

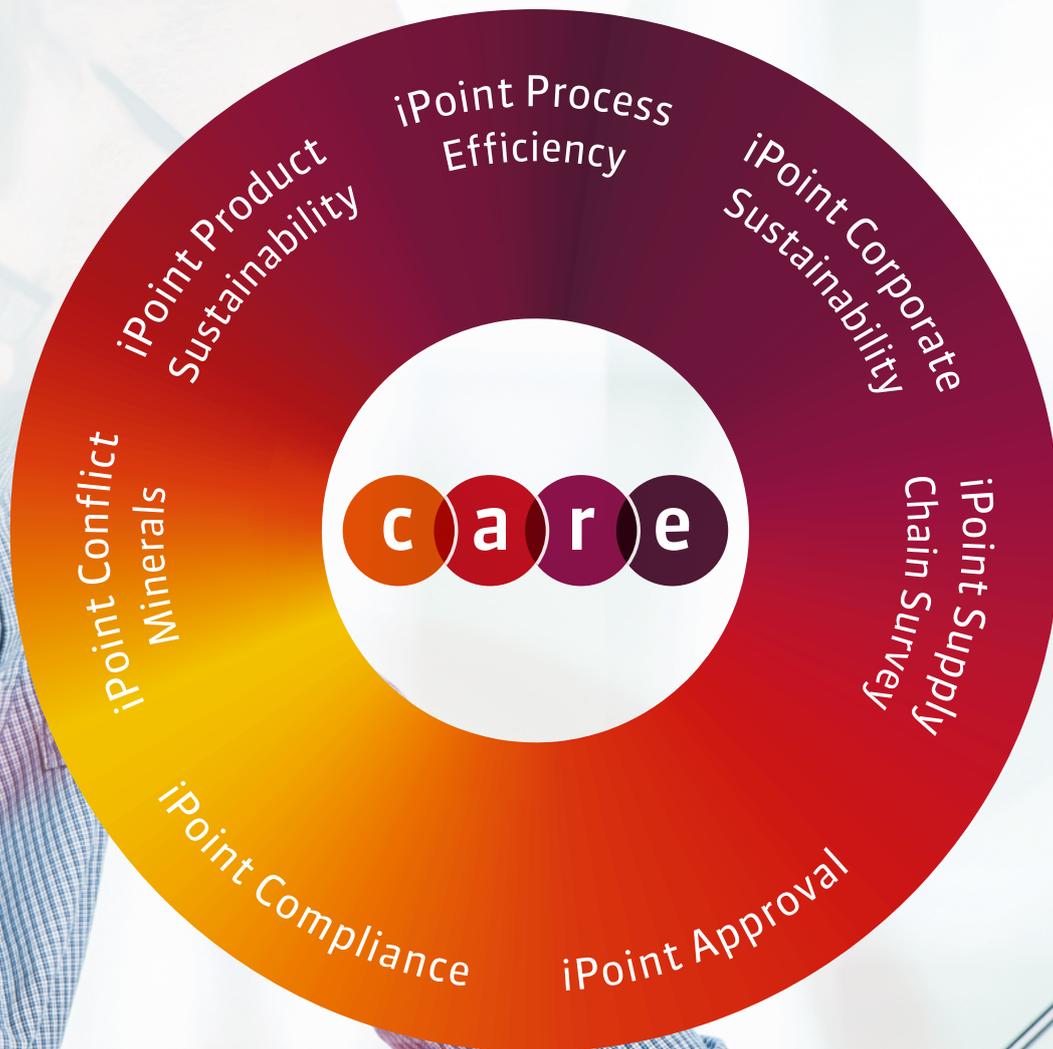


iPoint

iPoints

The customer magazine of iPoint-systems

07 / December 2019



iPoint Suite





“When you’re finished changing, you’re finished.”
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Imprint

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

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Dear Readers,

● Brexit, the end of the global economic boom, trade conflicts, other dynamic external influences – keyword VUCA world –, as well as the continuous growth of global consumer, customer, and legal requirements for sustainability, materials, and compliance management are just a few indicators of our constant companion change.

Change also remains a big issue at iPoint in many areas. The assessment of market developments as well as our customers’ need to process product-related data holistically, led us to merge our product portfolio into a single suite – the iPoint Suite. New colleagues, tools, technologies, partners, and research projects support us in realizing this innovative approach. We have summarized these and other highlights of the year for you in this magazine issue.

The current market trends encourage and strengthen our vision and orientation at iPoint as a solution provider for the circular economy: We want to offer you the most successful solutions and services to ensure the sustainability of products – flexibly, integratively, and in a pioneering way.

I look forward to working with you in the future and wish you an exciting read!



Joerg Walden, CEO iPoint-systems



Representatives of the 105 organizations who founded the International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA) on April 3, 2019.

AWARD

iPoint Recognized As Top Compliance Solution Provider 2019

APAC CIOoutlook has selected iPoint as one of the Top 10 compliance solution providers offering state-of-the-art technology solutions which help enterprises tackle complex compliance challenges and optimize their business processes. One decisive factor for our inclusion in this list was iPoint's 'Digital Circular Economy' approach. In addition, APAC CIOoutlook featured iPoint as the cover story of the Compliance Special of their enterprise business technology print magazine

PARTNERSHIP

iPoint Partner of CI-SCP

iPoint is now a partner of the Consumer Information Programme for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CI-SCP) of the UN One Planet network. As such, we have agreed to help promote the programme and progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 12 (Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns) and are actively involved in the implementation of the CI-SCP.

BLOCKCHAIN

iPoint CEO co-chair of Working Group "Social Impact"

 We are excited to announce that iPoint CEO Joerg Walden has been elected co-chair of the working group "Social Impact" of the International Association of Trusted Blockchain Applications (INATBA). Based on the assumption that Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) offer a unique set of tools to tackle some of the most pressing issues humanity is facing today, the working group aims to leverage Blockchain and DLT to achieve positive socio-economic impact and advance societal goals such as the SDGs.

CircularTree wins

HACKDAY@SIS19

How can each product be given a CO2 footprint technically and economically? Focusing on this question, iPoint's startup CircularTree won the hackathon HACKDAY@SIS19 in September in cooperation with technology and business experts and highly qualified students.



CircularTree

Automate and optimize your product compliance processes and meet your further sustainability goals

- Product-related regulatory & customer compliance: ELV, REACH, FORD RSMS, GMW 3059, ...
- Improvement in efficiency & quality
- Integrated business process management
- Integration to existing IT environments

Dr. Bing Xu is iPoint's new Director of Market Engagement.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

iPoint welcomes Dr. Bing Xu as Director of Market Engagement

In June, Dr. Bing Xu joined iPoint as Director of Market Engagement. In this role, he is responsible for helping customers leverage iPoint applications for product compliance, process compliance, and sustainability. Based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the North America main office, he focuses on the benefits of bringing compliance further into the product design phase and on the selection of alternative materials. Together, these concepts allow companies to produce more technically-advanced products while reducing the risks associated with compliance.

IMDS pioneer with Strategic Foresight in Material Compliance

Dr. Xu brings over 25 years of experience as a Program Manager at Ford Motor Company. Important positions and functions include, among others:

- 1997: Head of Ford's Global Materials Management (GMM) program, which oversaw and managed Ford global materials approvals, material compliance, material management processes, and IT tools for all Ford brands and regions worldwide
- 1998: Part of the team of original OEM members who developed the VDA/EDS system, which later became the International Material Data System (IMDS)
- Leading Ford's team to develop long-term strategies to anticipate and embrace the upcoming challenges OEMs would be facing in terms of utilizing material compliance tools to reduce costly non-compliance risks in early design phases and allow alternative selections of greener materials

Influential Industry Association and Committee Experience

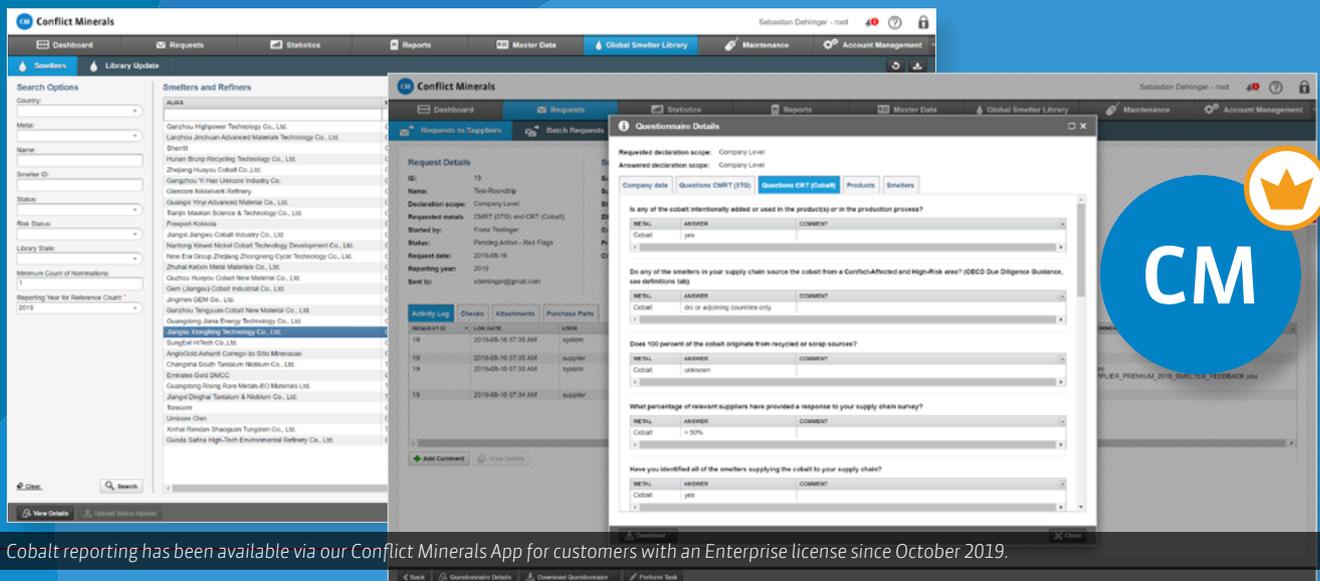
Dr. Xu can also look back on many years of experience in various industry associations and committees, e.g. as

- Chair of the IMDS/REACH Advisory Group of the US Automotive Industry Action Group (AIAG)
- Co-chair of USCAR's Vehicle Recyclability Program and Substance of Concerns committees
- Chair of the Global Automotive Declarable Substance List (GADSL) Steering Group
- Steering Committee member representing the automotive industry conducting alternative assessments for several substances led by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Continuing iPoint's Success Story

Dr. Xu, who has been working with iPoint's software since 2013, is convinced of the company's mission "to develop innovative solutions that support not only compliance with the law, but also the sustainability of products, value chains, and brands. I am excited to be part of this established market leader in solutions for product compliance, sustainability, and the digital circular economy."

iPoint-CEO Joerg Walden emphasizes: "We are thrilled to have Bing on board. His depth of experience, industry knowledge, contacts, and management capabilities will complement our growing team in North America and benefit our ever-expanding customer base from the automotive and other industries."



