

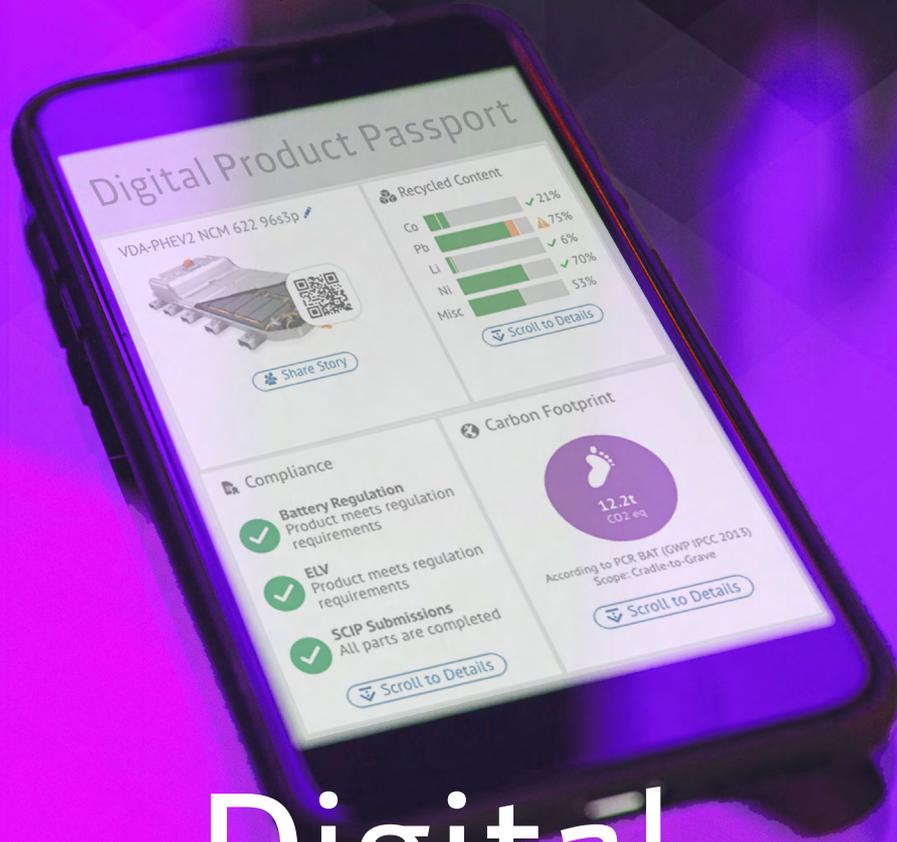


iPoint

iPoints

The customer magazine of iPoint-systems

09 / December 2021



Digital Product Passport





“The digital product passport is a very promising tool capable of capturing sustainability data across the value chain.”
JOERG WALDEN

Imprint

iPoints – Magazine for customers & partners of iPoint-systems gmbh & its subsidiaries

Issue 09 | December 2021

Publisher

iPoint-systems gmbh
 Ludwig-Erhard-Str. 58
 72760 Reutlingen
 Germany
 T +49 7121 14489 60
 F +49 7121 14489 89
 info@ipoint-systems.com
ipoint-systems.com

Editorial staff

Dr. Katie Boehme, Carsten Girke, Svenja Koenig. With the support of Christine Beck, Jacky Goeron, Beate Hummel, Meeno Kaja.

Photo credits

iPoint-systems gmbh
 momentum-photo.com
 Pexels.com, Shutterstock.com, Unsplash.com

Your direct sales contact:

Europe and Asia-Pacific
 +49 7121 14489 777
 North America
 +1 248 282 4085
 contact@ipoint-systems.com



SHORT NEWS

Two New Managing Directors

This year, iPoint has hired two new key senior executives to support founder and CEO Joerg Walden as additional Managing Directors in accelerating growth: Thomas Diezmann, serving as Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and Peter Schmidt, serving as Chief Revenue Officer (CRO). „I'm thrilled to have Thomas and Peter on board as we embark on the next step of our growth journey to transform iPoint's vision of building an integrated digital platform for the Circular Economy into a long-term success story," states Joerg Walden.

Joerg Walden Re-elected as Co-chair of INATBA Working Group

iPoint's CEO and founder Joerg Walden has been re-elected as co-chair of the International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA)'s working group "Social Impact & Sustainability". It leverages a wide range of expertise to highlight and utilize the potential of Blockchain and other Distributed Ledger Technologies to tackle some of today's most urgent sustainability issues. Joerg is also co-author of the working group's new report "[Blockchain for Social Impact](#)". Learn more about the report's findings in this [Blog article](#).

Katie Boehme Re-elected to UN Global Compact Steering Committee

Dr. Katie Boehme, Director People & Communications at iPoint, has been re-elected to the steering committee of the German Network of the UN Global Compact – the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative – as a business representative for the period 2021-2023. Having been part of the steering committee since 2019, she will continue to bring in the perspective, special concerns, and challenges of SMEs and advance the network's range of topics around digitalization and its connection to sustainability, circular economy, and the Global Goals.

Ride for Freedom – Cycling Tour to Raise Awareness of Modern Slavery

This summer, iPoint supported human rights advocate and cycling Guinness World Record holder Gordon Miller's "Ride For Freedom – Premier League & Euro 2020 Cycling Tour". The mission of the tour was to utilize the universal appeal and power of cycling to deliver positive social impacts and specifically to raise awareness, educate, and forge partnerships to end modern slavery. This aligns with several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a framework iPoint is deeply committed to promoting and advancing.

Dear Reader,

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact the way we live and work. On the positive side, it has contributed to accelerating digital transformation and the adoption of digital ecosystem business models across all industries. In view of this and the increasing speed of change in the IT sector and other industries, the question that continues to drive us at iPoint is: how can we utilize and advance digitalization – including platforms and ecosystems – for sustainable change?

In 2021, we have observed great progress here. Take, for example, developments concerning the digital product passport (DPP), a very promising tool capable of capturing sustainability data in a standardized, comparable format to enable all actors in the value and supply chain to work together towards a circular economy. In addition, there has been an increase in partnerships, networks, and ecosystems striving to tackle today's most urgent sustainability issues by creating standardized sustainability data and information chains along value chains.

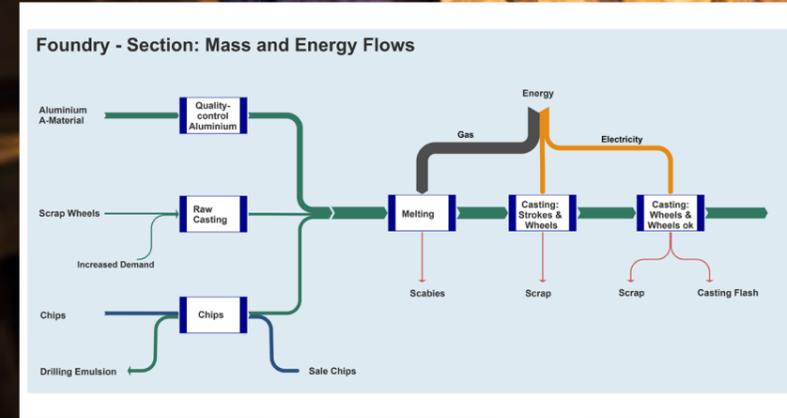
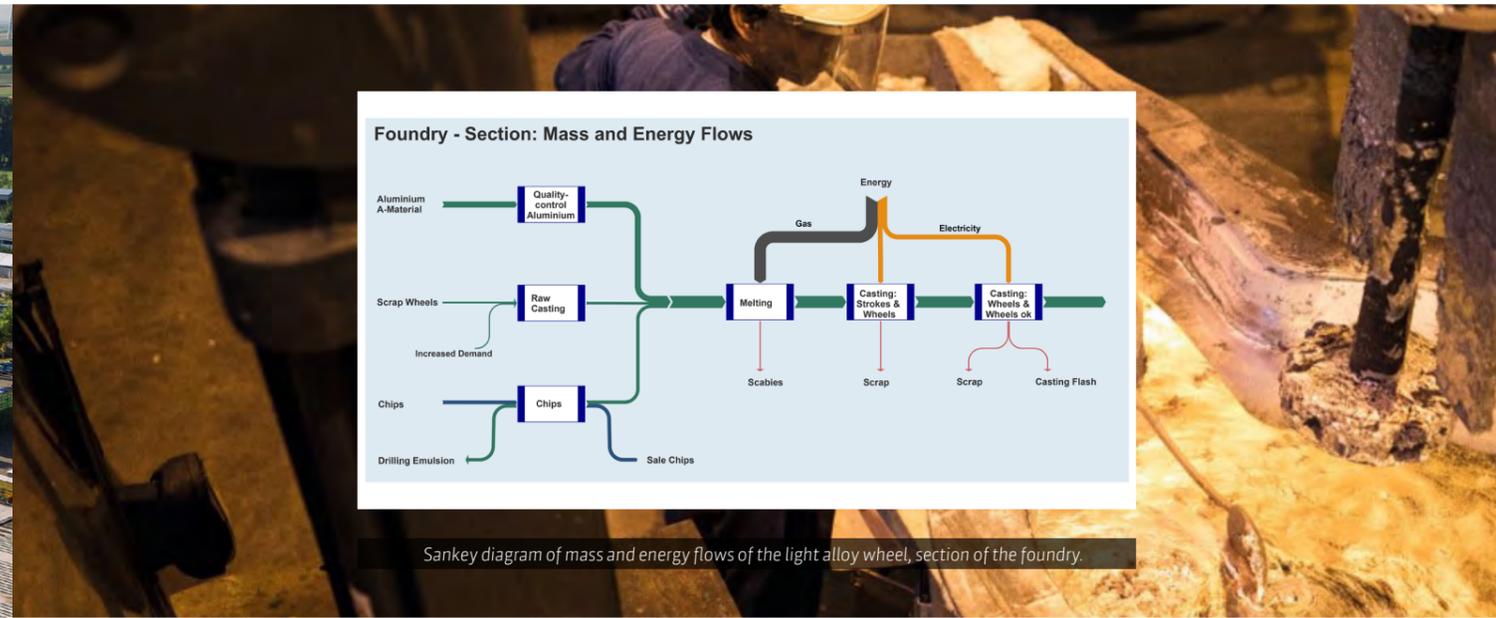
These are just two developments that have kept us busy this year. Learn more in this magazine issue, which covers these and other highlights of iPoint's 2021.

Enjoy the read – and, most importantly, stay safe and healthy!

Best regards,
 Joerg Walden



Site Landau, Photo: © RONAL GROUP



Sankey diagram of mass and energy flows of the light alloy wheel, section of the foundry.

MFCA AT RONAL

MFCA in the Automotive Supply Industry: Uncovering the Causes of Phantom Bookings

How can transparency be increased in a highly complex production process? This was one of the important questions for the automotive supplier RONAL GROUP to answer. The RONAL GROUP, headquartered in Härkingen, Switzerland, is one of the most important manufacturers of light alloy wheels for passenger cars and commercial vehicles. Since RONAL GROUP is a long-standing partner of the automotive industry, all wheels meet the strict requirements of vehicle manufacturers. The company has grown continuously and employs around 7.500 people world-wide.

Finding the appropriate analysis

In order to answer the transparency question, RONAL GROUP carried out a Material Flow Cost Analysis (MFCA) in its light alloy wheel production. MFCA is an ISO-normed method to evaluate the efficiency of production processes with regard to material losses.

In a first step, a material flow analysis of the quantities produced in the company was carried out. Light alloy wheels for passenger cars are manufactured at the Landau site. The process covers the entire production chain from raw aluminum through the melting, casting, and painting processes to the finished wheel. Due to the large number of variants and several feedback loops, accurate mapping of the production is a prerequisite for optimizing the processes. In addition to the production flow, the material flow cost analysis is also of great importance for the consideration of energy consumption and the evaluation of the losses incurred mainly by machining. Due to the diverse analysis options of MFCA, the company is convinced that it has found the right tool.

Loss assessment and data quality improvement

To be able to systematically evaluate all material flows and processes along the production chain, the material flows within the company are to be recorded and evaluated in combination with material flow cost accounting. The task is extensive: First, process transparency is to be increased by combining all available data across departments. The next step is to analyze consumption and costs to be able to define optimization measures based on the hot spots. In addition to a detailed loss assessment, the RONAL GROUP expects an improvement in the data quality of the entire production process as a result.

Software supporting data analysis

To start the project, all system data from the different departments and process sections first had to be brought together.

To analyze the collected data, material flows and costs, the iPoint software Umberto, one of the leading software solutions for resource efficiency and process optimization, was used.

Overview of the steps:

1. The available data and information are collected and evaluated.
2. With the integration of all system data, the individual material flows are modeled in order to reproduce the complete production system and make it calculable.
3. Mass balances are created and losses recorded for each individual process.
4. A digital twin of the entire production process is generated.

5. In this holistic process model, all available data can be linked, and targeted evaluations can be carried out.

Revealed potentials for optimization

Overall, the comprehensive data collection and cross-departmental communication triggered by the project within the company increased the understanding of the system. At the same time, a high level of transparency was achieved for material and recycling flows and their hot spots. The detection of booking routines that involved wheels not being sufficiently recorded in the merchandise management system prior to the MFCA analysis was also successful.

- Precise data analysis enabled hot spots to be identified for priority optimization of the presentation of production outputs. First and foremost is the paintshop, where the diversity of variants makes particularly complex production processes necessary.
- Losses due to machining and missing wheels could be evaluated with the help of MFCA. A large proportion of the losses are melted down again directly in the company, thus saving raw aluminum.
- The booking systems can already be optimized on the basis of the results determined so far.

Adding an environmental perspective as a next step

Through the project-related detection of hot spots, the RONAL GROUP has recognized the comprehensive potential of the MFCA methodology as well as the material flow management software Umberto. In the future, the analyses of material flows and losses are to be further used and expanded. Another focus is the increase of energy efficiency as well as adding an environmental perspective by creating life cycle assessments.

Andreas Engel, Head of Controlling at RONAL GROUP, says: "The material flow costing methodology is ideally suited for analyzing our multi-faceted manufacturing processes in detail. We were surprised how quickly we arrived at clear results. Nevertheless, we found that the support of external experts was a great help in getting started with this topic, especially in the initial phase of our project. In perspective, we will also use the model to create life cycle assessments."

Learn more about Umberto at:

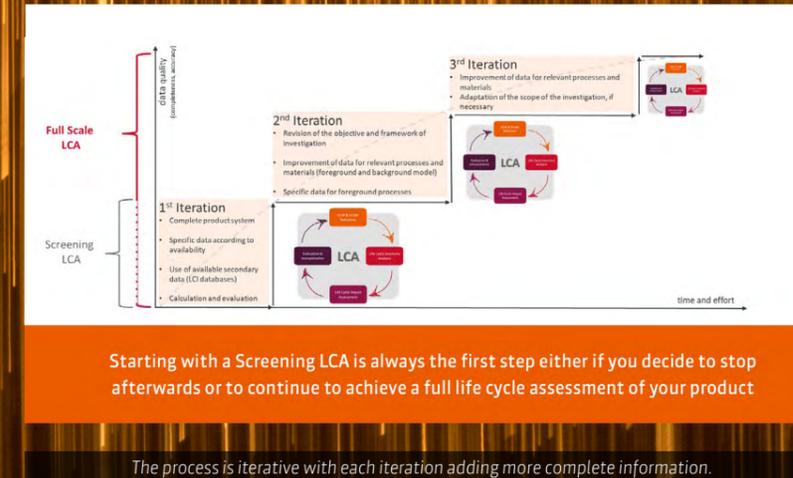
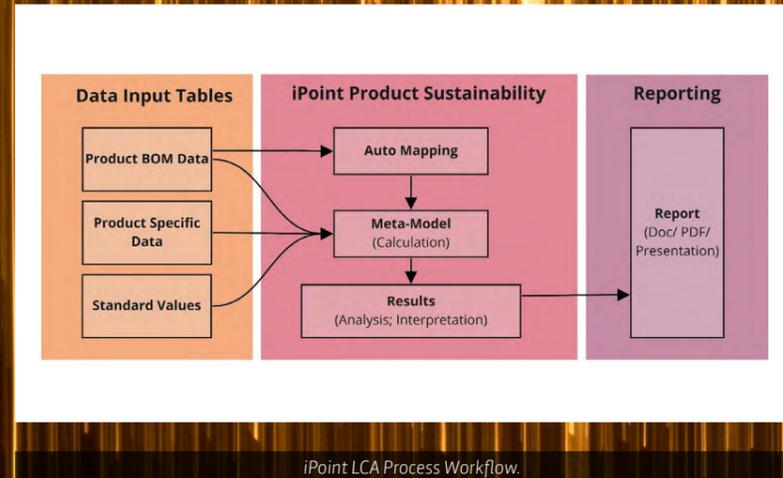
<https://www.ifu.com/umberto/resource-efficiency-software/>

Your contact:

Johann Peters

johann.peters@ipoint-systems.de

The consulting and software implementation through iPoint experts took place as part of the "MFCA mobil" project, funded by the German Federal Environmental Foundation.



LOGITECH GUEST ARTICLE

Consumer Transparency – Getting Started

In 2019, Logitech, one of the leading manufacturers of computer peripherals in both the gaming and productivity space, made a commitment to full carbon neutrality – on a company and on a product level. Logitech’s success to date on the road to net zero has been made possible through their partnership with iPoint. As internationally recognized expert for life cycle assessment, iPoint is working with Logitech to support the integrity of the carbon calculations. The following guest article by Logitech was created to inform further actors in the consumer electronic industry, who exchanged on the Logitech approach in a web-session organized by Logitech in October 2021, to which iPoint was invited as a speaker and partner.

Declare your intent to show the carbon footprint of your products

Logitech believes consumers should have access to information about the carbon impact of the products they purchase so we have committed to putting a carbon impact label directly on the box. But one company alone is not enough. Please join us by declaring your intention to clearly show the carbon footprint of your products on your packaging.

We’ve developed a protocol and tools that will be freely available to help you get started. If you declare your intent, you can join a sustainable intellectual property pledge and gain access to the package label, the protocol, and related IP that has been contributed by other pledge signatories.

Join Logitech in labeling your products to clearly show the carbon footprint. Here’s a brief overview of how to get started.

Carbon is the new calorie

Logitech, in partnership with iPoint, is developing an open-source protocol for calculating the carbon footprint of electronic products that can be used to educate the consumer. We think of carbon as the new calorie and believe consumers should have access to the carbon impact of the products they purchase. We anticipate a time when more consumers will demand this level of transparency and the time to act is now.

At its core, there are three steps:

1. Do the Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) – from raw material sourcing, to manufacturing, distribution, consumer use, and ultimately the end of life. Calculate the amount of carbon used at each stage
2. Use the information to make trade off decisions in designs – by getting clarity on the largest drivers of carbon in your products, you can make choices in the design of future products to impact their carbon footprint
3. Label your product – once you have modeled the carbon footprint of a product and validated the number with an appropriate third party, it’s time to share the information with consumers via a label on the packaging. Logitech has developed a label that is available for license royalty free.



Carbon is the new calorie. Transparent labeling allows consumers to evaluate a purchase beyond price and features and helps them better understand the environmental impact of their purchase.

Life cycle analysis – how to get started

The first step is to collect data on the product BOM, distribution patterns, product use, and EOL process. iPoint has a standard methodology that will guide you through the data collection process for use in their meta-model. The model already contains a library of some individual components with their carbon footprints. For components not already in the library, the carbon values will be modeled. As more products are analysed and more components are added to the library, the speed of LCA will increase.

Once all the data has been collected, the iPoint model, which consists of many small models for sub-components, is used to calculate the total carbon footprint of the product.

A full report will be generated including information on the drivers of carbon emission which can be used for internal design decisions and can be compared across products.

Your turn

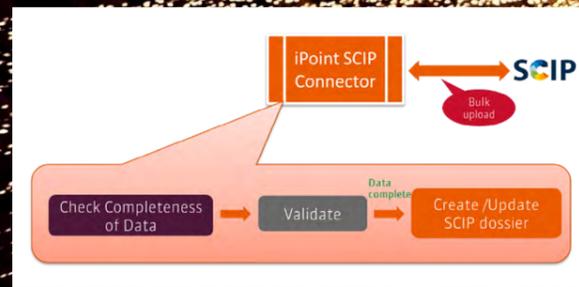
Declare your intent and start product life cycle analysis! iPoint can help you get started by performing a screening LCA (first LCA iteration) for one product which will include a short summary study report and a presentation with graphical highlights.

For more information or to get started with LCA, please contact:

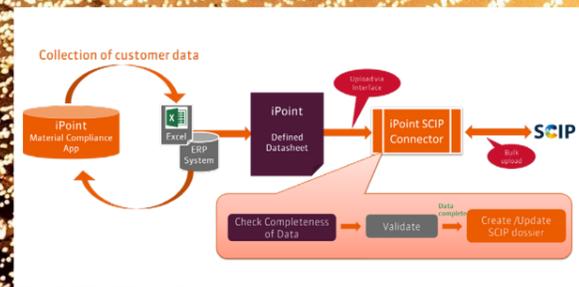
Martina Prox, Sustainability Strategy
 ifu Institute for Environmental IT (Member of iPoint Group)
 ➔ martina.prox@ipoint-systems.de
 Phone: +49 40 48 000 9-11
 Cell: +49 17614800091
<https://www.ipoint-systems.com/solutions/carbon-footprint/>

To join the Sustainability IP Pledge or to discuss Logitech’s journey to carbon clarity, the value of carbon labeling, or the thinking behind the methodology, Logitech’s sustainability team is available.

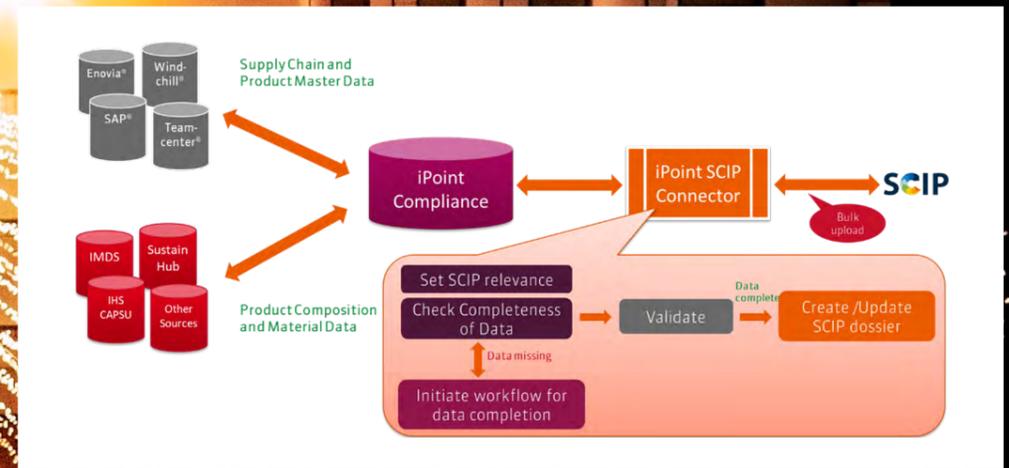
Robert O’Mahony, Head of Sustainability
 ➔ romahony@logitech.com
 You can reach Robert or our other experts in sustainability design, communications and strategy at:
carbon-clarity@logitech.com
www.logitech.com/sustainability/carbon-labeling-measuring.html



iPoint SCIP Essential



iPoint SCIP Professional



iPoint SCIP Enterprise

SCIP DATABASE

Update 2021

Background

The ECHA SCIP database was officially launched on January 5, 2021. Under the current version of the Waste Framework Directive any company manufacturing or selling articles in the European Union is required to submit details of any such article that contains Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) above 0.1% w/w. Retailers are exempt, but all other companies in the supply chain, including component manufacturers and distributors, must complete this data.

During 2021, ECHA has changed the SCIP database recommendations and rules several times and not all of them were planned or announced in advance.

On September 14, the long-awaited public dissemination portal was launched. This has brought new challenges for users of iPoint's SCIP Solutions.

