EU-Japan funded project LAURELIN showcases successful results for e-fuel production at its Final Conference

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 7 October 2025 – After four years of collaborative research between the European Union and Japan, the LAURELIN project concluded its work with a Final Conference titled *"Advancing e-fuel production innovation for sustainable transport".* The event highlighted the project's scientific breakthroughs and celebrated the close cooperation between European and Japanese researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders.

During the event, LAURELIN consortium members presented key technological results, including:

- *Development and potential applications of Microwave-assisted Fixed-bed, Magnetic Induction reactor, and non-thermal Plasma reactors for CO_2 hydrogenation to methanol;*
- *Innovative characterization techniques for CO_2 conversion processes;* and
- *Foresight into the potential of the LAURELIN project.*

A roundtable discussion on "***Renewable fuels production as a key to further decarbonising the transport sector"*** gathered experts from academia and industry, who stressed the importance of **intensified international collaboration**, the **role of e-fuels** in the energy mix and **simplified procedures** to enable scientific progress.

Roundtable discussion speakers included: **Prof. Dr. Joris Thybaut** (Ghent University), **Dr. Pascual Oña Burgos** (ITQ), **Ms Marlene Hermfisse** (eFuel alliance) and **Ms Felicia Mester** (The Methanol Institute).

The event also highlighted how, considering the many challenges related to reducing worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, international cooperation among researchers on new e-fuels is essential to urgently find solutions for a more sustainable transport sector.

High-level remarks

H.E. Kazutoshi Aikawa, Ambassador of the Mission of Japan to the European Union, praised the project's success in his opening remarks:

"I am delighted and honoured today to witness the LAURELIN's project achievements over the last 5 years. During this time, I have no doubt that the collaboration between Japanese and European teams have strengthened significantly allowing the research to progress productively… Through collaboration between universities and research institutions, Japan and the European Union play an important role in addressing global changes (and) I look forward to further collaboration in this field." – ***H.E. Aikawa Kazutoshi, ambassador to the Mission of Japan to the European Union***

H.E. Jean-Eric Paquet, Ambassador of the European Union to Japan, echoed these views in a video message live from Tokyo (JP):

"The LAURELIN project really embodies what the technological science and economic relationship between Japan and the European Union is all about, supporting our research capacity using its excellence but also its complementarities…I hope the outcome of the project can now feed into industrial ambitions regarding the topic of renewable e-fuels…and that a follow-up can be envisaged as we are making good progress on Japan's association to Horizon Europe." – ***H.E. Jean-Eric Paquet, EU ambassador to Japan***

Looking ahead

Concluding the event, **Mr. Kazuki Miura**, Deputy Director of the Paris Office of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), underlined the strong ties between Japan and the European Union in research, expressing the hope that the collaboration networks established through LAURELIN will continue to foster innovation and nurture the next generation of research talent.

"Japan and the EU have longstanding and close relationship in the field of science and technology (and) JST highly values the collaboration within the research consortium LAURELIN where Japanese and EU research institutions worked closely together. JST expects that the networks among the researchers nurtured through this project will sustain and be developed in the future, including the fostering of the next generation of research talent," – **Mr. Kazuki Miura, *Deputy Director of the Paris Office of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)***

LAURELIN is a 48-month project involving universities, research organisations and SMEs from Belgium, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). Learn more about the LAURELIN project by visiting our website and watching the project video.

Event pictures

LAURELIN Consortium members & H.E. Mr Aikawa Kazutoshi
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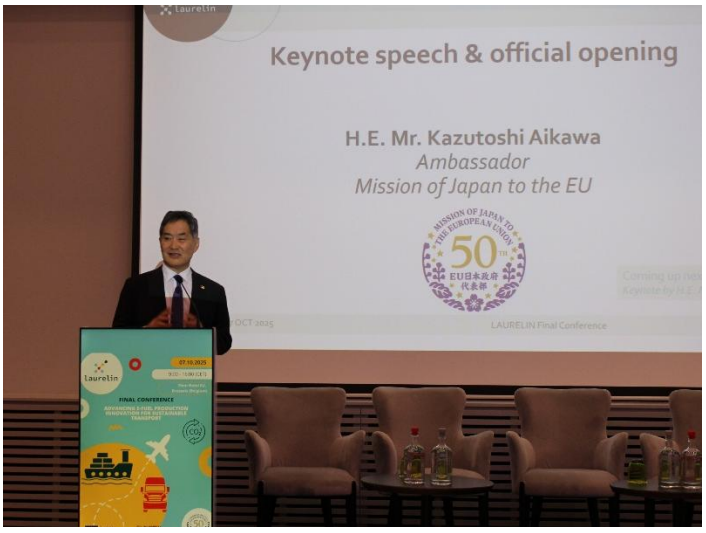

H.E. Mr Aikawa Kazutoshi – Ambassador Mission of Japan to the European Union
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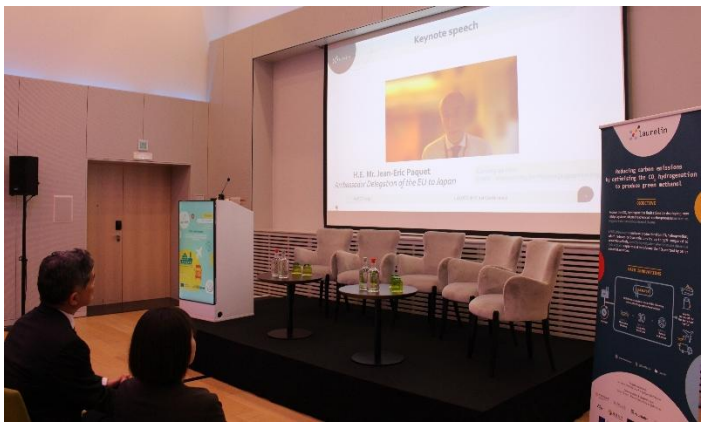

H.E. Mr Jean-Eric Paquet – Ambassador of the European Union to Japan
Video intervention
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More information about the event can be found here.

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Note to the Editors:

LAURELIN is a 48-month project funded by the European Union and Japan. The project is coordinated by AIMPLAS (*Instituto Tecnologico Del Plastico).* The following partners form the project's consortium are:

- AIMPLAS: https://www.aimplas.net/
- Aliénor: https://alienor.eu/
- Instituto de Tecnología Química: https://itq.upv-csic.es/
- Fraunhofer – Institute for Chemical Technology: https://www.ict.fraunhofer.de/en.html
- Process Design Center: https://www.process-design-center.com/
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- University College London: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/
- University of Manchester: https://www.manchester.ac.uk/

Methanol is a biofuel that has many desirable attributes which make it an excellent spark-ignition engine fuel: high octane contribution, easy distillation, lower boiling temperature for better fuel vaporisation and improved efficiency. Methanol obtained from industrial captured CO_2 and green hydrogen can reduce carbon emissions by up to 95% compared to conventional fuels.

Social media:
Twitter: https://twitter.com/LAURELIN_EU
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/laurelin-eu

The **project videos** are available here:
- https://youtu.be/L6f4-K6F7V8
- LAURELIN Project - Final Promo Video

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