Cobalt reporting has been available via our Conflict Minerals App for customers with an Enterprise license since October 2019.

iPOINT SUSTAINHUB

Cobalt Reporting via the iPoint SustainHub

The worldwide demand for cobalt – the key element used in batteries of mobile phones, laptops, and electric vehicles – has been increasing year after year. To ensure responsible sourcing, the Responsible Minerals Initiative (RMI) created the Cobalt Reporting Template (CRT). In December 2018, version 1.1 of the CRT was formally launched.

What is the CRT?

The CRT is a free, standardized, Excel-based reporting template that facilitates the exchange of information through the supply chain regarding mineral country of origin and smelters and refiners being utilized. In doing so, it supports companies' exercise of due diligence in accordance with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Supply Chains of Minerals from Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas. The CRT also facilitates the identification of smelters and refiners. It was designed for downstream companies to gather and disclose information about their supply chains up to, but not including, the smelter.

What is the difference between CRT and CMRT?

The CRT is similar to the existing Conflict Mineral Reporting Template (CMRT), the industry-standard template for companies required to file a Conflict Minerals Report (CMR) according to the U.S. Dodd-Frank Act, Section 1502. While the CMRT includes the so-called 3TG, that is, tin, tungsten, tantalum, gold, and their ores, the CRT is limited to cobalt only. To date, there are no regulatory compliance requirements in place for cobalt, but several of iPoint's customers

are already in the starting blocks to collect cobalt-related information from their supply chain. Furthermore, existing regulations such as the Dodd-Frank Act as well as upcoming regulations such as the EU Conflict Minerals Regulation have clauses which open the door for inclusion of further commodities in the future.

Cobalt Reporting on the SustainHub – available since October 2019

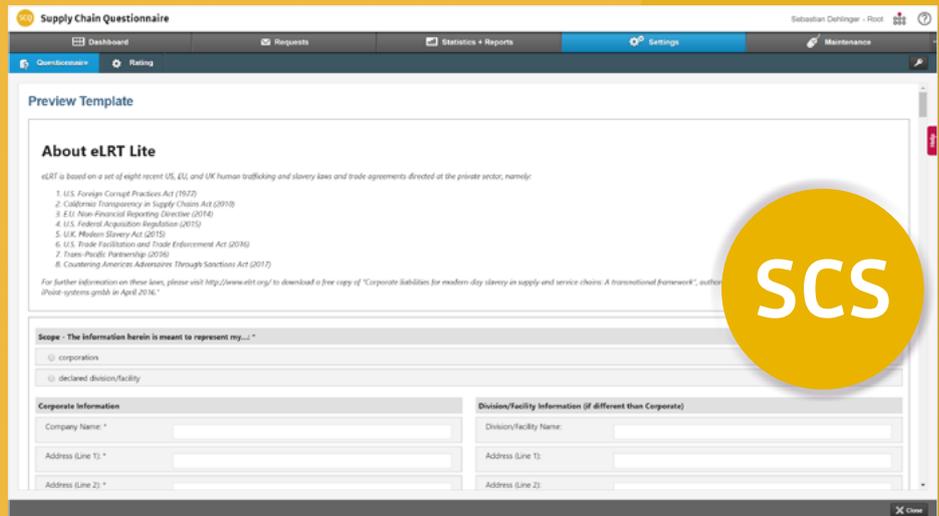
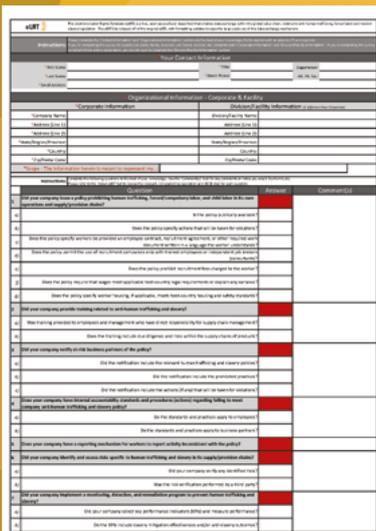
In October 2019, iPoint launched a new version of our iPoint Conflict Minerals app on the iPoint SustainHub which includes Cobalt reporting in the existing reporting workflow. Customers with an Enterprise license have the possibility to add Cobalt reporting to their account. Users of all other licenses can respond to requests including cobalt related-questions by either uploading a CRT to the application or using the user-guided wizard within the application. Our latest addition to enable responsible sourcing is futureproof since it also supports upcoming releases, e.g., the CRT.

You are interested in extending you Conflict Minerals Enterprise licence with the new Cobalt reporting? Then get in touch and request a demo.

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The new Excel version eLRT Lite and the automated implementation in the Supply Chain Survey of the iPoint SustainHub.

ELECTRONIC LABOR RIGHTS TEMPLATE & SUSTAINHUB

Identify risks and achieve anti-slavery compliance with eLRT

In August, iPoint launched eLRT Lite, a free, open-access, Excel-based, B2B reporting tool designed to support companies in complying with global human trafficking and modern slavery legislation. The Excel template facilitates the collection, analysis, communication, and reporting of critical anti-slavery measures through companies' global supply chains in accordance with the regulatory and company-specific requirements. The Excel template forms the basis of our cloud-based eLRT solution as part of the iPoint Supply Chain Survey app on the iPoint SustainHub. It includes features and functionalities to automate the collection, analysis, management, and reporting of relevant data.

Eight global laws and trade agreements covered

eLRT – short for electronic Labor Rights Template – is based on a set of eight recent US, EU, and UK human trafficking and slavery laws and trade agreements directed at the private sector. The legal obligations have been translated into 14 core questions that companies using the template can apply to collect data from their global supply chains. The template is structured according to the OECD's internationally recognized five-step due diligence framework.

Field Trials with Corporate Stakeholders

eLRT Lite can be used across any industry sector and supply chain to identify and mitigate risks related to human trafficking and modern slavery. "By working closely with several stakeholders from the corporate world, we were able to enhance the functionality and usability of eLRT Lite", says iPoint CEO Joerg Walden. "Our pragmatic, user-centered approach includes offering software solutions that meet our customers' business needs, all while fully aligned with present legal and market-specific requirements," he adds.

Standard tool for anti-slavery and anti-human-trafficking compliance

For Joerg Walden, "eLRT is designed to become the standard reporting tool for anti-slavery and anti-human-trafficking compliance in any industry sector where goods or services are rendered." Tolga Yaprak, senior consultant at iPoint responsible for the creation of eLRT Lite, emphasizes: "With this tool, iPoint can leverage their long-standing experience with global data collection and risk management solutions to facilitate the eradication of forced labor, modern slavery, and human trafficking."

Resources

The Excel-based template is available for download free of charge on the website :

➔ www.elrt.org.

The cloud-based eLRT solution as part of the iPoint Supply Chain Survey app is available via the iPoint SustainHub. Suppliers can still complete eLRT Lite for free through SustainHub – just like they do when they submit any other types of data, for example on conflict minerals, materials compliance, product chemical risk, etc.

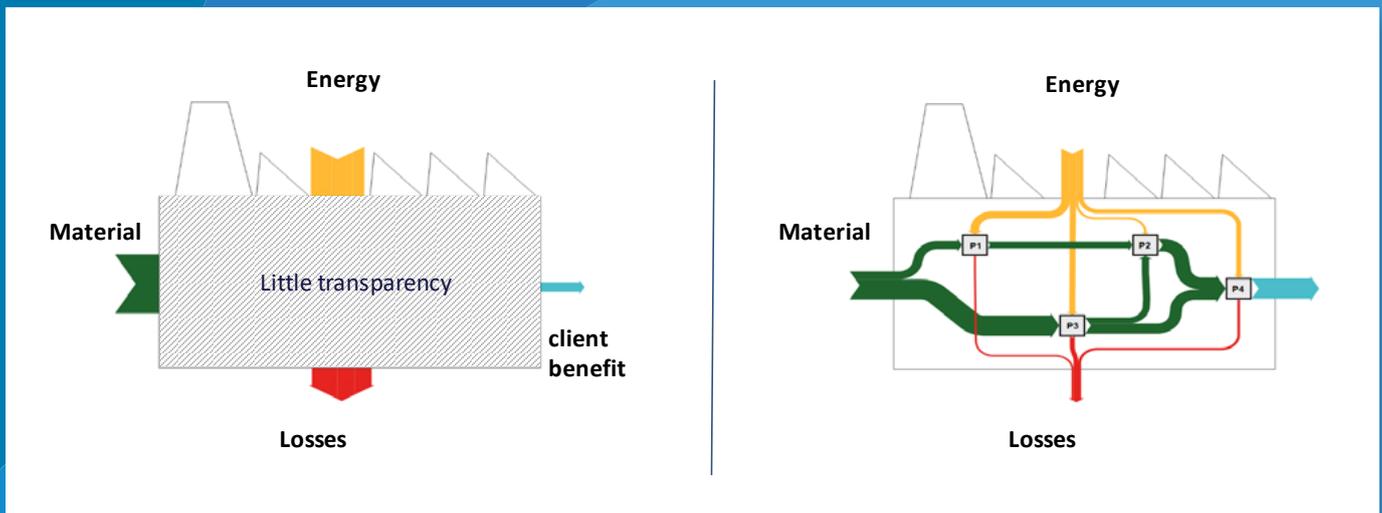
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A Sankey diagram visualizes how increased system transparency leads to increased energy and material efficiency.

UMBERTO

Increase Material Efficiency through MFCA

Working resource-efficiently is the highest priority for manufacturing companies. To achieve this goal on a material level, companies rely on Material Flow Cost Accounting (MFCA). MFCA is used to calculate the actual costs of material losses, including hidden costs due to transport, machine use, energy, as well as auxiliary and operating materials, so that these can be minimized. The resulting transparency means that losses can be avoided right from the start.

Umberto – the Software for Calculating Material Flow Costs
 umberto – our software for material flow management and life cycle assessment – offers a possibility for simple calculation of material flow costs and for increasing resource efficiency. Developed by the iPoint subsidiary ifu Institute for Environmental IT (ifu Hamburg), the software supports the increase of material and energy efficiency, the calculation of carbon footprints, and the preparation of life cycle assessments, thus helping to achieve greater eco-efficiency. The umberto product family currently includes two versions: Umberto Efficiency+ for integrated resource efficiency and Umberto LCA+ for integrated environmental assessments.

Funded MFCA projects

In Germany, MFCA is supported by numerous projects. They aim, for example, to use practical case studies to make the capabilities of MFCA visible, to lower the entry barriers and thus to increase resource efficiency. We are currently involved in the following projects:

- EFFIMA BW: Material Efficiency Program of Umwelttechnik BW GmbH - the State Agency for Environmental Technology and Resource Efficiency in the southwest German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The analyses are carried

out for matteco, Junker Filter GmbH, MinERALiX GmbH, Fischerwerke, and Voith Paper.

- MFCA-Hamburg: Supported by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy and in cooperation with the University of Hamburg. Introduction of MFCA in Hamburg companies such as Arcelor Mittal, GoodMills Germany, Aurora Muehle Hamburg, Gebr. Jancke GmbH, Nordische Oelwerke, Hydro Aluminium, and Premium Cola.
- MFCA mobile: Mobile support for MFCA in SMEs, funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) and realized with the practical partners SAF Holland, Ronal, Junker Filter, Palas, and the Heidelberger Lackfabrik.

Many companies, consultants and scientists worldwide already rely on our umberto software solution. Are you also interested? Then use our interactive web presentations or test the software without obligation. You are also welcomed to contact us directly: Together we will find the optimal solution for your company.

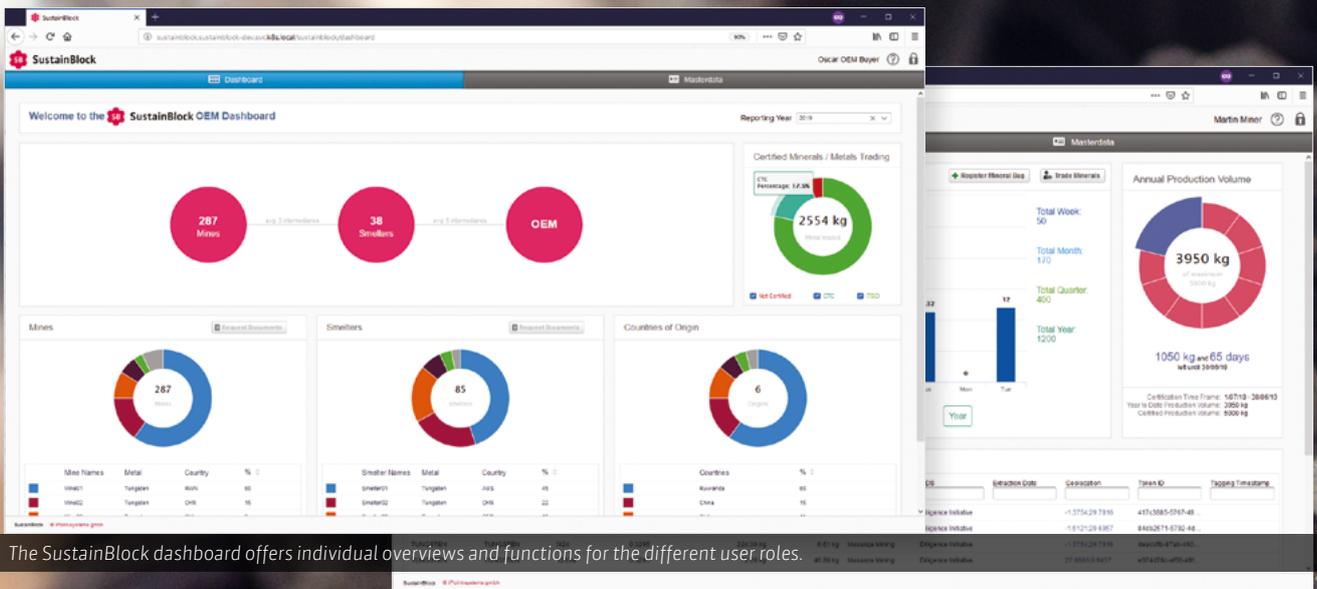
Further information can be found here

- ➔ www.ifu.com/umberto

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The SustainBlock dashboard offers individual overviews and functions for the different user roles.

SUSTAINBLOCK

Blockchain-assisted Supply Chain Accountability and Due Diligence Reporting System

iPoint is currently heading the project SustainBlock, which is funded by the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM). The project aims at increasing the demand for responsibly sourced minerals and metals from conflict-affected and high-risk areas (CAHRAs) across the supply chain – by establishing a Blockchain-enabled traceability process along the entire supply chain from mine to store, thereby enabling end-users to manage upstream due diligence processes.

Benefits of Blockchain

Blockchain-based traceability and data reporting onto a decentralized network provide downstream supply chain actors and end-users access to reliable and verified data on all relevant stages of the supply chain in regions targeted by responsible sourcing legislation. Blockchain technology introduces the possibility of cryptographically verifying every transaction in a supply chain. When applied to mineral supply chain due diligence, it offers several benefits which are currently missing from chain-of-custody schemes and constrain upstream engagement – including, for example, decentralized and distributed information on responsibly sourced minerals as well as data immutability.

Pilot project

The pilot supply chain originates from a responsible artisanal tungsten mine in the African Great Lakes Region, tracing the exporter, receiving smelter to the final industrial user. Having completed the development of the SustainBlock software in June, the next steps include the rollout and productive use of the solution on the ground in the African Great Lakes Region.

Consortium and partners

iPoint's project partners include BetterChain – an organization specialized in conflict-free assurance for tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold supply chains with a strong local network in the DRC, Ruanda and adjoining countries as well as among other mineral supply chain stakeholders – and CircularTree, a startup which aims at leveraging emerging technologies to make the world a better, more sustainable place by supporting companies to achieve sustainable supply chains and products.

Backed by multi-stakeholder partner consortium EPRM

The multi-stakeholder partnership EPRM aims at creating better social and economic conditions for mine workers and local mining communities, by increasing the number of mines that adopt responsible mining practices in CAHRAs. EPRM members include, among others, Apple, Intel, Philips, Samsung, Umicore, RMI, Fairphone, the International Tin Association, Solidaridad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

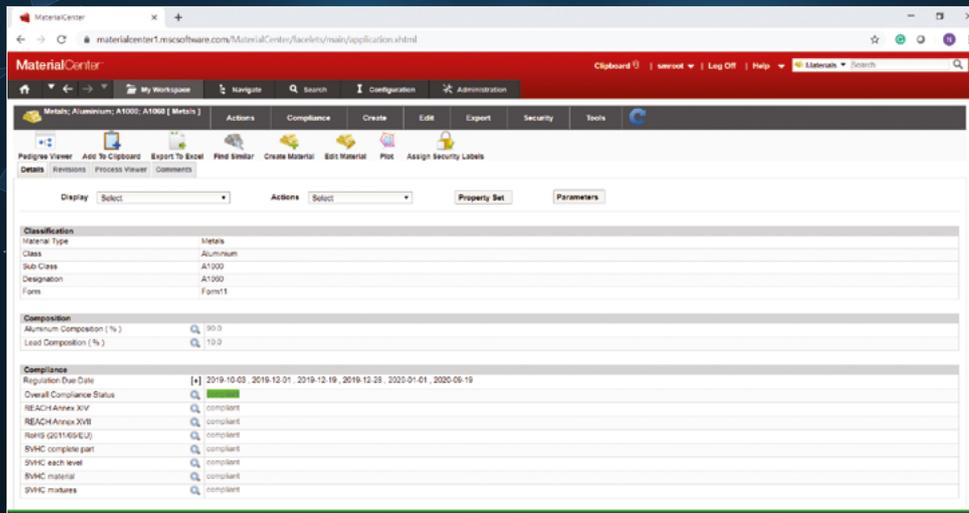
Learn more about SustainBlock:

➔ www.sustainblock.org

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In the MaterialCenter application from MSC Software, the user can query the compliance status of his materials thanks to the iPoint Connector.

RESPONSIBLE DESIGN

New Partner: MSC Software

To stay competitive in today's global market, companies face an increasing amount of pressure to design high-performance, high-quality products faster and cheaper, while still ensuring they are compliant with a growing list of international and customer-specific requirements. For many companies, compliance with these requirements comes too late in the design phase, causing major delays and increased costs during actual production. Trying to find an application that supports all aspects of material testing, product design, and compliance, and that bridges the gap between them is rather challenging.

To solve these challenges, iPoint and MSC Software, part of Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence division, have embarked on a partnership, bringing together two industry-leading solutions into one integrated offering. It is designed to work across multiple CAD/CAE/CAM systems as well as various PLM/ERP systems, making it ideal for large, complex companies which need to merge data from a diverse set of applications. The direct integration of iPoint's Compliance Application (iPCA) with MSC Software's MaterialCenter 2020 enables robust and immediate environmental compliance checks, provides the unique capability of combining corporate materials management and compliance with the latest information on legislation

like REACH and RoHS, and allows comparison of properties of both physical and simulation data.

At the heart of the integrated offering is the ability for a material and/or design engineer to develop, test (physically or virtually), and manage proprietary and third-party materials data, and then review those materials from a compliance perspective. The compliance software also allows the company's designated users to check compliance from other data sources, such as part libraries, or from information directly provided by the supplier. The system is flexible, which allows the company to expand into other areas of compliance such as social compliance, process chemicals, and other aspects of EHS.

Our integrated solution offers optimal entry points for material engineers, design engineers, CAE analysts, and compliance specialists. Each will have the full capabilities for their respective domain expertise with access to information needed from the other disciplines. We look forward to the cooperation with MSC.