Since its launch in October 2021, iPoint's SCIP Module has been helping customers adapt to the increasing changes and challenges as they appear.

iPoint SCIP Module

Regardless of the solution you chose, the iPoint SCIP Module offers a system-to-system solution that allows the bulk upload of dossiers to ECHA's SCIP database. It lets you:

- manage your company's one or more legal entities' ECHA UUIIDs required for SCIP submission.
- manage product details and select SCIP-relevant products.
- use extensive options of default settings which allow easy initial SCIP reporting on the basis of existing data.
- create and upload dossiers, and track current submission status.

Core features

- Data collection from multiple different sources, e.g., IMDS, BOMcheck, etc.
- Support of the latest ECHA System-to-System interface (version 2.0 and soon to be 3.0).
- Global default settings to help reduce data entry.
- Bulk upload options allow to submit a group of products to the SCIP database in one shot.
- User management allows to properly allocate responsibilities within the organization.
- Submission history for submission overview and export and simplified notification to leverage submissions for further legal entities.

New enhancements added in 2021

- Rapid creation of spare part dossiers
- Improved safe use instruction defaults
- Other article identifiers
- Data masking/anonymisation to protect business confidential data (optional extra)

Features added in 2021 to conform to ECHA rule changes

Early in 2021, ECHA changed their systems to reject dossiers with over 1000 nodes. All dossiers had to be simplified down to a maximum of 1000.

iPoint SCIP gives our customers:

- Compression options that remove extra layers of data that are not required under the latest rules and guidelines (or would make the dossier too large/unusable).
- Ability to create sub-dossiers and reference them, this allows large complex products with over 350 parts containing SVHCS to be declared correctly.

Our Implementation Options

Different solutions to fit your company's requirements

The iPoint SCIP Module comes in three different versions designed to fit your company's requirements:

1) iPoint SCIP Essential

This stand-alone solution is suited for small to medium-sized companies who often have an individual way of managing and processing compliance data and are simply looking for a tool to convert and submit the data to the SCIP database.

2) iPoint SCIP Professional

You are a small to medium-sized organization which does not yet have a compliance solution that supports data collection and management? iPoint SCIP Professional, in addition to the SCIP module, provides you with a compliance tool in the background: iPoint SCIP Professional enables you to communicate with your suppliers and manage your product data.

3) iPoint SCIP Enterprise

iPoint SCIP in conjunction with iPoint Compliance Enterprise or iPoint Suite products is for customers who are already using iPoint Compliance Enterprise, or for enterprise level companies which are looking for a fully integrated and robust compliance solution.

No matter your requirements, no matter how large your company is – iPoint has a SCIP reporting solution that fits your needs.

Our Roadmap

As a major component of the iPoint Suite, iPoint SCIP has an extensive roadmap of new features that are planned for 2022.

The new features include:

- Inclusion of optional items such as "Other Product Identifiers" including brand.
- Ability to collect, upload and reference Supplier SCIP declarations from IMDS, SustainHub and other sources.
- Improved searches to find gaps and data issues faster.
- Dashboards and management reporting including graphs and KPIs.
- Support of version 3.0 of the ECHA system-to-system (S2S) interface.

Your contact at iPoint for SCIP:

Peter Wheeldon (SCIP Product Owner)

✉ Peter.Wheeldon@ipoint-systems.com

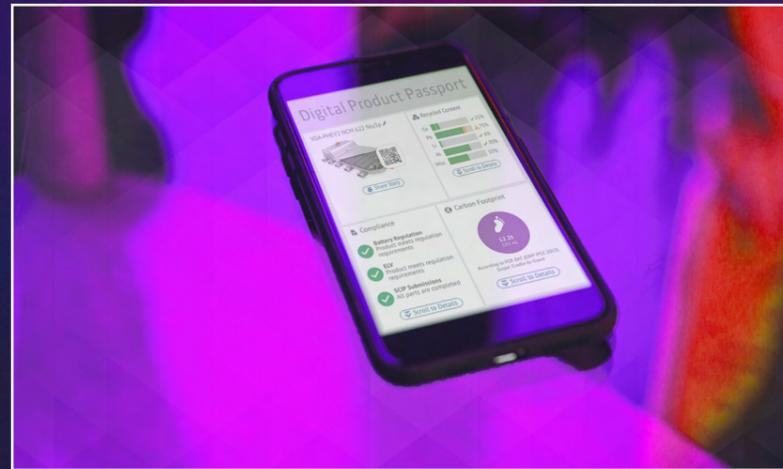


Figure 1: General concept of the Digital Product Passport.

PRODUCT TRANSPARENCY & CIRCULARITY

Digital Product Passports – Enablers of the Circular Economy

Leveraging the momentum towards a circular economy

Circular economy principles are perceived as a promising option to meet the world's climate targets and move towards a more efficient use and re-use of resources. A transition to a circular economy could positively impact carbon emissions, environment, and society, and help to future-proof businesses and increase business value. Consequently, more and more governments, institutions, initiatives, and companies set out on the road to circularity.

On the other hand, moving towards a circular economy increases the requirements for industry in the areas of product compliance and product sustainability. An ever-growing number of regulations and continuous demand for reporting necessitates the handling of even more data and puts a strain on costs.

One example where data collection, analysis, and reporting requirements are set to increase significantly is the upcoming EU Battery Regulation, which reflects a strong focus on achieving a circular and low-carbon life cycle for industrial and electric vehicle batteries.

Seen by some industry actors as the first holistic 'horizontal' regulation covering many traditionally separate topics, it aims to address:

- responsibly sourced materials
- restricted use of hazardous substances
- minimum content of recycled materials
- carbon footprint disclosure
- performance, durability, and labeling
- meeting collection and recycling targets.

The proposed EU Battery regulation references the “Battery Passport and interlinked data space” as a mechanism for safer data sharing, “increasing transparency of the battery market and the traceability of large batteries throughout their life cycle”.

Digital Product Passport

To leverage the momentum towards a circular economy, promoted both by industry and regulators, digital tools for identification, tracing, and co-creation of information on products, components, materials, and substances are needed.

The digital product passport (DPP) brings together these tools and concepts and acts as a nucleus to derive all kinds of information and decisions to advance the circular economy. The DPP (see Figure 1 above) should capture environmental and social sustainability data in a standardized, comparable format to enable all actors in the value and supply chain to work together towards a circular economy. It can also play an important role in informing consumer's purchasing decisions.

The digital product passport has been mentioned in the EU Green Deal, the EU Sustainable Products Initiative (SPI), the upcoming EU Battery regulation, the “European data space for smart circular applications”, and various industry-specific initiatives, including the European Battery Alliance (EBA) and the Global Battery Alliance (GBA). The German Federal Environment Ministry has already recognized the DPP as a critical tool for achieving circularity at scale.

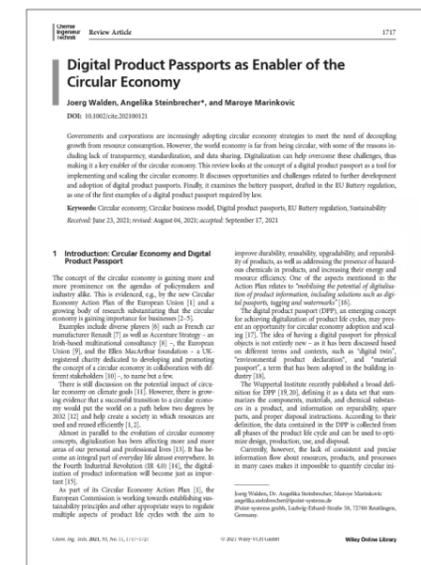
What is the Digital Product Passport?

Although there are a variety of conceptual approaches, digital product and material passports in general are an approach to unite and unify the assessment of environmental, social, and governance impacts throughout a product's life cycle, enable their reduction, and promote more sustainable design, sourcing, manufacturing, and purchasing decisions.

Since a DPP accompanies the physical product throughout its life cycle, it allows stakeholders to interact with the product information at multiple levels, thus enabling and supporting:

- Traceability – from raw materials extraction/production, through to product life cycle, all the way to the product's end of useful life, enabling better efficiency and transparency
- Due diligence efforts – increasing transparency across the value chain
- Services supporting a circular economy – such as remanufacturing, repurposing, repair
- Higher rates of recycling and recycled material use
- Reliable information made available to a wide range of stakeholders, both public and private
- Improved enforcement and market surveillance for authorities – also with regards to imported goods.

