

[avniR] News

First edition, June 2011

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Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send you our first newsletter of the [avniR] Platform. Based in Northern France, [avniR] is an initiative of the cd2e, a non-profit expert resource centre dedicated to the promotion of eco-technologies and the development of eco-enterprises.

[avniR] is a resource centre and a collaborative platform that helps organisations develop better products, systems and services through life cycle management, in order to encourage more sustainable production and consumption.

This platform offers services to help integrate Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) into their strategy. To this end we work with clusters, higher education, businesses, laboratories and public authorities at regional, national and international levels. Through these collaborations, we offer advocacy, research, training and support to our members.

We invite you to visit our website www.avniR.org, and feel free to contact us if you want to become a member, be accompanied on a project or meet technical and financial partners for your LCA project.



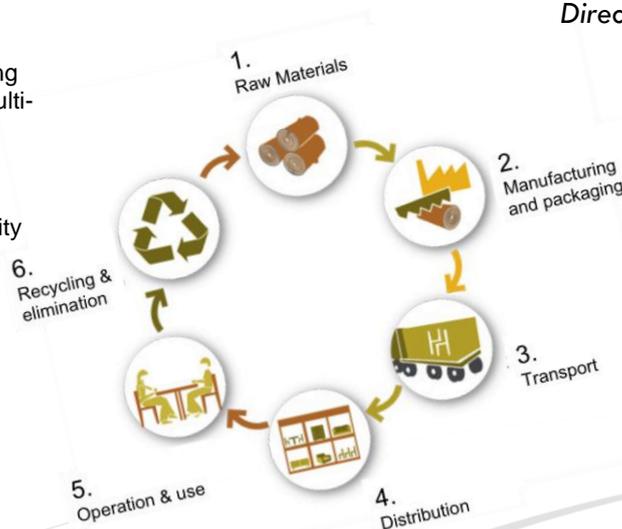
Christian TRAISNEL,
 Director cd2e



What is Life Cycle Analysis?

LCA is a methodology for assessing several environmental impacts (multi-criterion) of a product, service or process, from extraction of raw materials to end of life (multistep).

It enables innovation on functionality and improves the quality of products and services, in anticipation of market expectations and regulation.



Number

17

Is the number of teachers in the Nord-Pas de Calais region, who have pledged to work together at the launch of the [avniR] teaching platform. More info on page 2.



News

Launch of the [avniR] Teaching Platform

On May 13, 2011, fifty teachers and experts attended the launch of the [avniR] Teaching Platform.

The objective of this platform is to **bring the teaching of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and eco-design into all sectors of higher education** in order to provide future professionals with modern decision-making tools in respect of sustainable development.

To do this, we provide members with teaching tools, but also the opportunity to interact with teachers in other disciplines. This promotes the **establishment of multidisciplinary projects**, an approach essential to the LCA methodology.

In addition to understanding how the teaching platform works, participants were treated to a presentation of Valerie Becaert, Deputy Director of the **Interuniversity Research Centre on the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG)**. Valerie came from Montreal to present the latest advances in LCA worldwide and CIRAIG research.

Anne PERWUEZ from the GemTex Laboratory at the French Grande Ecole ENSAIT - one of the leading textile schools in Europe - explained why and how they integrated LCA in their research and teaching. Anne is part of a core group of teachers who have helped develop the [avniR] teaching platform.

17 teachers have already signed the charter of commitment that sets the operating rules of the educational platform. Each member teacher commits to **contribute to the evolution of pedagogical tools and to participate actively in the debates.**

For a copy of the charter of engagement and the complete list of member teachers, please visit

www.avniR.org



- 1/ Valérie BECAERT of the CIRAIG presents the inter-university research and training programme on LCA.
- 2/ Some of the « Founding Teachers »
- 3/ Our intern Romain DEGOT demonstrates the teaching tools available to member teachers on www.avniR.org

To better support businesses, higher education, research and public authorities in the Nord-Pas de Calais, the [avniR] platform is actively engaging in international monitoring and promotion assignments.

