Access Matters

PRESS RELEASE

Unlocking the full potential in zeolite performance

Zeopore Technologies completes capital round to commercialize novel zeolite mesoporisation technology for improved catalysis.

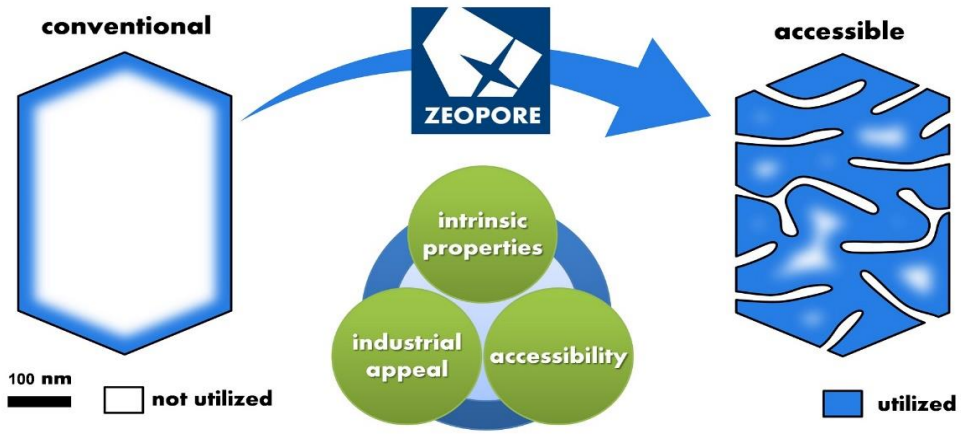
Leuven, Belgium – May 16, 2018

Zeopore Technologies NV, a game-changing innovator in the field of better performing zeolite catalysts for refining and petrochemical processes, completed a financing round with investments from Gemma Frisius Fund and Innovation Fund.

Zeolite catalysts are key ingredients in oil refining and are widely used in the petrochemical industry. Their success is based on unique catalytic properties, on their stable and safe behavior in challenging process conditions, as well as on their low cost. However, zeolite catalysts also have limitations. Their small micropores have the size of single molecules, which creates “molecular traffic jams”. These accessibility limitations prevent capturing the full catalytic potential as only 10% of the active catalyst volume is effectively used.

For several decades, industry and academia have developed accessible mesoporous zeolites that outperform conventional zeolites in virtually any catalyzed reaction. However, these superiorly performing zeolites are developed with costly or toxic ingredients and in exotic synthesis conditions, entirely compromising the zeolite’s industrial applicability and economic viability.

Groundbreaking research of Dr. Danny Verboekend, now CTO of Zeopore, within the KU Leuven Centre for Surface Chemistry and Catalysis under supervision of Prof. Dr. Bert Sels, has solved the problem for the first time. Highly accessible mesoporous zeolites are produced via an industrially and economically viable process. This process retains the microporosity and intrinsic crystallinity of the zeolite and does not inhibit its catalytic activity.



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The investments of Innovation Fund and Gemma Frisius Fund will allow Zeopore to further finetune its core technology towards specific applications and feedstocks, in close collaboration with end-users (such as major oil refiners, and multinational petrochemical companies) as well as catalyst manufacturers. Zeopore will also expand its market activities towards all commercial types of zeolites.

Several evaluation projects with selected customers to explore the specific benefits of mesoporisation for zeolite catalysts are ongoing. The zeolite catalyst market is growing strongly and represents around 3 bln USD.

Kurt Du Mong, CEO of Zeopore: “Mesoporised zeolites have many benefits in petrochemical processes. The combination of higher end product selectivity, increased capacity utilisation, and lower costs in catalyst regeneration have a significant impact on the profitability of a catalytic cracker. We enjoy encouraging market pull from customers who value the high quality of our product and, moreover, the industrial viability of our process.”

Zeopore’s breakthrough low cost mesoporisation process also has strong potential in other zeolite applications, such as adsorption, detergents and molecular sieves. The company plans to further develop its value proposition in these markets by establishing a valuable platform technology.

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About Zeopore Technologies

Zeopore Technologies NV has been founded end of 2017 as a spin-off from the University of Leuven (KU Leuven, Belgium), Centre for Surface Chemistry and Catalysis. Zeopore has developed a proprietary mesoporisation technology and extensive know-how on improving the effectiveness of zeolites in petrochemical catalytic reactions and other applications. Its key differentiator is the ability to retain the intrinsic properties of the zeolite, while performing the mesoporisation via an industrially and economically viable process, using standard chemicals in simple process steps and conditions.

More info: www.zeopore.com

About Gemma Frisius Fund

Gemma Frisius Fund is a seed capital fund, established in 1997 as a joint venture between KU Leuven, KBC Group and BNP Paribas Group. The objective of the fund is to stimulate the creation and growth of KU Leuven spin-off companies by providing them with seed capital in the very early phases of their development. Gemma Frisius Fund combines the research and technology transfer expertise of the university with the financial and investment expertise of the two banks.

More info: lrd.kuleuven.be/en/spinoff/gemma-frisius-fund

About Innovation Fund

Created in February 2015, the Innovation Fund invests in innovative startups and companies active in the field of chemistry and life sciences. The fund has a capital of EUR 28 million, mainly financed by major companies in the sector such as Total, Solvay, Christeyns, BASF, Sioen, Recticel, Ravago, Arkema, Hutchinson, Carmeuse, Soudal, Domo, ..., bringing unique industrial support value to the investment projects. The remaining stakes are held by national and regional investment funds, KU Leuven, Ghent University, University Antwerp and ING. To date, the Innovation Fund has already invested in 16 companies.

More info: www.innovationfund.eu