For a more detailed discussion of the concept of DPPs, please refer to our paper in [Chemie Ingenieur Technik](#) (Chem. Ing. Tech. 2021, 93, No. 11, 1717–1727).



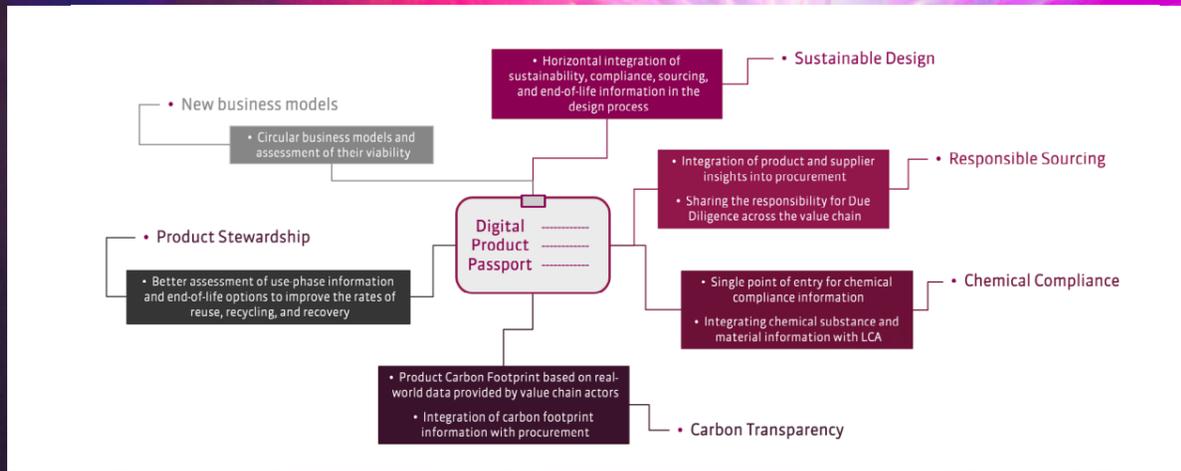


Figure 2: New opportunities and benefits enabled by the Digital Product Passport.

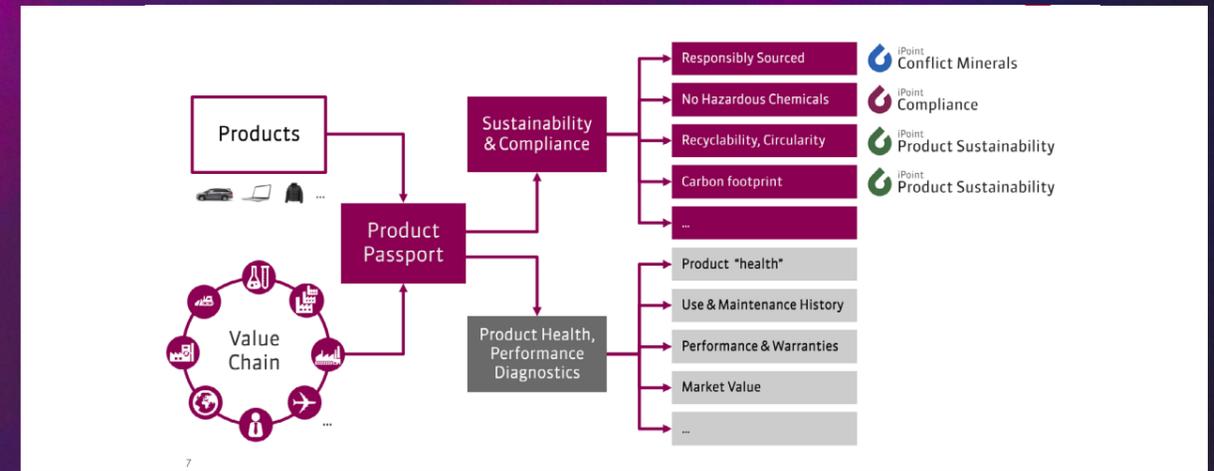


Figure 3: Building blocks of the Digital Product Passport.

PRODUCT TRANSPARENCY & CIRCULARITY

Strategic areas	Stakeholders	Challenges	DPP enables	Benefits
Sustainable Design & Production	Product Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making design decisions based on reliable information across many domains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horizontal integration of sustainability, compliance, sourcing, and end-of-life information in the design process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidated information Easier and faster data access & sharing
Responsible Sourcing	Product Design Procurement Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of reliable supply chain information. Traceability, auditability, and risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of product and supplier insights into procurement. Sharing the responsibility for Due Diligence across the value chain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No double-entry of data Better value chain collaboration
Chemical Compliance	Production Compliance Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having reliable and up-to-date information for compliance analysis of complex products. Faster reaction time to regulatory changes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single point of entry for chemical compliance information. Integrating chemical substance and material information with LCA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traceability and transparency Automated regulatory alerts
Carbon Transparency	EHS Sustainability Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transitioning from generic to real-world footprint data. Using appropriate models. Scaling across portfolio. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product Carbon Foot print based on real-world data provided by value chain actors. Integration of carbon footprint information with procurement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accountability for information Auditability of records Insights from all lifecycle stages
Product Stewardship	Product Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determination of use phase impact and end-of-life fate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better assessment of use-phase information and end-of-life options to improve the rates of refuse, recycling, and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product storytelling
New business models	Sales & Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customer relationship and value creation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circular business models and assessment of their viability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product as a service

How can the DPP compliment your strategy

Important domains such as product sustainability, compliance, GHG footprint, and due diligence are currently often handled separately within organizations and differently throughout different industries. By connecting and unifying these areas, the DPPs may enable new opportunities and provide benefits in multiple strategic areas and involve a variety of stakeholders whose areas of interest, influence, and responsibility are starting to overlap significantly. (see grid on the left)

The iPoint Suite building blocks for the Digital Product Passport

As shown above, there are clear benefits of digital product passports, not only in providing reliable information on a product throughout its lifecycle to various stakeholders, but also creating transparency and increasing efficiency to meet current and future regulatory and market requirements.

Admittedly, other than in concepts and drafts, the DPP is not here – yet. And it is not yet clear what the specific requirements for your business will be at the end of the day.

However, it is apparent that the DPP will be a must in the future, and it will clearly comprise some key focal areas such as information on materials, product sustainability, and supply chain due diligence, most of which are not easy to come by separately, let alone combining them for a DPP.

To help you smooth the way, the iPoint Suite provides a set of building blocks for a DPP, from compliance to sustainability. It already supports you in the tedious task of gath-

ering the key information in one place to fulfil your current requirements and reap benefits such as reduced costs and

Like the Circular Economy, the DPP is a team sport

We know that it can be difficult for organizations to tackle every aspect of compliance and sustainability at once, which can make addressing digital product passports a challenge.

As an enabler of digitalization for sustainable change, iPoint has both initiated and joined several collaborative projects that advance DPP development. Working across multiple domains and industries – automotive and batteries, electronics, aerospace –, they bring together the respective value chains from raw material level to recycling.

There are many opportunities we can tackle together, and we would like to extend our invitation to start the conversation with us.

We can help you with strategy, and work with you on addressing the most pressing challenges first and scale into other important areas over time.

Let's work on the DPP together!

Get in touch:
contact@ipoint-systems.com



CircularTree won the first prize in the Kongress LAB competition at the Congress of Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy Baden-Württemberg.

IPoint's INNOVATION HUB

Updates from CircularTree

The Berlin-based startup CircularTree (Member of iPoint Group) was founded in 2018 and focuses on compliance and responsibility along the supply chain with Blockchain-based solutions.

CircularTree is part of the BloG³ consortium funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. BloG³ is developing a Blockchain-based solution to increase patient sovereignty of their health data.

CircularTree's solution CarbonBlock is a software to track primary carbon footprint values along supply chains.

CarbonBlock

If your company wants to offer a carbon-neutral portfolio, your company and your supply chain need to become carbon neutral. Usually, primary carbon footprint values of your supply chain are not available because transparency suffers from a lack of standardization. What cannot be measured, cannot be improved!

