainable Chemistry Key Characteristics with case studies

27 November – 15:55 – 16:40, Transformation Stage

- Investor Talk: "Financing Innovative Start-ups in the Chemical Sector"
- Award Ceremony for the **ISC3 Innovation Challenge 2025** (€25,000)
- Audience Award announcement

Vote for the Audience Award!

Be part of the decision: attend the pitches of the ISC3 Innovation Challenge finalists on **Innovation Stage** on 26 November and vote for your favourite start-up via the **ISC3 Audience Award poll link**. The winner will be announced on 27 **November, 2025**, during the Award Ceremony on the Transformation Stage.

About the ISC3 Investor Forum

The **ISC3 Investor Forum** is the annual flagship event of the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre, dedicated to advancing Sustainable Chemistry innovation through impact investment and global collaboration.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet innovators shaping the future of chemistry: **2 days, 10 start-ups from 9 countries, 1 mission – Sustainable Chemistry for a Sustainable World.**

For more information and tickets, visit **ISC3 Investor Forum** and the **Impact Festival website**.

The 2025 ISC3 Innovation Challenge Finalists
(Alphabetical order)

AC Biode (Japan/Luxembourg)
AC Biode's Plastalyst enables low-temperature, solvent-free chemical recycling of hard-to-recycle plastics into useful outputs like monomers, hydrogen, and methanol.

CLIMASEL (Azerbaijan)
CLIMASEL develops bio-based phase-change material panels that absorb heat during the day and release it at night, helping regulate indoor temperatures and reduce cooling energy use.

ClimEtSan-OnTheGround GmbH (Germany)

ClimEtSan-OnTheGround implements circular climate projects that integrate clean cooking, eco-sanitation, and biochar fertilizer production, while enabling carbon offsetting (emission compensation through external projects) or insetting (emission reduction within a company's own supply chain) for global companies.

ETB Global B.V. (Netherlands)
ETB developed a process to produce bio-butadiene, a key building block for plastics, rubber and other chemicals compositions, with high conversion and selectivity from bioethanol.

Palki Motors Limited (Bangladesh)
Palki Motors designs and manufactures long-range electric cars featuring innovative fast battery swap technology to offer affordable, sustainable urban mobility in Bangladesh.

Power2Polymers (Germany)
Power2Polymers develops cost-effective, more sustainable high-performance polymers by integrating a novel building block (POM), cutting carbon footprints by up to 40%.

Spark e-Fuels GmbH (Germany)
Spark e-Fuels produces renewable, carbon-neutral synthetic fuels using renewable electricity and CO_2 to accelerate the defossilisation of aviation.

Theseus Development (Ghana)
Theseus Development produces geopolymer-based concrete, delivering low-carbon and high-performance building materials for affordable and resilient housing.

VerdiSol (United Arab Emirates)
VerdiSol transforms agri-food waste into nanofibers to boost soil health, water retention, and sustainable farming in arid regions.

Virgin Green Renewable Energy Limited (Zambia)
Virgin Green converts biomass waste into charcoal briquettes, improved cook-stoves, and wood vinegar, empowering local women entrepreneurs while reducing CO_2 emissions and deforestation.

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About ISC3

The International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre promotes Sustainable Chemistry for a sustainable world. ISC3 supports the chemical industry and chemical-related sectors in their transformation process through sustainable, innovative approaches from Sustainable Chemistry. The goal is a circular economy that integerates multiple aspects of sustainability throughout the entire product life cycle and encourages a shift in stakeholder behaviour. To advance the dialogue between different sectors and actors worldwide, including Europe and other regions as well as emerging and developing countries, ISC3 follows a multi-stakeholder approach with the networking of policymakers, public and private sectors, education, science and society. It contributes to international chemicals policy, develops professional and academic training programs, advises companies, and promotes start-ups and research. Founded in 2017 by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Protection, Nature Conservation und Nuclear Safety (BMUKN) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), the centre is implemented by the German Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ; Englisch: Society for International Cooperation) and supported by the Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (DECHEMA e.V.) as ISC3 Innovation Hub. **www.isc3.org**