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The European project “TranSensus LCA” kicked-off in Brussels

Fraunhofer coordinates a project on the harmonization of a transport-specific Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA)

The Fraunhofer-Institute for Structural Durability and System Reliability LBF and the Fraunhofer-Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST jointly coordinates a Support and Coordinated Action aiming at defining and harmonising a commonly accepted and applied single Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach for zero-emission vehicles ZEV. Both institutes brought together 44 key stakeholders along the full value chain of zero-emission vehicles covering, among others, vehicle and battery manufactures, the supply industry, energy providers and recyclers. This unique initiative is supported by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and had its kick-off meeting on February 1 in Brussels with about 60 attendees.

Considering upcoming technologies leveraging emission reduction strategies, circular economy targets as well as potential social issues becomes increasingly challenging over the full life-cycle of vehicles (design and development, production, use-phase and End-of-Life) and over the supply chain.

Within this context, a reliable, transparent, standardized assessment of the environmental footprint of different solutions and technologies is essential to support the transformation of our transport system towards climate-neutrality. Although all stakeholders already recognise the importance of life cycle assessment (LCA), the transport sector is still struggling to adopt LCA approaches. Standardized and comparable results are still lacking due to, among others, limitations in accessing and managing real-life data or applying non-harmonized, inconsistent modeling choices, tools and system boundaries.

Europa, the first digitally enabled circular, climate-neutral and sustainable economy

The Horizon Europe funded project TranSensus LCA therefore aims to develop a baseline for a European-wide harmonised, commonly accepted and applied single life cycle assessment (LCA) approach for zero-emission vehicles. Such a European single LCA approach is seen as a key element in achieving the Green Deal targets, making Europe the first digitally enabled circular, climate-neutral and sustainable economy. Bringing together relevant stakeholders from industry and research, an evidence- and real-life data-based LCA approach will be conceptualised and harmonised embracing

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environmental, economic and social aspects. By consensus, TranSensus LCA will enable industry, mobility providers and planners to provide sustainable products and to optimise mobility solutions as needed to combat climate change.

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Details of the project

In detail TranSensus LCA aims for

- conceptualising and demonstrating a single, European-wide real-data LCA approach for zero-emission road transport
- harmonising of methodologies, tools and datasets
- elaborating an ontology and framework for a European-wide LCI database
- conceptualising the LCI data management and update along the life cycle and along the supply chain
- taking into account upcoming technologies and demands

As such, it will pave the way for LCA-based product and business development within the road transport market.

Project consortium composed of industrial partners and scientific researchers

The TranSensus LCA consortium is composed of highly committed 11 industrial partners (BMW, EDF, Northvolt, Renault, Ricardo, Scania, Sphera, ST Microelectronics, Umicore, Valeo and Volkswagen) and 9 partners from research (Fraunhofer, BRGM, CEA, Uni Gent, Uni Leiden, RWTH Aachen, IVL, TU Braunschweig, Uni Bordeaux) covering the battery and vehicle value chain as well as providing the required expertise and know-how to elaborate the framework for a single European-wide LCA approach. The consortium is complemented by 24 associated partners ensuring an excellent representation of the road transport sector as well as strengthening the coverage of the relevant value chains and life cycle stages.

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About 60 representatives of the project partners met for the kick-off in Brussels. © Fraunhofer



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