CarbonBlock enables companies to measure the product carbon footprint of your supply chain by passing the product carbon footprint values from one supply chain partner to the next.

Using primary supply chain data provides you with a KPI you can use in various ways to reduce the carbon footprint of your supply chain:

- Source material with lowest emissions.
- Agree with supplier on yearly targets to reduce emissions.
- Select supplier with lowest PCF emissions.

Besides achieving decarbonization targets, there are also financial benefits: Less carbon in your products means less cost which is especially important as carbon cost is expected to significantly grow over the next decade. More sustainable products meet customer demand better and therefore have a higher revenue growth. Also, an efficient reporting process means saving cost.

As users of iPoint's LCA software solutions Umberto and iPoint Product Sustainability you can integrate CarbonBlock primary data and thus substitute representative values from generic databases. This allows you to analyze carbon footprints of a supplier over different periods of time or compare various suppliers.

Since the beginning of 2021, CircularTree – along with iPoint – has been an innovation member in the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's (WBCSD) "Pathfinder 1.5" project to develop an ecosystem of interoperable solutions tracking primary carbon footprint data through the supply chain. In the Pathfinder 1.5 project, continuous feedback from supply chain actors like BASF, Unilever, Nestlé, and others is shared to ensure that different customer requirements are met. Furthermore, a standardized calculation methodology to make product carbon footprint values comparable has been defined and was published during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference.



Global CEO Excellence Award 2021



Gold Stevie® Award 2021



"Smart Innovator Badge" from Verdantix



AWARDS

Awards for iPoint

Gold Stevie® Award 2021 for sustainability communications

Based on outstanding ratings for its communications work focused on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), iPoint's Corporate Communications department was recognized as a Gold Stevie® Awards winner in the category "Communications Department of the Year" at the 2021 German Stevie® Awards. Recognizing outstanding achievements in over 200 different categories, the German Stevie® Awards are a high-profile business award for the German-speaking European corporate world from Austria, Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Switzerland. More than 400 entries were submitted for this year's German Stevie® Awards – the 7th edition –, which were rated by 40 jury members on six committees.

For the jury of the German Stevie® Awards 2021, "Choosing sustainability as the guiding theme of corporate communications is a good move, but one that also fits very well with the orientation of iPoint's products and is consistent in this respect." Overall, the jury rated the sustainability effort as very credible, "which is lived comprehensively in the company."

"Smart Innovator Badge" from Verdantix

In April, iPoint was awarded the "Smart Innovator Badge" in the category "Corporate ESG & Sustainability Software" by independent market research firm Verdantix. This designation is based on a study in which Verdantix identified 44 software vendors – including iPoint – with a high-level benchmark of the capabilities for environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) and sustainability management. The researchers determined three example prod-

uct stewardship systems that allow LCA analysis and new product development. As one of these vendors, the study highlights that "iPoint works with over 50,000 customers globally to deliver capabilities including LCA analysis, Design for the Environment (DfE) and circular economy project management".

Global CEO Excellence Award 2021 – Joerg Walden

In September, iPoint CEO and founder Joerg Walden was recognized as "Best Social Product Compliance Software Solutions CEO (Europe)". The Global CEO Excellence Award is intended to highlight good leadership by presenting and honoring the most successful managers of various industries. The winners of the 2021 Global CEO Excellence Awards – which shines a spotlight on CEOs, Managers, and Directors – were announced on September 10 in the CEO Monthly Magazine. Curious about how Joerg Walden led iPoint to success? A portrait in the magazine tells you everything about Joerg Walden and his work at iPoint. Access the portrait published in the "Global CEO Excellence Awards 2021" magazine [here](#).



CHEMICAL PRODUCT CARBON FOOTPRINTS

BASF and iPoint Join Forces

iPoint and BASF are collaborating on the topic of carbon footprint to drive the standardized calculation of product carbon footprints in the chemical industry. Based on BASF's learnings while implementing product carbon transparency for its portfolio, iPoint will offer chemical and process companies powerful tools to collect and report data on their products' specific carbon footprint. Such product-specific data, which can be used and shared across complex value and supply networks, form the basis for Digital Product Passports (DPPs).

iPoint and chemical company BASF are collaborating to offer a software for the standardized calculation of product-related CO₂ emissions. Chemical and process companies can now use the iPoint Product Sustainability life cycle analysis (LCA) software for industry-specific Product Carbon Footprint (PCF) calculations and reports across the whole supply chain, using a standardized way to collect and interpret data based on BASF's methodological expertise. This lays the foundation for a Digital Product Passport as demanded in the "European Green Deal" and the "European Union's Circular Economy Action Plan" for chemical products.

The chemical industry is committed to reaching the goal of carbon neutrality until 2050. In Germany for example, the sector already managed to reduce its emissions by 48 percent from 1990 to 2017. But reaching climate neutrality requires further efforts. Above all, transparency is required as a sound basis for decision-making, making cradle-to-gate PCF data a necessity for the industry. Since existing standards can be interpreted and applied in different ways, BASF has created a proprietary digital solution with a stan-

darized and automated PCF calculation approach specific to its sector and had this solution certified by TÜV Rheinland. To level the playing field in the industry as far as possible, BASF shares this digital solution and its underlying method with IT partners such as iPoint and thus makes it available for all interested industry players.

"iPoint's extensive experience of over 20 years in providing digital solutions for product sustainability and our ability to support Digital Product Passports, combined with the industry-specific standards established by BASF, means that companies in the chemical and process sectors will benefit from a highly reliable and accurate PCF solution that is recognized by one of the industry's biggest players," emphasizes Joerg Walden, CEO and founder of iPoint-systems. "We are excited to support the chemical industry on its way to carbon neutrality through this cooperation."

"By working together with iPoint, we can establish a standardized approach to calculating and reporting PCFs in our industry," states Alessandro Pistillo, Director Digital Strategic Projects at BASF. "Chemical companies can more easily achieve their climate and sustainability goals through transparency regarding their product carbon footprints."

Companies using iPoint Product Sustainability are well-prepared to share information via Digital Product Passports within their value chain.



MEMBERSHIPS

iPoint Becomes Member of Catena-X Automotive Network

iPoint has been officially welcomed as a full member of the [Catena-X Automotive Network](#). The German association was founded in May 2021 by leading German players in industry and research, including, among others, BMW AG, Deutsche Telekom AG, the German Aerospace Center e.V., Henkel AG & Co. KGaA, Mercedes-Benz AG, Robert Bosch GmbH, SAP SE, Schaeffler AG, Siemens AG, Volkswagen AG, and the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft e.V. The network strives to create the conditions for the rapid and successful development of an open ecosystem to exchange information between companies in the automotive industry efficiently and securely.

The Catena-X Automotive Network addresses challenges such as resilience, sustainability, and geopolitics and is intended to be open to all companies in the European automotive industry as well as their global partners with the overarching goal to create standardized data and information flows along the entire automotive value chain. The focus is on benefits and added value for each participant in the network while maintaining data sovereignty in accordance with the standards of the European Union (GAIA-X).

As a starting point, ten use cases have been identified for the implementation of the Catena-X Automotive Network. As an active participant in the Catena-X working groups, iPoint will contribute our 20 years of experience in software development and integration for automotive manufacturers and suppliers. In particular, iPoint will focus on the topics of sustainability, circular economy, and traceability, having already identified these use cases more than a decade ago and researched them in the SustainHub project, which was funded from 2012 to 2015 by the Seventh

Framework Programme of the European Commission (FP7). The project resulted in iPoint's cloud-based SustainHub platform, a universal hub used by more than 67,000 users to exchange compliance and sustainability data along the supply chain. At Catena-X, iPoint will explore how existing data could be re-used and which overlaps or interlinks exist, especially with the International Material Data System (IMDS), the worldwide material data system of the automotive industry.

"We are thrilled to be a member of Catena-X. iPoint and Catena-X share the same vision of a digital economy that can only be achieved through collaboration and secure, transparent data exchange," states iPoint CEO and founder Joerg Walden, adding: "Since 2001, iPoint has been empowering companies to collect and analyze all necessary data to assess and report the environmental, social, and economic impacts of their products and related processes. We look forward contributing to the workgroups our software development and integration expertise tailored to the requirements of the automotive industry and to offer our solution know-how, especially in the fields of supply chain transparency, compliance with social standards, and carbon footprint detection."



MEMBERSHIPS

iPoint Joins ECO Platform

iPoint-systems has joined the international non-profit association ECO Platform as a member. ECO Platform aims for mainstreaming life cycle assessments (LCA) for buildings and infrastructure projects by provision of reliable product data in an affordable and effective way. With our LCA tool Umberto and iPoint Product Sustainability, iPoint is an important addition to the [ECO Platform](#).

A main objective of the platform is to promote and contribute to sustainable development, including a low-carbon economy and resource efficiency in the construction sector, by coordinating the development and provision of credible and scientifically correct data from products. The association is an umbrella organization for EPD (Environmental Product Declarations) program operators but involves other relevant stakeholder groups, e.g., LCA practitioners and tool providers – like iPoint. With the following software solutions for MFA (material flow analysis) & LCA (life cycle assessment), iPoint will extend the ECO Platform portfolio:

- **iPoint Product Sustainability:** With iPoint Product Sustainability – the new web-based generation of life cycle assessment software – companies can analyze the environmental impact of their products in less time while saving resources.
- **Eco-Efficiency Software Umberto:** With the Software Umberto Efficiency+ and Umberto LCA+, iPoint offers the optimal solutions to reduce resource and energy consumption and optimize the environmental performance of products according to ISO 14040/14044.

iPoint’s representative at ECO Platform is Martina Prox, responsible for Sustainability Strategy at iPoint. Asked for the reasons for joining ECO Platform, she states: “Leveraging digitalization for sustainable change is iPoint’s purpose – we see ECO Platform in a leading role bringing actors within the life cycle community together to agree on standardized and harmonized approaches for the exchange of life cycle information in machine readable formats across the supply chain. Only with fully digitized life cycles production systems across all industries will master the transformation of our economy ahead of us towards a truly digital sustainable circular economy.”

“The construction sector is a key player in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11, ‘Sustainable cities and human settlements’,” states Joerg Walden, CEO and founder of iPoint-systems. “We look forward to supporting ECO Platform with iPoint’s software solutions in their overall goal to establish an open international digital data network for building and construction LCA data.”



iPOINT BECOMES WBCSD MEMBER

iPoint Supports “Pathfinder Framework”

Earlier this year, iPoint joined the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) as an innovation member. The WBCSD is an organization of forward-thinking companies that galvanizes the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society, and the environment. By invitation of the CEO of WBCSD and approved by the Executive Committee, iPoint joined the WBCSD project Value Chain Carbon Transparency Pathfinder – an ambitious initiative dedicated to enabling wide-scale exchange of primary, carbon emissions data.

Accounting for and tracking GHG emissions, both within companies and their supply chains, is a key enabler for decarbonization. However, those aiming to tackle supply chain emissions in particular face a common challenge: access to sufficiently granular, accurate, and verified primary data. Existing standards and methods leave significant room for interpretation and result in data inconsistency, impeding quality product life cycle emissions accounting. Also, cross-organizational data sharing is limited by complex value chains, data collection challenges, and a lack of interoperability between IT solutions.

Launched in November, the “Pathfinder Framework” addresses the accounting part of this challenge, providing guidelines for the consistent calculation and exchange of product carbon emissions. It leverages existing standards and methods while prioritizing the use of primary data. The Framework was developed jointly by 35+ stakeholders from industry and the broader decarbonization ecosystem, harnessing WBCSD’s role as co-convenor of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

Focusing on data access, leading technology companies in this space, including iPoint-systems and Circular Tree (Member of iPoint Group), as well as IBM, Microsoft, and SAP, have further come together within the Partnership to collaborate on the development of a network infrastructure enabling cross-organizational data exchange. Supported by the tech-for-good organization SINE Foundation, this group of visionary stakeholders has the common objective of enabling businesses to share their GHG emissions data in a verified and confidential manner across industries and value chains.

Their collaboration is underpinned by a commitment to jointly design and create an open and interoperable network (the Pathfinder Network) for all businesses and industry-focused data exchange platforms. The Partnership was founded on the premise that data transparency is a challenge that cannot be addressed by individual actors, but rather requires collaboration across the entire ecosystem.

iPoint’s CEO and founder Joerg Walden is happy about this development: “To achieve the necessary innovation in sustainable product development and accelerate the transition to the circular economy, we need a completely different openness, speed, and transparency in how organizations cooperate. iPoint is excited to be able to support here to advance digitalization for sustainable change.”

DIGITAL PRODUCT PASSPORTS

CE-PASS Research Project

CE-PASS, short for “Circular Economy – Digital Product Passport”, is an industrial research project that started on January 2, 2021. iPoint is one of the four stakeholders in the project, which is being realized together with AVL as Austria’s flagship company in the automotive sector, the Institute for Systems Science, Innovation and Sustainability Research at the University of Graz, and the Smart Digital Twin department of Salzburg Research.

The 36-month project focuses on vehicle design for sustainability and circular economy in the context of highly connected and interoperating ICT systems and platforms.

The project results will be developed based on two application scenarios: Scenario 1 concerns assemblies of an internal combustion engine, Scenario 2 the traction battery for electric vehicles. The aim is to provide vehicle developers with decision support as early as the design phase regarding ecological goals and life cycle costs. To this end, a software prototype will be built and offered as a platform-based service to enable engineers to optimize product value retention and cycle-oriented KPIs. The platform will also support feedback channels along the life cycle model, such as suggestions from recycling experts on how a product could be better recycled through a design change. A key aspect of the work will be the development of a digital product passport that combines Industry 4.0 standards with the perspectives of environmentally sustainable industrial production. CE-PASS thus realizes important goals stated in the Green Deal, including the Circular Economy Action Plan.

iPoint is leading Work Package (WP) 4, “Digital Product Passport,” as one of the two technical core work packages. The objectives of WP4 are to identify circular economy-relevant standards and existing formats in the automotive sector and to further develop a front-end prototype for selected actors in the automotive supply chain as well as for administrative bodies, considering stakeholder requirements. In addition, a master data model for the Digital Product Passport will be developed.

The CE-PASS project is an excellent opportunity for iPoint to further develop the concept of the Product Passport together with the ReDiBlock project (Resource Conservation through Distributed Ledger and Blockchain Technology for Industrial Production and Circular Economy) and the [DIBI-CHAIN](#) project (Digital Representation of Circular Systems using Blockchain Technology).

Your iPoint contact for the CE-PASS project:

Dr. Maria Dos Santos

➔ maria.dossantos@ipoint-austria.at

TRENDS SURVEY

iPoint’s Compliance and Sustainability Trends Study

iPoint conducted the [Trends Survey](#) for the third year in a row to track global sustainability and compliance trends. For the 300 participating experts from companies of various industries, the year 2020 was heavily influenced by the pandemic, which likely also had an impact on iPoint’s Trends Study 2020. However, in addition to the sudden emergence of a pandemic and related issues, the increasing threat of climate change was also very noticeable.

The results:

Compliance and Sustainability Grow in Importance

Sustainability and compliance are rated very high with a moderate upward trend compared to the previous year. Compliance was still considered more important than sustainability, whereby sustainability goals like carbon neutrality and the reduction of waste and resource consumption have become more important.

Steady Spending Despite Covid-19

According to the assessments, spending on compliance and sustainability showed the same moderate increase as in the previous year. The fact that spending continues to rise is remarkable given that the COVID-19 crisis and related measures has impacted businesses worldwide, with the economic consequences of the crisis pervading companies of various industries and their supply chains by lockdowns and a declining purchasing power.

The Automotive Sector Stands Out

There is a strong change of ratings in the automotive sector, especially regarding sustainability. Having increased from 2019 to 2020, the rating is now relatively far above

the average, which is also reflected in a stronger increase in corporate spending on sustainability and compliance.

Increasing Pressure Related to Climate Change

The increase of the climate change-related pressure has impacted the global economy. Understanding the threat of climate change as well as the challenges it poses, individuals, businesses, and politicians are ready to act. The pandemic has reinforced the rising trend in consumer demand for sustainability.