International intelligence and partnership activities

17th SETAC Europe LCA Case Studies Symposium
February 28 and March 1, 2011, Budapest

Experts from 19 countries attended the symposium to learn from initiatives, methods and case study results that contribute to a better understanding of the various dimensions concerning what a sustainable lifestyle can look like. 28 examples representing best practices in agro-food, construction, communication and waste management were presented.

The [avniR] platform introduced the European Project CAP'EM, led by cd2e with partners from 5 countries. Under this project, we undertake the LCA of 100 building materials. The goal: improve the production, distribution and use of eco-materials.

9th International Environmental Technologies Trade Show and Conference Americana
March 22 to 24 in Montreal

The [avniR] platform was part of a regional delegation mobilised by the cd2e that included twenty representatives from business and local authorities working in sustainability.

We were able to develop strategic partnerships, and learn more about the North American approach to LCA.

Exchanges with our Québec based colleagues will be facilitated throughout 2011 and 2012 thanks to the Franco-Québécois Funds for Decentralised Cooperation.



Jodie BRICOUT presents the CAP'EM project to our North American colleagues during Americana

CAP'EM

Cycle Assessment Procedure for Eco-Materials



In focus

In each edition of [avniR] News, we will present one of our partners, members, projects and an LCA tool...

Partner

Founded in 2001 at the initiative of the Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, the Interuniversity Research Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG) was created to meet demand from industry and government wishing to develop advanced expertise on sustainable development tools.

CIRAIG gathers seven chairs, three research centres, a research group and a laboratory in major universities of Quebec and Canada in the field of LCA and Life cycle management.

[avniR] met with CIRAIG during their business intelligence mission at the Americana Environmental Technology Trade Show and Conference in March 2011.



An active programme to develop collaborative actions in research and training is underway with regional partners and with the support of the France-Quebec Fund for Decentralised Cooperation.

This has already resulted in a presentation by Valerie Becaert, Deputy Director of the CIRAIG at the launch of the [avniR] teaching platform on May 13 (see page 2).



Project - ACVbat

This project consists in developing and implementing an online course entitled "Process analysis lifecycle. Principles, methodology, examples of application to materials and construction elements" as part of the Virtual University Environment and Sustainable Development (UVED).

Led by ENSIAME (University of Valenciennes and Hainaut Cambrésis) ACVbat is a collaborative project in conjunction with ENSAIT (Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Industries Textiles), University of Lille 1 and [avniR], piloted by Agathe COMBELLES.

Accepted by the scientific council of UVED in December 2010, ACVbat will run from March 2011 to June 2012.

The partners are currently working on the development of course content in order to then launch outreach activities.



The three founders:

The École Polytechnique de Montréal, University of Montréal and HEC Montréal

And seven collaborators: University of Laval, University of Québec in Montréal, University of Québec in Trois-Rivières, University of Québec in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, University of Québec in Chicoutimi, Sherbrooke University and the École de Technologie supérieure

Member

The MAUD cluster was created in 2005 to increase the competitiveness of French companies, by bringing them closer to research laboratories, technical centres and training units around innovative and environmentally friendly collaborative projects. Through its actions in the area of materials, chemistry and green chemistry, the cluster supports the markets for tableware, packaging, the graphics industry and vegetal plastic sectors.

To date, MAUD has followed 120 R&D projects, from the emergence phase to access private and public funding. 38 were funded for a total of 49 million Euros.



MAUD participates actively in the [avniR] platform to structure the assessment of environmental impacts of its projects, and to demonstrate the value of new materials as an environmental solution.

Anne-Valentine DUFFRENE, program manager at MAUD, is the LCA resource person for the packaging industry. In this context, Anne-Valentine was trained in LCA by [avniR] to, as a first step, undertake a strategic analysis of needs of the packaging industry and organise awareness raising actions.



Tool: [avniR] document database

To pool resources among members of [avniR], we have developed a "document database" in the Members Area of our website www.avniR.org.