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About MSC Software

MSC is a leader in Computer-aided Engineering (CAE) for simulations and virtual product development. Headquartered in Newport Beach, California, the company employs over 1,300 people in 23 countries. Since its acquisition by Hexagon in 2017, the world's leading information technology provider with 20,000 employees in 50 countries and net sales of €3.8 billion, MSC has operated as an independent business unit within Hexagon's Manufacturing Intelligence (MI) division. Its core business are integrated, process-oriented end-to-end solutions for the discrete manufacturing industry.



Markus Gerner (DEKRA; r.) presented the certificates to iPoint CEO Joerg Walden (l.) and iPoint Quality Management Officer Nadja Woelfer (m.).

INFORMATION SECURITY & QUALITY MANAGEMENT

iPoint successfully certified according ISO 9001 and 27001

With effect from June 19, 2019, iPoint-systems gmbh is certified according to DIN EN ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO/IEC 27001. This was preceded by a three-day certification audit of the company's quality management and information security management systems carried out at the headquarters in Reutlingen as well as iPoint's compliance with the most common data protection laws, guidelines, and specifications such as the GDPR. The audit covered the entire value chain and focused on core processes as well as management and support processes. During the audit, iPoint was able to convince the auditors that the company consistently adheres to and implements the globally recognized standards in all audited areas and processes.

Continuous improvement process

"We are very proud of these certificates," emphasizes Joerg Walden, CEO of iPoint. "They confirm that our continuous efforts to improve quality and information security are successful and that we can meet the high standards for data protection even in an international comparison," he adds. "The certificates also show that, based on our continuous improvement process, we are optimally equipped

for current and future requirements and tasks and are able to adapt flexibly to new market conditions and customer requirements while continuously optimizing quality and information security".

DEKRA hands over certificates at iPoint Customer Day

The audit was carried out by DEKRA Certification GmbH. Markus Gerner, Head of Sales Region South-West at DEKRA, presented the certificates to iPoint CEO Joerg Walden and iPoint Quality Management & Information Security Officer Nadja Woelfer during the iPoint Customer Conference in Reutlingen on June 27, 2019. The certificates will initially be valid for three years. In order to be able to confirm the high standards in the long term, the certification will be repeated at regular intervals.

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EN ISO 9001:2015 is the name of the international standard for quality management systems (QMS). It documents principles and measures for quality management and defines the minimum requirements to be fulfilled. In doing so, it considers 7 quality management principles: Customer orientation, leadership, relationship management, personal commitment, improvement, process-oriented approach and fact-based decision-making.

ISO/IEC 27001 is the name of the international standard for information security management systems (ISMS). It contains corresponding rules and procedures to be followed by a company and defines minimum requirements for the establishment, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of information security. Basic values are the availability, confidentiality, and integrity of information.



The ECHA website for the SCIP Database: <https://echa.europa.eu/scip-database>

SCIP DATABASE

Automate the exchange of information with iPoint Compliance

With the revision of the Waste Framework Directive (EU) 2018/851, Article 9, the European Chemicals Agency ECHA was tasked with the implementation of a database collecting (and making available) information on articles containing Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) above 0.1% by weight as specified by the Candidate List.

The SCIP database

In September 2019, ECHA published detailed information requirements for a database called SCIP – Substances of Concern In articles, as such or in complex objects (Products) –, which entails increased obligations for companies that market an article containing an SVHC above 0.1% in the EU.

Required information

From January 5, 2021, onwards, companies placing an article containing an SVHC above 0.1% on the EU market are required to submit information on:

1. article identification
2. safe use information and
3. identification, location, and concentration of the Candidate List substance(s) contained

A first version of the SCIP database is expected in Q1, 2020.

On December 4, 2019, ECHA published a new SCIP website which includes more information for duty holders and users of the SCIP database information. They have included an extended section providing documentation, workshop information and the tools for SCIP notification.

Compliance tools – How iPoint can help

Although the SCIP database and its information obligations present manufacturers with yet another duty, its ful-

filment will be straightforward for all of those who already have an integrated compliance system in place such as iPoint Compliance (includes former iPCA and Material Compliance). iPoint is directly engaged with ECHA via working groups focused on developing a suitable interface which allows the automated exchange of the information between ECHA's SCIP database and iPoint Compliance. As an official member of the IT user Group we provide input on the development of the system, share our ideas for improvement, analyze different scenarios, and help to identify the areas where extra attention is needed in order to provide adequate support/guidance.

Collect, analyze, report, and evolve data with iPoint Compliance

Paired with the modular iPoint Compliance, which offers the option to collect, analyze, report and evolve product information throughout the supply chain, you will have all information readily available to comply with substance regulations like REACH and also to fulfil SCIP-related information obligations.

iPoint will continue to participate in all the SCIP meetings and focus on providing a solution for our customers. Stay tuned for further updates.

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Learn more about SCIP:

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Joerg Walden at the opening ceremony of the CD Laboratory.

NEW RESEARCH LABORATORY

“Sustainable Product Management in a Circular Economy”

How sustainable is a service or a product? This question is becoming more and more important in purchasing decisions and is therefore occupying more and more companies. But what criteria can be used to reliably assess the sustainability of a product over its entire life span and beyond? How can the necessary data be collected along the value creation network? And how can this data be used meaningfully to support companies in their decision to design their products in a socially and environmentally compatible way?

Researchers at the new Christian Doppler (CD) Laboratory for Sustainable Product Management in a Circular Economy are dealing with these and other questions. The laboratory, which was opened at the University of Graz in April this year, is financed by the participating companies and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs (BMDW). Like all CD laboratories, the new CD laboratory in Graz conducts practice-oriented basic research for concrete entrepreneurial research questions. To this end, the scientists work closely with innovative industrial partners, including iPoint.

Laboratory Creates Practice-oriented Basis for Sustainability Assessment

The new Laboratory for Sustainable Product Management in a Circular Economy researches solutions for the sustainability assessment of products and services. More precisely, the new CD laboratory collects data on the entire life cycle of products and services and defines corresponding principles.

Surveys of companies with a focus on the automotive and packaging industries that want to develop further in the direction of circular economy form the basis. The focus is on the question of which data that could be of interest for a sustainability assessment – e.g. energy demand, emissions, origin of raw materials, working conditions, waste, transport routes – is collected by the companies. It will also determine whether the previous records are sufficient or whether important information has yet to be collected. Once the question of what requirements a sustainable product must meet has been clarified, the researchers will devote themselves to developing efficient methods for collecting, networking, and evaluating the relevant data.

Digital Circular Economy – Cooperation with iPoint

“Digitalization opens up completely new possibilities for research here”, emphasizes sustainability researcher Prof. Dr. Rupert Baumgartner, head of the new laboratory at the University of Graz. “We will investigate what the Internet of Things and Big Data can do for our purposes. After all, the research should also have an application-oriented benefit for the economy – and as a result for society. With our findings, we want to create the basis for the development of practical tools that companies can use as a decision aid for sustainable product management in the Circular Economy”, emphasizes Baumgartner.

To this end, the laboratory is working with iPoint and other partners. “There is an intensive exchange of knowledge between iPoint and the CD laboratory”, notes Andreas Schiffleitner, who heads the Sustainability Competence Center



CHRISTIAN DOPPLER LABORATORY

at iPoint-Austria. “With our knowledge of software solutions and services in the area of data collection in the supply chain, life cycle assessment, compliance with environmental and social regulations, and end-of-life simulation, we contribute to the research activities and successful implementation of the CD laboratory goals.” This knowledge and experience are mainly based on numerous projects with iPoints 55,000 customers around the globe. Thereby, iPoint enables the CD laboratory to conduct online surveys and expert interviews with this customer base, collect requirements, validate concepts, and test prototypes.

“Through the close cooperation of the CD laboratory with iPoint and ARA Altstoff Recycling Austria, it can be ensured that the results are not only of scientific, but also of practical relevance and lead to innovative products and services, e.g. new software solutions for the evaluation and sustainability-oriented design of products in the context of recycling management”, emphasises Baumgartner. “With our findings, we want to create the basis for the development of practical tools that companies can use as a decision-making aid for sustainable product management in the Circular Economy”, Baumgartner continues.

Research results

Expected results of the CD laboratory, which runs until 2025, are instruments, methods, and concepts for the collection of ecological and social data on products and services from the supply chains, the use phase and the disposal phase or recycling, for ecological and social evaluation and design of such products and services, and for using the collected data for further applications (e.g. reporting, compliance management).

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Prof. Dr. Rupert Baumgartner (4th f.l.) and Joerg Walden (5th f.l.) and the participants of the panel discussion.



Venue of fw: transparency 2019: The Stadthalle Reutlingen on one of the hottest days of the year.

REVIEW: FW:TRANSPARENCY 2019

fw:transparency on 26 and 27 June in Reutlingen

Why is transparency important for the compliance and sustainability of products and processes? How can digitalization improve access to and use of life cycle information? What are the advantages and challenges of a company whose business model is based on the Circular Economy? How can new technologies such as Blockchain, AI, or IoT be used as „enablers“ of compliance and the Circular Economy? How can we support our customers in creating transparency in their company? And how do companies like Caterpillar, Osram, Toyota and Volvo use the iPoint Suite to manage risk management, data on conflict minerals, technological innovations in compliance, and the sustainability of their products?

These and other questions were addressed at the „fw:transparency“ event which iPoint hosted on June 26 and 27 at the Stadthalle Reutlingen – the first and only city hall in Germany to hold events that are completely CO2-neutral. A novelty compared to earlier iPoint events was the scope of the event, which brought together various established iPoint events – the Life Cycle Workshop of the ifu Hamburg, the iPoint symposium „Conflict Minerals & Sustainable Supply Chain“, and the annual iPoint Customer Day – under one roof.

Nearly 200 participants followed our invitation and enjoyed a varied program that offered presentations, panel discussions, and World Cafés by and with representatives from business, science and law, as well as networking and discussion opportunities.



Event moderator Marc Church at his opening address for the iPoint Symposium.



Dr.-Ing. Kirsten Biemann from ifeu, Institute for Energy and Environmental Research Heidelberg shared a holistic view of e-mobility.



Jessica Andreasson presented LCA Best Practice at Volvo.





World Café on the theme "Transparency requires a Life Cycle Perspective".

REVIEW: FW:TRANSPARENCY 2019 -- DAY 1



Life Cycle Workshop

The Life Cycle Workshop of ifu Hamburg, which for the first time took place as part of the fw:transparency event, focused on the motto „Transparency requires a life cycle perspective“. With the common goal of reducing environmental impacts, the participants were given detailed insights into current projects in the automotive, aviation, telecommunications, and logistics sectors.

Martina Prox opened the conference with insights into the complexly intermeshed communication channels of sustainability information. Afterwards, ifu consultant Marten Stock gave an introduction to Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and showed that LCAs can both uncover and support „green lies“. This was followed by several different perspectives on sustainability in the automotive industry. Dr.-Ing Kirsten Biemann (ifu Heidelberg) opened with a holistic view of e-mobility. She answered the question of the climate balance status quo of e-cars in Germany and how it could be improved in the future. Elena Wege (Robert Bosch) took the supplier view. She combined LCA and Life Cycle Costing in order to evaluate an e-machine, which is used, among other things, in e-cars.



Martina Prox opened the Life Cycle Workshop.



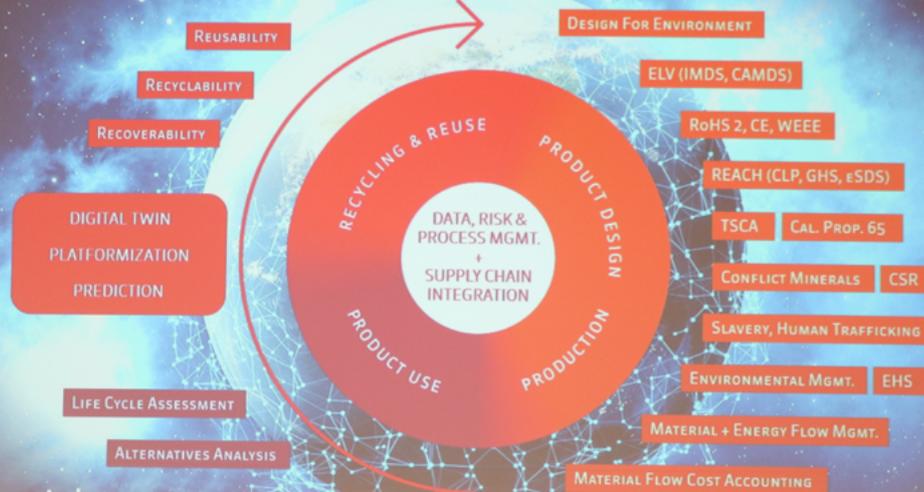
Timo Galitz (CHEP Germany) looked at the supply chain and presented how the supply chains of automotive suppliers can be made more environmentally friendly for inter-continental transports. This was followed by a change of industry to aviation, and Vincent Ackenhausen (Altran Germany) gave insights into the current LCA project of Airbus. After the networking during the lunch break, an interactive World Café was held on various topics, ranging from block-chain to LCA data and software.

In the panel, Dr. Katrin Ostertag (Fraunhofer ISI), Jessica Andreasson (Volvo Cars); and Andreas Kröhling (Deutsche Telekom) discussed the role of the life cycle perspective for the circular economy. Jan Hedemann, Managing Director of ifu Hamburg, concluded the workshop with an outlook on the use of lifecycle information through ongoing digitization. LCA projects today still require too much manual effort, which should be significantly reduced by automated software in the future.



Panel discussion "Role of a life cycle perspective for a sustainable Circular Economy".

Digital Circular Economy Starts with Compliance



Joerg Walden opened the Symposium 2019.

REVIEW: FW:TRANSPARENCY 2019 -- DAY 1

Symposium "From Compliance to Circular Business Models"

The event „From Compliance to Circular Business Models“, also held on June 26, is the continuation of the popular symposium „Conflict Minerals & Sustainable Supply Chain“, which iPoint has organized in Germany since 2013. After the opening speech by Joerg Walden, CEO of iPoint Group, the speakers gave presentations and panel discussions on existing and future laws, reporting frameworks, as well as corporate challenges in sustainable procurement, sustainable products and sustainable value chains. The focus was on the circular economy and related digitalization trends, including blockchain, as well as current and emerging laws in the area of compliance and sustainability.

First, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Ellinghaus LL.M., Partner at Baker McKenzie, presented legal updates on sustainable purchasing, sustainable supply chains, and sustainable products. Subsequently, Sebastian Galindo, Eva Hink, and Dr. Angelika Steinbrecher from iPoint gave three parallel presentations which shed light on current developments in the field of responsible sourcing of minerals, RoHS, and California Proposition 65.

This was followed by three panels: the first focused on the new EU directive on Non-Financial Reporting Directive with Dr. Chris Bayer (Development International), Prof. Dr. Ulrich Ellinghaus LL.M. (Baker McKenzie), Martina Prox (ifu Hamburg, Member of iPoint Group) and Ulrike Werner (OSRAM GmbH). In panel number two, Dr. Josef Peter Schoegg (University of Graz), Arnoud Walrecht (KPMG Sustainability Services), and Ingo Walterscheid (EcoFITT) dealt with the topic “Circular business models – challenges and solutions”. In the third and final panel, Christian Bünger (Verband der Chemischen Industrie), Päivi Kivikytö-Reponen (VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland), Maroye Marinkovic (CircularTree, Member of iPoint Group), Ivan Welvaert (BD), and Peter Wiedmann (Blockchain Institute, Deloitte Consulting GmbH) discussed the topic “Digital Circular Economy – The Role of Technology”.

The most important results were documented in a graphic recording that was made during the event.



Panel 1: Martina Prox, Ulrike Werner, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Ellinghaus LL.M., Dr. Chris Bayer, and event moderator Marc Church.



Panel 2: Dr. Josef Peter Schoegg, Arnoud Walrecht, and Ingo Walterscheid.

iPoint Symposium FROM COMPLIANCE TO CIRCULAR BUSINESS MODELS

fw:transparency2019

WELCOME

From Linear Economy to Circular Economy
 It is the problem for us that we have to change from linear to circular economy. Why are we in a state of transition?
 ... To Circular Economy ... To Digital Circular Economy

CLOSING

So many different aspects
 Focus on sustainable development
 Blockchain in Africa? Why blockchain - business case? - 25 years
 How many transactions? - no high-frequency - no change of data - associations happen

CONFLICT MINERALS EU RESPONSIBLE SOURCING
 Tantalum, Tin, Tungsten, Gold
 supply chain policy suppliers
 yearly check documentation
 RoHS = BMS changes
 any based on compliance
 leads exemptions

THE EU NON-FINANCIAL REPORTING DIRECTIVE
 Germany Reporting
 Reason for Reporting is learn
 Transparency
 OSRAM

CIRCULAR BUSINESS MODELS
 In the longer term...
 Research
 Invest
 Innovation

DIGITAL CIRCULAR ECONOMY
 Digitalization
 Solutions
 Healthcare
 Data for tomorrow

California Proposition 65
 Due Diligence Process
 To whom address? EU/global

Discussion
 Standardization helps? Harmonization!
 Laws are late... Law has to deal with expectations

Discussion
 most beneficial stakeholder for the report?
 OS in the right direction!

Blockchain
 Challenge
 People work together

OSRAM
 Transparency
 Challenges

Discussion
 OS in the right direction!

Discussion
 OS in the right direction!

Blockchain
 Challenge
 People work together

California Proposition 65
 Due Diligence Process

Discussion
 OS in the right direction!

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Blockchain
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 People work together

Graphic Recording with the most significant results of the Symposium.

REVIEW: FW:TRANSPARENCY 2019 -- DAY 1

Compliance- & Conflict Minerals Workshops

In parallel, in the afternoon of June 26 the attendees were given the opportunity to exchange ideas on specific topics in workshops led by experts in small groups. Tolga Yaprak, Senior Consultant for Compliance and Social Responsibility at iPoint, gave a workshop on "Conflict Minerals: Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting". In the workshop "How to face compliance challenges in your company", Angelika Steinbrecher, Senior Expert Compliance, Sustainability & Innovation at iPoint, and Clara Ramon, Senior Consultant at iPoint, gave both an overview of current compliance requirements as well as consulting assistance and an opportunity to exchange information on setting up compliance processes.



Dr. Angelika Steinbrecher informed about updates in the information obligation according to California Proposition 65.

Networking event in the evening

Joerg Walden opened the evening event with a champagne reception following the events and workshops on June 26. In addition to a regional buffet, this offered participants the opportunity to network on the roof terrace of the venue with a magnificent view of the city.



Eva Hink gave insights into current developments in the field of RoHS.



Panel 3: Peter Wiedmann, Ivan Welvaert, Maroye Marinkovic, and Päivi Kiviyttö-Reponen.



A sunny evening event for networking.

One stop shopping for TSZ0001G compliance evidence!

ONE TOYOTA

PROTECTED



James Tu presented the "Avenger Project" of Toyota and iPoint on the second day.

REVIEW: FW:TRANSPARENCY 2019 -- DAY 2

Customer Day

Fw:transparency - this was not only the motto of the two-day event, but also the new title of iPoint's annual customer day. On June 27, the participants of the various events came together to gain insights into iPoints solutions. After the opening speech by iPoint CEO Joerg Walden, Maroye Marinkovic (Circular Tree, Member of iPoint Group) presented the iPoint Suite for the first time. Combined in one suite, all iPoint products pursue the goal of transparency – of products, processes, or their impact on the environment or the ecological, economic, and social impact of the entire company.

All products are also based on the CARE principle (Collect, Analyze, Report, Evolve). Using this principle, iPoint's product managers then presented the functions and advantages of their suite product, which was then discussed by a guest speaker with the help of a concrete best-practice example from the customer's perspective.

Sebastian Dehlinger (iPoint-systems) started with the Suite products on iPoint's SustainHub Platform, including iPoint Conflict Minerals. Christina Widmann (Osram) provided a closer insight by outlining Osram's journey towards lean conflict minerals management. Martina Prox (ifu Hamburg) then presented the new suite product iPoint Corporate Sustainability. Chris Clayton showed Caterpillar's way to supply chain transparency, and Sebastian Galindo (iPoint-systems) the way to iPoint's blockchain-based solution to achieve it.

After lunch, Maroye Marinkovic presented the iPoint Approval app, which not only supports transparency but also automation and standardization of workflow processes. Sushma Kittali-Weidner (iPoint Inc.) and Jens Herrmann (iPoint-systems) presented the iPoint Compliance App – the iPCA embedded in the suite –, followed by a vivid speech by James Tu (Toyota NA) about the "Avenger Project" of Toyota and iPoint. In the last product presentation of the day, Andreas Schifflleitner (iPoint-Austria) gave first insights into the iPoint Product Sustainability solution of the iPoint Suite. Joerg Walden concluded the event together with Marc Church (iPoint Inc.), the fw:transparency moderator.



Christina Widmann illustrated how Osram managed to bring about a lean conflict minerals settlement.



Chris Clayton presented Caterpillar's way to supply chain transparency.



In addition to exciting insights into regulations and product developments, there were also beautiful views from the terrace of the Stadthalle.

REVIEW: FW:TRANSPARENCY 2019



Conclusion

The two-day event of the iPoint Group was a complete success and met with a positive response from participants and speakers. The high-profile speakers and panel discussions, the spectrum of topics ranging from operational best practices to future-oriented perspectives, the open exchange of experts made possible by interactive formats, the collaborative atmosphere, the networking opportunities, as well as the gift for the speakers – tree vouchers for Plant for the Planet, an initiative aimed at raising awareness of climate change and actively combating it through tree planting campaigns – were particularly highlighted.

With our donation we can support this climate protection initiative, which was started in 2006 as a school presentation, with 840 trees, and at the same time support SDGs 4 (Quality Education) and 13 (Climate Action). iPoint has also donated 10% of its attendance fees to The Water Project, a non-profit organization that provides access to clean, safe and reliable water and sanitation solutions throughout sub-Saharan Africa. With this donation, iPoint can also support the implementation of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

We would like to thank all speakers and participants of this year's event. The preparations for our European fw:transparency event next year have already started. We will keep you up to date and look forward to welcoming you to fw:transparency 2020!



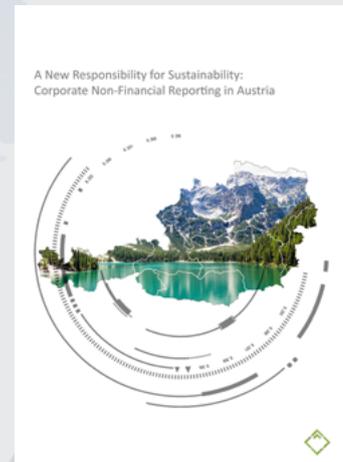
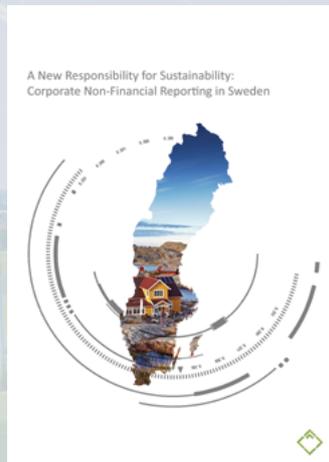
Dr. Josef Peter Schoeggel, Arnoud Walrecht, and Ingo Walterscheid with their tree vouchers.



iPoint speakers such as compliance and social responsibility expert Tolga Yaprak also received a tree voucher.



Presented various iPoint solutions on the second day: Sebastian Dehlinger and Maroye Marinkovic.



The study – to date the only one to focus on ESG content in non-financial corporate reports – benchmarks 516 German, 590 Swedish, and 89 Austrian companies.

NEW STUDY REVEALS:

CSR Reporting Lacks Transparency for Employee and Environment Matters

A new study evaluates corporate compliance with the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive, which affects some 6,500 companies across Europe. Funded by iPoint and prepared by the NGO Development International, the study assesses the degree of non-financial transparency and ESG performance for 2017 and 2018, focusing on companies in Germany, Sweden, and Austria.

The EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive

With this new directive, public-interest entities in the EU member states no longer only report on their financial basics and forward-looking risk discussion. They also retrospectively account for their non-financial footprint, including their adverse impacts on the environment and society. The directive requires their disclosure to contain information including: “non-financial key performance indicators relevant to the particular business” – a point of departure for the study commissioned by iPoint.

1,195 Companies Evaluated on KPIs based on GRI, UN Global Compact, and DNK

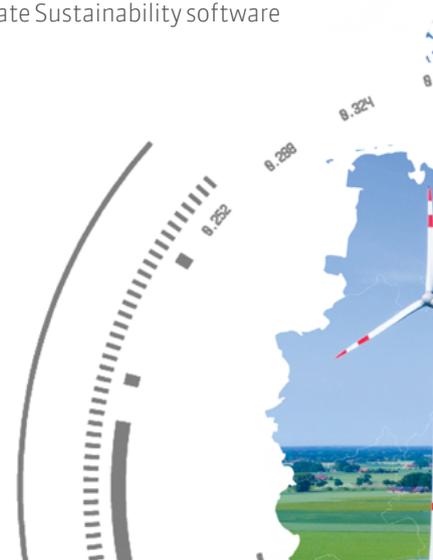
The study – to date the only one to focus on ESG content in non-financial corporate reports – benchmarks 516 German, 590 Swedish, and 89 Austrian companies. It applies over 60 KPIs taken from the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), UN Global Compact, and the German Sustainability Codex (DNK). This deep-dive into the required disclosure areas – environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, as well as anti-corruption and bribery matters – reveals the degree to which companies make an effort to demonstrate their corporate responsibility.

ESG Transparency Correlated with Performance

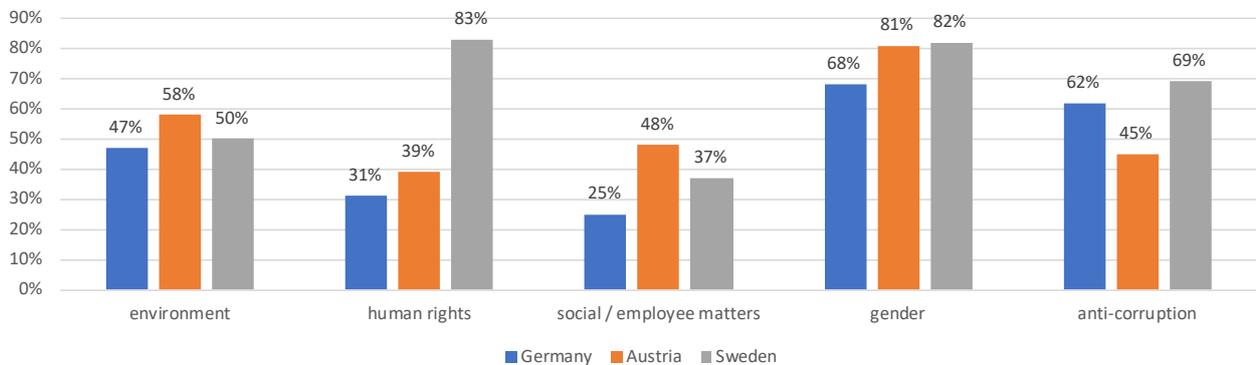
The conclusion is mixed: Reporting on gender equality is generally satisfactory, but in other mandated reporting areas there’s often a lack of transparency, especially regarding employee- and environment-related matters.

“In each country under study, there are examples of brands making a clear effort to be non-financially transparent,” Dr. Chris Bayer, Principal Investigator of the study, notes. “We hypothesize that transparency is correlated with performance, and some of the companies surveyed use this new directive as an opportunity to show that they deserve a social – and not only a financial – license to operate”, he concludes.

“Behind and in front of the scenes we are witnessing substantial ESG action”, iPoint CEO Joerg Walden observes. “But to what extent are companies willing and able to disclose their non-financial essentials also using established reporting frameworks? With this study and iPoint’s solutions – in particular, the new iPoint Corporate Sustainability software –, we can provide answers.”



Degree of transparency in the required disclosure areas



Country comparison: Degree of transparency in the required disclosure areas.

Resources:

The reports for Germany, Sweden, and Austria can be downloaded here:

➔ www.ipoint-systems.com/de/nfrd-report-2018/

Evaluated companies can request their individual scorecards and performance dashboards with a breakdown of their transparency score as well as the overall, sector-specific and company-specific performance scores, from this website.

Your contacts at iPoint

➔ Dr. Katie Boehme, katie.boehme@ipoint-systems.de (Study)

➔ Matthias Keitel, matthias.keitel@ipoint-systems.de (iPoint Corporate Sustainability software)

INFO

EU NFRD Top Transparency Scorers

The degree to which companies were found to be transparent was assessed through the application of KPIs, as required by the EU Directive as well as the national laws under study.

The top three German companies which received the highest transparency scores are:

1. lighting manufacturer OSRAM Licht AG,
2. pharmaceutical and life sciences company Bayer AG, and
3. pharmaceutical, chemical and life sciences company Merck KGaA.

Topping the transparency list of the evaluated Swedish companies are:

1. Outdoor power products manufacturer Husqvarna AB,
2. IT-products reseller Dustin Group AB, and
3. property company Vasakronan AB.

The Austrian companies with the highest transparency scores are:

1. construction company Porr AG,
2. the Autobahn and highway financing stock corporation ASFINAG, and
3. Egger Holzwerkstoffe GmbH, a manufacturer of wood-based panel products.



“Not every product that at first glance looks like the more sustainable choice turns out to be so – and vice versa”, says our LCA consultant Marten Stock.

LCA

Does an LCA reveal green lies?

Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) are a useful tool to either confirm or disprove a product’s assumed environmental advantage. But LCAs can also create green lies, says Marten Stock, consultant at the ifu Institute for Environmental IT Hamburg (Member of iPoint Group). Learn more in the following article, which is based on Marten’s presentation at the 2019 ifu Life Cycle Workshop in Reutlingen.

The nature of green lies and the role of LCAs

Marten Stock casts light on a not-so-well known side of LCAs: “When talking about green lies in this context, we are not referring to lies in the usual sense”, he explains. Rather, a green lie refers to the “assumed environmental advantages of a product system (as compared to other product systems), which turns out to be wrong. But at the same time LCA can also create such a wrong assumption, when the results are not complete or interpreted in the wrong way”.

Sustainability is not always what it seems

In his presentation, Marten Stock highlights the problem via four real-life case studies and projects. Let’s take a closer look at two examples:

Should we buy recycled clothes?

One example for an assumed environmental advantage is the case of a recycled t-shirt: Clearly, a shirt made of recycled PET has the advantage of using less primary raw material during its production phase. Yet the biggest single environmental impact is actually during the use phase (washing), which is the same for both versions and easily overwhelms raw material from the cradle-to-grave perspective. Additionally, the specific factory producing the recycled shirts operates with less energy efficiency, which

results in a greater overall impact during the manufacturing phase.