New Technologies to Address Climate Change and Social Distancing

According to the Trends Study, the majority consider new technologies as helpful in overcoming challenges like climate change. New technologies are also called for in the COVID-19 pandemic crisis as it drives a shift in customer demand towards physical distancing, sustainability, and digitalization. Customers prefer communicating digitally due to remote work policies, and choose private vehicles (most likely electric vehicles) over public transportation and carsharing.

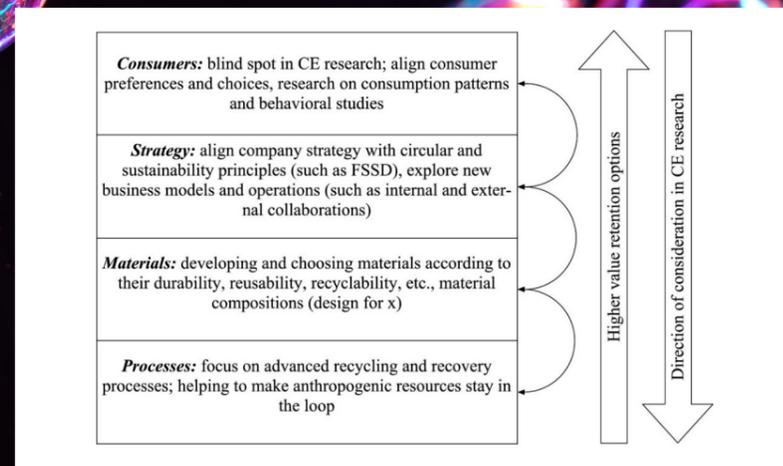
A summary of all results can be accessed via the [iPoint website](#).

The 2021 trends survey is in full swing with more than 900 participants, the results will be published at the end of this year.

Your iPoint contact:

Pia Ostroske

➔ pia.ostroske@ipoint-systems.de



Framework of Circular Economy research levels (Source: Schöggel, Stumpf & Baumgartner, 2020).

CIRCULAR ECONOMY RESEARCH

How Sustainable is the Circular Economy?

Interest in the concept of the Circular Economy (CE) has increased significantly in the past few years due to related policies introduced in China and the EU. But how sustainable is the CE? A recent study by the Christian Doppler Laboratory for Sustainable Product Management at the University of Graz, Austria, co-funded by iPoint systems, addresses this problem. This study analyzed 3,822 peer-reviewed articles that focused on the CE in the last 20 years with different quantitative and qualitative research methods.

The results indicate that, in general, the CE body of literature can be divided into management and technically-oriented studies, and these have either a beginning-of-life (BOL) or an end-of-life (EOL) focus. An EOL perspective dominates, as a strong prevalence of research focusing on resource efficiency, waste management, and recycling can be observed. Recycling also ranks among the most frequent keywords used in CE research, while other, potentially higher-order CE strategies, such as remanufacturing, repair and reuse, are referred to only seldomly.

Besides waste, recycling, and efficiency, CE research frequently focuses on industrial ecology/symbiosis, packaging, and Life Cycle Assessment. The latter is the most frequently used sustainability assessment in a CE context, followed by material flow analysis, and a smaller but growing number of specific circularity assessments developed in recent years. In recent years, a BOL-related stream of research has also emerged. While still comparably small, this stream focuses on product design aspects and adequate embeddedness in a business model. The emergence of these issues in recent years can be seen positive, as they

serve to bring CE's connection to consumption patterns, systems, and business models more to the fore.

From a sustainability perspective, the study also showed that only a limited number of environmental aspects are addressed in-depth, while social topics, for example, remain largely underrepresented or are even neglected in CE research. Furthermore, while CE literature focuses on the corporate perspective in both the BOL and EOL phase, the consumer's perspective is addressed vanishingly seldom. The transition to the CE needs to involve all societal actors promoting wide-reaching changes in production and consumption patterns. In this respect, it appears vital to strive for an integration of the process, the material, the strategic, and the consumer perspectives (see figure). Only by combining those perspectives adequately – by taking a full life cycle perspective – can a systemic CE transition, one which is in line with the principles of sustainability, be successfully accomplished.

This article by Josef-Peter Schöggel, Lukas Stumpf, and Rupert J. Baumgartner was first published on the [iPoint Blog](#) with references provided. Read the full paper (open access) [here](#).

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Rupert Baumgartner
University of Graz
Institute of Systems Sciences,
Innovation and Sustainability Research
Tel.: 0043 (0)316 380 3237
✉ rupert.baumgartner@uni-graz.at
🌐 <https://circular.uni-graz.at>

NEW LAWS

Due Diligence, Corporate Sustainability Reporting, Sustainable Finance

As a provider of compliance and sustainability solutions, we naturally keep abreast of current developments in these areas. We are happy to share our expertise with you. Find out more about three current legal developments below:

Due Diligence Laws in the EU

On March 10, 2021, the European Parliament adopted a legislative report on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability. The proposed directive requires large companies operating in the EU internal market to conduct environmental and human rights due diligence along their entire value chain.

Guest author Dr. Chris Bayer of [Development International e.V.](#) has prepared an article discussing the highlights of the new legislation and the resulting consequences for companies. Access the article [here](#).

Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)

Joerg Walden, founder and CEO of iPoint-systems, sat down with Juan Ibañez and Dr. Chris Bayer of Development International e.V. to discuss the European Commission's proposal for the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), adopted on April 21, 2021.

As with the Non-Financial Reporting Directive, companies are still required to report on environmental, anti-corruption, diversity, human rights, social responsibility, and employee matters, but they have to do so in more detail, and in accordance with to-be-developed mandatory EU sustainability reporting standards.

The proposed directive affects companies meeting at least two of the following three requisites: 250 employees or more, 40 million euros in turnover, 20 million euros in total assets. Find out more about the potential impact of these new requirements and what to look out for in this [interview](#).

The Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR)

Joerg Walden sat down again with Juan Ibañez and Dr. Chris Bayer of Development International e.V. to discuss the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) – an EU regulation on sustainability-related disclosure requirements in the financial services sector –, which was adopted on November 27, 2019 and came into force on March 10, 2021. In this latest interview, they discuss which companies the regulation applies to, what the regulation provides for and how the problem of greenwashing is being addressed. Access the interview [here](#).



Achim Schrempp



Angelika Steinbrecher

IPOINT CUSTOMER FORA

iPoint Automotive Forum

After twelve successful sessions since the launch of the “iPoint Automotive Forum” in 2020, we will go into the next round with our webinar series for iPoint’s automotive customers starting in January 2022.

The customer forum provides information about iPoint solutions, current topics, and automotive-specific issues such as new regulations, changes in regulations, and IMDS changes. Here, customers can give feedback and help us to adapt our software solutions to their current needs and requirements. At the end of each session there is the opportunity to ask the experts questions directly. Afterwards, all participants receive the recording, the presentation, and a detailed FAQ document.

The iPoint Automotive Forum will take place six times in 2022. All those who have registered so far will receive an invitation automatically.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Achim Schrempp, Head of Competence Center – Business Excellence

➔ achim.schrempp@ipoint-systems.de

iCARE Leaders Forum

In 2021, we launched a completely new format for iPoint customers – the “iCARE Leaders Forum”.

This forum will inspire you to further develop your company with the help of future-oriented topics – such as the transition to the circular economy, creating transparency through blockchain technology, as well as FMD and the path to sustainability and a product passport. Both iPoint-internal and external experts will contribute their experience and knowledge. Representatives from all industries are cordially invited to join this customer-centered forum and participate in the open discussions.

In 2022, the iCARE Leaders Forum will take place at non-regular intervals throughout the year.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Dr. Angelika Steinbrecher, Senior Expert Compliance, Sustainability and Innovation

➔ angelika.steinbrecher@ipoint-systems.de

Contents

2	Editorial & Imprint	14	CircularTree	20	Trends
3	News	15	Awards	20	CE-PASS Research Project
4	Business Today	16	BASF and iPoint Join Forces	21	Trends Survey
4	MFCA at Ronal	17	Catena-X Automotive Network	22	Circular Economy Research
6	Logitech Guest Article	18	ECO Platform	23	New Laws
8	SCIP Database Update	19	WBCSD Pathfinder Framework	24	iPoint Customer Fora
10	Digital Product Passports				