Our partners will find a collection of LCA results, guides, environmental product declarations, studies and other documents on LCA and its applications. These can be searched by language, type, and especially by industry, to help our "sectorial" partners easily find relevant information for their business. It also allows teachers to enrich their lectures with examples applied to their sector.

The documents are either downloadable directly from the website, or available at the offices of [avniR] or one of our partners.



Diary

Users Club

This club offers meetings, which provide an opportunity for exchange among laboratories, teachers, businesses and consulting firms on methodologies, tools, and problems encountered when performing an LCA.

During these meetings we offer contributions of external experts and time for exchange between LCA practitioners.

The second meeting of the Users Club is scheduled for June 14, 2011, with a presentation by Walid BOUGHANMI of his thesis underway on the LCA of an electric motor in an eco-design approach, undertaken at the Electro-Technical and Environment Systems Laboratory (LSEE) at the University of Artois.

Agathe COMBELLES will also present a summary of the annual conference of SETAC in Milan, on the latest advances in the science of LCA.

[avniR] International Conference

This first edition of the [avniR] International Conference will bring together companies, governments, researchers and experts in French, European and international LCA in order to share experiences, latest developments and future trends of LCA.

The conference will take place in several parts: strategic conferences, applied workshops, and numerous opportunities for meetings among key stakeholders to develop partnerships.

Conferences and workshops will allow participants to deepen their knowledge of the uses, impacts and trends of LCA, including in the areas of eco-design and environmental labelling.

The first day, workshops will look at improving environmental impact at different stages of the life cycle: through transport and logistics, packaging and recycling.

The second day, sector workshops will look at LCA through three industry sectors: textiles, agro-food and construction.

For more information, visit

www.avniR.org

The [avniR] Conference is supported by the Life Cycle Initiative of UNEP and SETAC



Founded in 1979, SETAC (Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry) is an association of more than 5000 scientists involved in the study of environmental issues. SETAC has been at the origin of the LCA methodology in the 90s, and co-hosts the Global Life Cycle Initiative with the United Nations Environment Programme.

What is the SETAC ?

Contact points of the [avniR] Platform:

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Key LCA events

7, 8 et 9 June Lille Grand Palais
5th European Congress on eco-technologies of the future www.eco-technologies.org

European Congress to anticipate, understand and learn about developments in the environmental sector. Interventions on LCA in the recycling of precious metals and rare earth elements on June 8 (Julien Boucher from Quantis), and renewable energy and electro-mobility on June 9 (Franck Minette, Public Research Centre Henri Tudor in Luxembourg and Jérôme Perrin, Renault).

14 June cd2e, Loos en Gohelle
Users Club

Programme and registration on www.avniR.org

15 and 20 June cd2e, Loos en Gohelle
LCA Methodology training

Two days to understand eco-design, learn LCA methodologies and tools, and their integration in eco-design and communication.

24 June cd2e, Loos en Gohelle
Steering Committee

Meeting open only to the members of the [avniR] Steering Committee.

6 July
Pedagogical day of the [avniR] Teaching Platform

First day of work for member teachers to develop and improve training, and to work on collaborative projects.

From 28 to 31 August Berlin
LCM2011 www.lcm2011.org

This 3rd edition of the International Congress on "life cycle management" will include 500 experts in LCA.

- [avniR] will present the first results of the assessment of building materials.
- The Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts et Industries Textiles (ENSAIT) will present its research on the LCA of different recycling processes of textiles.

5 and 6 October CCI Grand Lille, Lille
8th Annual Conference on Sustainable Development in Enterprises (JADDE)

JADDE enables companies to identify potential gains in performance as well as emerging opportunities and economic perspectives arising through environmental, social and societal challenges. Eco-design and environmental labelling will be featured.

3 and 4 November Espace International, Lille
International [avniR] Conference

Two days of exchange between enterprises, public authorities and researchers around Life Cycle Analysis and its applications.

Thanks to our funders:

