CatchBio Newsletter – Summer 2017

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Save the Date: 16 November CatchBio celebrates!

On 16 November 2016 the festive, open and international CatchBio symposium will be held in former sugar factory SugarCity, Halfweg, the Netherlands. 10 years ago, CatchBio initiated an ambitious research program in the field of catalytic biomass conversion, focused on processing the various (non-food) components present in biomass in useful fuels, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. At this final symposium, top researchers from the Netherlands and abroad come together to celebrate 10 years of excellent research, and to discuss and reflect on the science and people who made CatchBio possible.
More about programme and register >

The balance sheet of CatchBio: Collaboration has brought us a lot

During the last decade, professor Erik Heeres witnessed biomass conversion change from a scientific rarity into a proper field. The CatchBio programme enabled this development. Heeres enjoyed this a lot, as collaboration is what he thrives on. "CatchBio has speeded up knowledge development in this field considerably."
Read complete interview with Erik Heeres >

CatchBio 4th phase initiated

CatchBio has successfully implemented four additional projects in 2015. Several of the consortium's private partners showed their continued interest in catalytic biomass conversion by additional investments, to match Top Sector Chemistry funds. The four granted projects have a total budget of almost k€ 500, and focus on the conversion of lignin and other carbohydrates into value adding products.
Read more about the projects >

CatchBio 'value creation' competition

During the CatchBio meeting held in Utrecht on 19th January, the post-docs Anand Narani (University of Amsterdam), Yann Le Brech (Utrecht University) and Shilpa Agarwal (University of Groningen), won the 'Value creation' competition. The three researchers made a short film that translates the CatchBio programme and its results to the general public. The team competed with six other post-doc teams in describing the socio-economic impact and key results of the CatchBio programme.

Read more >

Anand Narani

Shirpa Agarwal

Yann Le Brech

CatchBio partners BASF and Avantium intend joint-venture

BASF and Avantium announce signing a letter of intent to establish a joint venture for the production and marketing of furandicarboxylic acid (FDCA), as well as marketing of polyethylenefuranoate (PEF). FDCA is the essential chemical building block for the production of PEF, and can be produced from sustainable resources.

Read more about the initiative >

CatchBio Research Results

New Catalytic Reactions for the Conversion of Alkenes – Thesis Sébastien Perdriau

On the 5th of February, CatchBio researcher Sébastien Perdriau defended his thesis entitled: 'New catalytic reactions for the conversion of alkenes, from cashew nut shell liquid to unsaturated nitriles' at the University of Groningen. He was supervised by Prof. Hans de Vries, Prof. Erik Heeres, and Dr. Edwin Otten.
The research of Sébastien Perdriau dealt with the development of new catalytic conversion of cashew nut shell liquid towards value added fine chemicals, including the production of hydroxystyrene type molecules. In addition, his research led to the identification of new catalytic reaction mechanisms for conversion of alkenes.

Read thesis >

Boron Catalysis in Organic Chemistry – Thesis Tobias Müller

On June 17, CatchBio researcher Tobias Müller defended his thesis entitled: 'Boron catalysis in Organic Chemistry' at the Delft University of Technology. He was supervised by Prof. Isabel Arends and Prof. Ulf Hanefeld. Müller's thesis focused on direct transformation of alcohols and its derivatives into functionalized organic compounds. This is considered to be an important synthetic route for the future production of medicines, flavor and fragrance compounds, and polymers.

More information >