Glass vs. plastic – the packaging choice

An example for LCA creating a wrong assumption is presented from the packaging sector: Which is the more sustainable packaging choice for yogurt: glass or plastic? An LCA revealed that in each of its life cycle phases, the plastic container actually has the environmental edge with lower impacts. However, the CEO of the exemplary company is very concerned about the increase in macro- and micro plastics in ocean environments and has a strong ethical stand against using plastic containers.

So far, LCAs are not able to factor in things like the impact of dispersed plastics breaking down in the environment. Once more such factors become accountable, it will be a whole different picture.

Nevertheless, the choice of impact categories and the respective interpretation of an LCA is always – to some degree – subjective, but also determining whether an alternative is more sustainable or not. “Not every product that at first glance looks like the more sustainable choice turns out to be so – and vice versa”, Marten Stock summed up his presentation.

For further reading:

➔ www.ipoint-systems.com/blog/do-lcas-reveal-green-lies/



Article 33(2) of REACH entitles consumers to request information from suppliers on the presence of SVHCs in an article.

LIFE AskREACH

IT support for the information obligation under REACH Art. 33

Consumers are increasingly demanding transparency from manufacturers about everyday products and the substances they contain, which can be harmful to human health and the environment. However, most consumers are unaware of their right to information on such pollutants, which is enshrined in the EU chemicals regulation REACH. In addition, many suppliers find it difficult to respond to such consumer requests in accordance with their information obligations under REACH. Various IT tools developed or tested within the framework of the EU project “Life AskREACH” (LAR) are intended to remedy this situation.

The EU project LIFE AskREACH

Led by the German Federal Environment Agency UBA and funded under the LIFE programme of the European Union, the project aims to improve the substitution of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) by increasing consumer demand for SVHC-free products and supporting industrial actors in identifying SVHCs in their products and fulfilling their information obligations under REACH Article 33(2) (see info box). This will be achieved on the one hand by providing a smartphone app for consumers and on the other hand by IT-supported optimization of supply chain communication.

SVHC app for business-to-consumer communication under REACH

In order to increase consumer demand for SVHC-free products, a smartphone app is being developed as part of the LAR project. It enables consumers to immediately receive information about SVHCs in these articles after scanning an article barcode according to REACH Art. 33(2) or to request this information from the article supplier. The smartphone app, which has been available free of charge since November

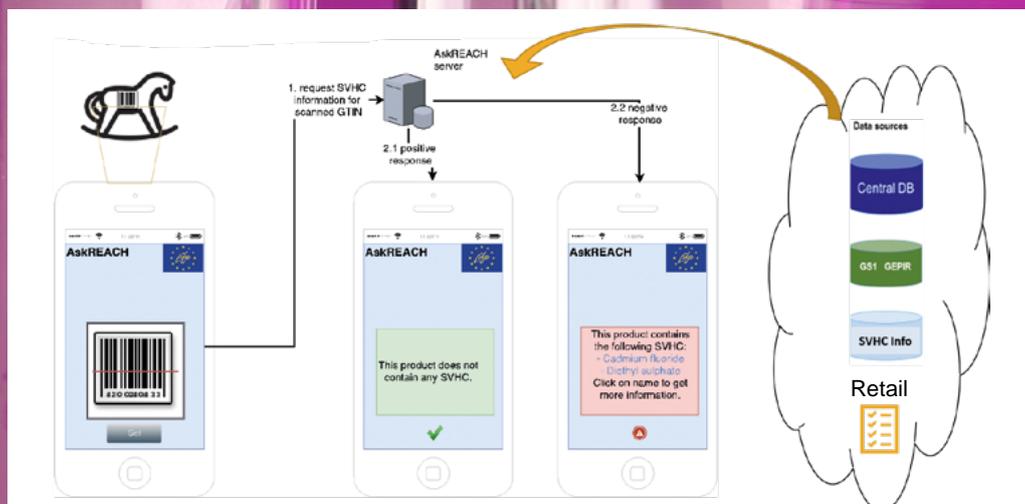
2019, is initially be available in the 14 European countries working together on the project. By the end of the project in the summer of 2022, the app will be available throughout the EU and beyond. The EU project is supported by 19 partners from 13 EU states and several institutions (e.g. ECHA, Cefic).

Central European SVHC Database

The app links relevant information via the unique article barcode. For this purpose, a central European database with information on SVHCs in articles will be set up, which can be filled by suppliers. The supplier responses stored in this publicly accessible database are immediately available for future consumer enquiries. The responsibility for the correctness and up-to-dateness of the data lies with the suppliers.

In parallel to the article database of products containing SVHCs, which is being created within the framework of the EU Life AskREACH project, the European Chemicals Agency ECHA is currently setting up a further database – the so-called SCIP database (cf. article on page 11) – as a condition of the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD). The two databases differ in essential respects. The WFD database, which can be accessed via the ECHA website, is aimed primarily at operators of waste treatment facilities who are supported by the information in sorting and recycling articles containing SVHC; consumers are given access on request and should be supported by the information in making informed decisions and considering how best to use and dispose of these articles.

In addition, the submission of data to the ECHA Supplier Database is mandatory when an item contains more than 0.1%



A consumer request via smartphone app triggers information from the AskREACH system. (Source: Dr Julian Schenten, University of Darmstadt, sofia)

LIFE AskREACH

of a substance on the Candidate List, while the LAR Database is voluntary. There is overlap with the overall objective: Both databases aim to contribute to the progressive replacement of substances of concern in articles, the development of safer alternatives, and the promotion and maintenance of non-toxic substance cycles in line with the Circular Economy.

FMD as an efficient and cost-effective alternative

Furthermore, the Life AskREACH database supports both the declaration of SVHC above 0.1 % and the Full Material Declaration (FMD), i.e. a complete breakdown of the entire product down to the homogeneous material level. If a company has a simple supply chain and simple products, the FMD implementation process is very simple because for a component such as a single electrical resistor containing only a few substances, for example, only a small amount of data needs to be managed. The more complex the supply chain and the products, the more complex and difficult – but also more efficient and cost-effective – an FMD program is.

The data provided by FMD can be used to manage a wide range of existing and emerging regulations and industry requirements – such as REACH, RoHS, Proposition 65, or GADSL (Global Automotive Declarable Substance List) – as well as product lifecycle assessments, material footprinting, and the traceability of rare earth elements along the supply chain.

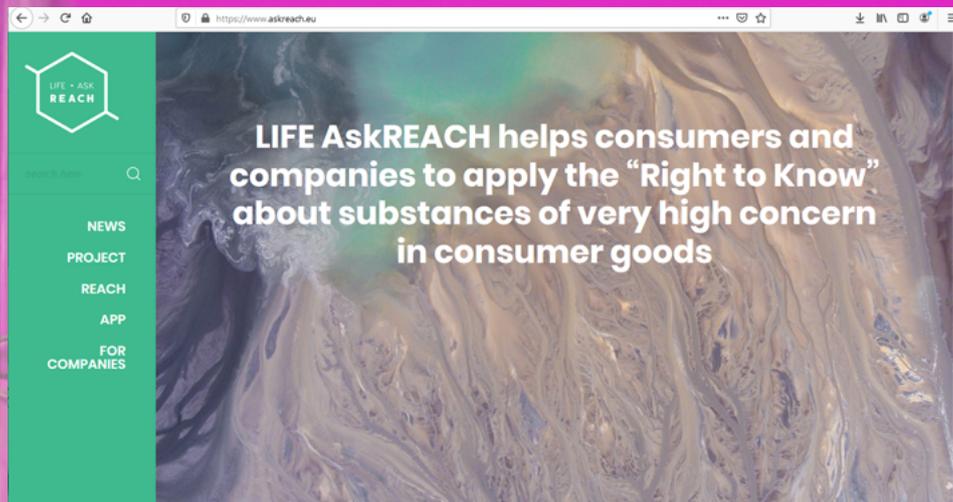
With appropriate IT tools from third parties such as iPoint, repeated queries in the supply chain are no longer necessary for an update of material declarations when lists of restricted or declarable substances change. This is because surveys in the supply chain are sent out automati-

cally, which means that suppliers also have less work to do in the long term.

Supply Chain Tool for SVHC information transfer

As part of the Life AskREACH project, 183 companies – more than half of them SMEs – from 13 European countries were asked about the “right to know” under REACH Art. 33, Par. 2; the most frequently represented companies were from the textile, clothing, electronics, and household goods sectors. The survey showed that a large proportion of the companies surveyed are not well equipped to respond to consumer enquiries: Of the 42% of companies that have already received a REACH Article 33 request from consumers, almost half did not have the information they needed to respond immediately. In addition, only 49% of companies surveyed felt well or quite well informed about the presence of SVHCs in their articles. This may be related to the finding that 42% of the companies surveyed did not have an IT solution to collect and manage information on SVHCs in their articles. Most of the remaining enterprises (58%) using IT solutions used MS Excel (41%). There were no significant differences between SMEs and large enterprises.

To enable suppliers to improve their performance and better meet their information obligations under REACH Art. 33(2), the LAR project provides selected companies with an innovative IT tool for supply chain communication for testing. The use of the tool is free of charge for the pilot companies and their suppliers. The suppliers of the selected companies will be trained and will report on material data for the respective products. The tool informs article suppliers of the exact scope of SVHCs contained in their articles, enabling them to respond to consumers’ “Right to Know” requests. For this



The official Life AskREACH website: www.askreach.eu.

LIFE AskREACH

purpose, article-specific data from the actual supply chains is collected and processed by a material data system (MDS).

The project will not create a new tool but will evaluate existing approaches and use an existing tool – the iPoint Material Compliance App – that is adapted to the project requirements. The aim is to show in several feasibility studies that proactive supply chain communication on substances in articles in different sectors is possible. Companies can also use the tool to create FMDs. The experiences of the pilot companies serve as a basis for the creation of case studies on the efficient communication of articles along the supply chain and will influence the further development of iPoint's Material Compliance App.

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Further information on Life AskREACH can be found here:

➔ www.askreach.eu

INFO

The right to know under REACH Art. 33(2)

Article 33(2) of REACH entitles consumers to request information from suppliers on the presence of substances of very high concern (SVHC) from the REACH candidate list in an article. Suppliers are obliged to provide the relevant information on SVHCs and the safe use of the article within 45 days.

This obligation to provide information applies only to articles containing SVHCs in a concentration of more than 0,1 % of their weight. Suppliers must provide at least the name of the SVHC.

