



15 February 2022

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Qenos and Cleanaway join forces in Australian Plastic-to-Plastic Advanced Recycling feasibility study**

Australia's largest plastics manufacturer Qenos and the nation's leading waste management company, Cleanaway have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to undertake a joint feasibility study for plastic-to-plastic advanced recycling in New South Wales and Victoria.

The study will investigate the feasibility and environmental benefits of converting up to 100,000 tons per year of Australia's household soft plastic waste and mixed plastics, which would otherwise end up in landfill, into feedstock for use in Qenos' existing manufacturing facilities to produce Circular Polyethylene.

Circular Polyethylene has identical properties to virgin polyethylene and can be used in food contact and high-performance applications thereby supporting local packaging and food manufacturers to achieve the 2025 APCO National Packaging Targets.

Qenos CEO, Stephen Bell, said that this joint study leverages the combined resources of the nation's leading companies in the fields of plastics waste management and plastics manufacturing. *"Qenos is uniquely positioned to help solve our country's soft plastics waste problem, as the only operator in Australia with the complete suite of assets required for the creation of circular plastics through advanced recycling. Without polymer manufacturing, advanced recycling stops at plastics-to-oil."*

Qenos will lead the study for one or more advanced recycling plants using its existing steam cracker and polymerisation facilities that would convert plastic waste pre-processed by Cleanaway.

Cleanaway will leverage its existing collection and processing infrastructure and investigate new methods of collecting, sorting and pre-processing post-consumer soft plastics to provide the required volumes of suitable feedstock for advanced recycling.

Cleanaway CEO Mark Schubert commented *"Through our already established Circular Plastics Australia partnership we are well progressed in developing the leading mechanical plastics reprocessing platform for PET, HDPE and PP and potentially LDPE. We are pleased to now partner with Qenos to study advanced recycling, which would complement our existing reprocessing platform to process mixed plastics that cannot be mechanically recycled. It would enable us to offer our customers higher resource recovery rates and more sustainable, circular outcomes for their waste."*

Cleanaway is one of Qenos' partners in a bid submitted for the Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI) Collaboration Stream to support the plastic-to-plastic advanced recycling project. Incorporating 50 consortium partners and supporters across the entire supply chain from raw material production to supermarket shelf, Federal Government assistance would see a new sovereign manufacturing sector secured in Australia.

Mr Bell continued: *"This project will be a huge step towards a plastics circular economy in Australia and achieving the National Packaging Targets from local inputs. Qenos and Cleanaway are playing a leadership role in seeking*



*to ensure Australian manufacturing fully participates in a new global industry that is forecast to attract \$680 billion in investment by 2050."*

The joint feasibility study is expected to be completed by July 2022 and a final investment decision to be made later this year. Pending a successful outcome, the first of the advanced recycling facilities is expected to be operational by 2025.

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**Qenos**

As Australia's only manufacturer and leading supplier of polyethylene, Qenos adds value to Australia's natural resources through conversion into petrochemicals and polymers that are used by hundreds of companies in the Australian plastics and chemicals industry.

Qenos products are used in myriad applications including the key packaging, agriculture, automotive, water, mining and waste management industries, making Qenos a vital link in the Australian manufacturing chain. With manufacturing sites in Victoria and New South Wales, Qenos has approximately 850 employees and contractors with annual revenue of \$700m.

Qenos is part of China National Bluestar Group with its ultimate shareholder Sinochem Holdings Corp Ltd headquartered in Beijing and formed through the restructuring of Sinochem Group Co Ltd and China National Chemical Corporation Ltd. Sinochem has more than 220,000 employees, including over 90,000 people in overseas markets, owns production bases and R&D facilities in more than 150 countries and regions around the world, and operates a global chemical marketing network. As part of the Qenos vision to be a leading business in the manufacture, distribution and trading of polymers and advanced chemicals, Qenos has introduced a new market channel, eXsource, operating out of Australia and New Zealand. The Qenos and eXsource eCommerce platform gives customers access to a wide range of imported polymers manufactured by Qenos, LyondellBasell, Bluestar and others.

[www.qenos.com](http://www.qenos.com)

**Cleanaway**

Cleanaway Waste Management Ltd is Australia's leading waste management company, with a national network of unique collection, processing, treatment, and landfill assets. Cleanaway operates from more than 250 locations and directly employs more than 6,300 people.

Our philosophy is that all waste is a resource and we aim to incorporate recovery, recycling, and reuse throughout our operations and those of our clients. Our mission is to make a sustainable future possible for all our stakeholders.

[www.cleanaway.com.au](http://www.cleanaway.com.au)