Suppliers are not obliged to inform about other substances. Companies prefer to inform consumers as good business practice even if articles do not contain an SVHC value above 0.1%. If a company does not respond to a request, consumers can contact their national competent authority to ensure that REACH is enforced.

The right to know does not extend to areas subject to separate regulations, such as liquid or powdered products (e.g. paints, varnishes), medical devices, pharmaceuticals, food, cosmetics, detergents and cleaning agents, animal feed, plant protection products, and biocides.



The CARE principle forms the basis for iPoint's software solutions.

iPOINT'S SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

New: The iPoint Suite

• We at iPoint put our customers' objectives at the forefront of all our actions and decisions. Our goal is to provide companies with a competitive advantage in today's complex and dynamic market. By evaluating market trends, our customers' needs, and the data we handle, we've consolidated our product portfolio into a single suite – the iPoint Suite.

Increasing market dynamics lead to complexity

Today's companies face high pressure by investors to improve revenue, by regulations to abide by the new rules and by competitors to be ever competitive. Additionally, market trends are determined by the rapid growth of consumer, customer and legal requirements worldwide and add pressure to an already tense environment. These trends lead to increased complexity potentiated by globalization. Products become more complex and fast-moving, and supply chains intertwined, global and non-transparent.

We live in a world of limited resources but unlimited ideas

To address market requirements, resources are crucial. Unfortunately, they are also limited. Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility become even more critical in times like these. Not only are natural resources limited, but also a company's human resources and financial means.

At the same time, globalization and market dynamics demand innovation. And there are unlimited ideas for new products and technologies that drive innovation. But they can only be realized and brought to market if we make the complexity of products, supply chains, and markets manageable. This is possible through the digitalization of product life cycles. That's why we at iPoint want to be the best at it.

Digitalization and knowledge create Business Transparency

By using digitalization in combination with knowledge about integration, data exchange, and supply chain management, we can create the necessary business transparency, meaning transparency for businesses and for better products. Thus, we can help secure the future viability of our customers. Business transparency is the foundation for good decision-making and any management of compliance or sustainability topics.

We help you CARE – Collect, Analyze, Report, Evolve

Business Transparency helps answer three fundamental questions:

- Do you know what's in your product?
- Do you know your suppliers?
- Do you know your direct and indirect impact?

Answering these questions requires data collection, regulation analysis, and KPIs. The results must be reported to the relevant stakeholders and authorities and can be used to further evolve the company by implementing corrective actions and strategic action plans.

At iPoint, we have come to call this process the CARE principle – collect, analyze, report, and evolve. By applying this principle, companies can identify substances of concern, qualify and approve suppliers, and take control of their environmental, social, and economic impact. The CARE principle forms the foundation of iPoint's software solutions. Most companies collect, analyze, report and evolve already – but most of time they do so separately from each other in different teams or departments, because there's no common data exchange.

<p>iPoint Compliance* Manage what you measure</p>	<p>iPoint Approval* Make products and production safe</p>	<p>iPoint Conflict Minerals* Source responsibly</p>	<p>iPoint Supply Chain Survey* Know your suppliers</p>	<p>iPoint Corporate Sustainability* Evolve beyond standard reporting</p>	<p>iPoint Product Sustainability*</p>	<p>iPoint Process Efficiency* Improve your production</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and ensure the compliance of your products globally Save time and efforts by fully automatizing and integrating iPoint Compliance into your business processes Match your operations with your strategy Benefit from efficient supply chain integration and risk management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and approve all new and existing products, materials, and substances used within your company Connect all departments and sites in one system Save time, costs, and efforts by digitalizing your approval process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage your conflict minerals-free products Aggregate and report all information regarding conflict minerals in your supply chain Easily onboard your suppliers via the supplier portal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect all the information you need from your supply chain Easily adapt iPoint Supply Chain Survey to your growing need for collecting supplier data and communicating along the supply chain Track and analyze your supplier responses to collect data, not just answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handle your sustainability reporting Identify areas of optimization and get actionable insight Get full business transparency on the sustainability performance of your company and supply chain Exceed your customers' and investors' expectations by visualizing your non-financial data beyond standard reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visualize the material and energy flows around your product Assess the environmental impact of your products Analyze and optimize your products regarding energy, material, carbon footprint, and recyclability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze and optimize your production regarding time, energy, material, costs, waste, and customer value Assess the environmental impact of your production Visualize the value stream of your production and make impact assessments before implementing changes
<p><small>*previously Material Compliance + iPoint Compliance Agent (iPCA)</small></p>	<p><small>*new product</small></p>	<p><small>*previously iPoint Conflict Minerals Platform (iPCMP)</small></p>	<p><small>*previously Supply Chain Questionnaire</small></p>	<p><small>*roadmap product</small></p>	<p><small>*roadmap product based on UMBERTO Software</small></p>	<p><small>*roadmap product based on UMBERTO Software</small></p>
<p align="center">iPoint Data Switch* Managed data integration service</p> <p align="right"><small>*previously iPoint Value Chain Agent</small></p>						

The products within the iPoint Suite build on our previous solutions and are linked by a common data management system.

That's why we are building the iPoint Suite

One essential feature of the iPoint Suite is the possibility of data exchange. There will be no need to upload data or log in to numerous portals. By reusing and linking data, the iPoint Suite encourages collaboration and overcoming knowledge silos. The iPoint Suite provides companies the option to step in at the point of their current need. As a company grows, or its needs expand over time, the iPoint Suite can handle the requirements. For example, a company starts with the optimal iPoint Compliance license for its current Material Compliance requirements. If its products and supply chain get more complex or the company sets more ambitious sustainability goals, there's the possibility to add rule groups, features and functions, upgrade the license or even add another suite product.

The Suite will empower companies to speed up decision-making and product development while also efficiently managing resources. By integrating our software into current systems, we're using our flexibility to keep users working with software they know and are comfortable using. Not only can we integrate into systems, but also automate, streamline, and enhance existing processes. Using the iPoint Suite results in improvements in every aspect of businesses.

As a company's needs and requirements change over time, iPoint has taken a proactive approach and is designing the iPoint Suite to easily adapt to existing, changing, and new business processes. No matter what kind of data or how much data needs to be collected, how many suppliers need to be asked to provide data, or how much information needs to be analyzed, the iPoint Suite is ready to assist.

The existing products of iPoint's product portfolio with their features and benefits will form the core of the iPoint Suite (see chart). They will be further improved and benefit from the consolidation to one single suite.

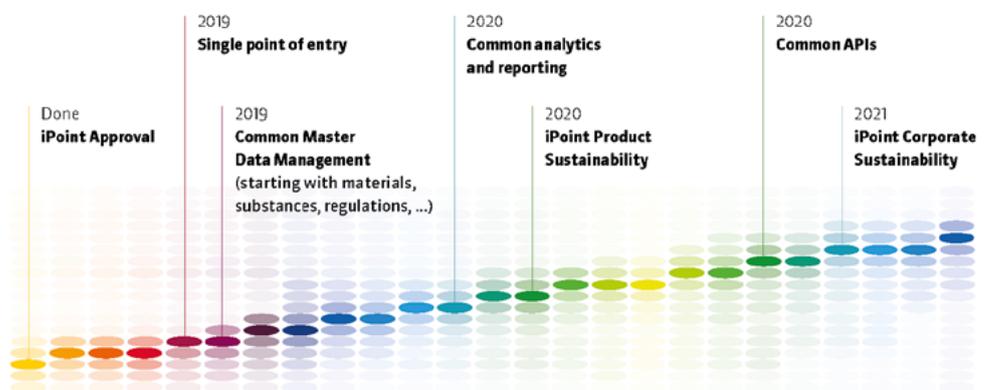
We will keep you up to date on the developments of the iPoint Suite. For a quick overview on which iPoint Suite application will be available when, please check the roadmap below.

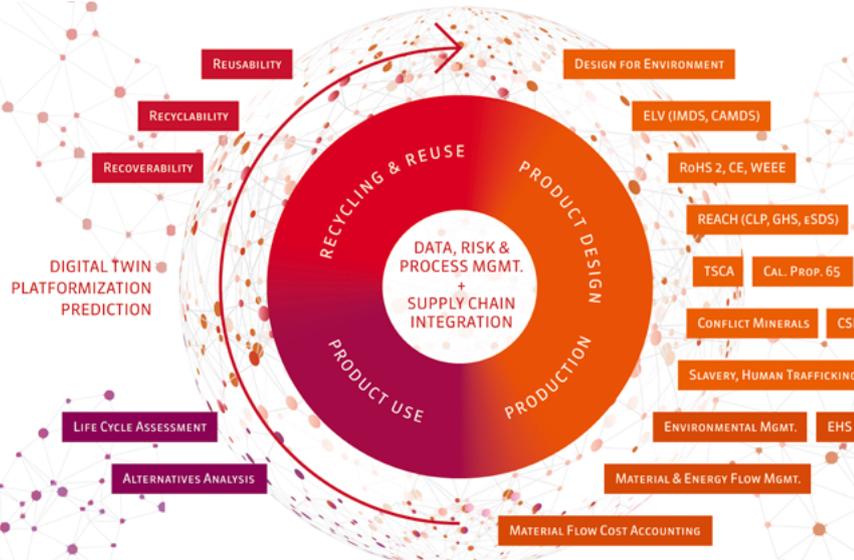
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iPoint Suite: Roadmap
(first overview; not all future items shown)





Assessing the suitability of distributed ledger technology for the Circular Economy: the research project DIBICHAIN.

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DIBICHAIN

Transparent Material Cycles with Blockchain

As a resource-saving economic model, the Circular Economy offers a sustainable alternative to previous economic strategies. But it also presents companies with major challenges. Digital technologies offer promising solutions in this context. In July 2019, the research project DIBICHAIN (Digital Image of Circular Systems via Blockchain) started, which iPoint is implementing in cooperation with other industrial partners, that is, Altran Germany, Blockchain Research Lab, CHAINSTEP, and Airbus. As part of the project, a software demonstrator based on a blockchain will be developed using the example of a bionic component manufactured by Airbus in order to assess the suitability of distributed ledger technologies for the circular economy.

The 36-month research project is funded within the framework of the measure “Resource-efficient closed-loop economy – innovative product cycles” (ReziProK) of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and is part of the Blockchain strategy the German Federal Government recently issued.

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