

# Safety of Electric Vehicles:

How the Right Choice of Polymers  
and Flame Retardants Can Help?



Franz Janson graduated in Plastics Technology in 1986 at the Kunststoffinstitute of Darmstadt.

Franz joined TE in January 1987 as Resin Engineer and has more than 26 years of experience in plastics working for company TE connectivity.

Covering several roles as global gatekeeper with link to material selection / - release, design-/ molding requirements, prototyping and sustainability with direct global interaction with strategic resin suppliers. Lecturer & External Speaker at Plastic Conferences / Student Coaching.



# Actual and future requirements for connectors in electromobility

Franz Janson

*Senior Principal Engineering, Global Platform Engineering*

TE Connectivity







# Plastics in Electric Vehicles

7 June 2023 Munich (Germany)  
14.30 - 16.30 CEST

Actual & Future Requirements for  
Connectors in E-mobility

F. Janson, *Senior Principal Engineering,  
Global Platform Engineering*  
TE Connectivity (TE)

EVERY CONNECTION COUNTS

- 1 TE - Company Introduction
- 2 HV & Fire Protection Requirements
- 3 Sustainability & Circular Economy
- 4 Conclusions



## OUR PURPOSE

**WE CREATE  
A SAFER,  
SUSTAINABLE,  
PRODUCTIVE AND  
CONNECTED  
FUTURE.**



**ADVANCING THE FUTURE  
OF TRANSPORTATION**



**REVOLUTIONIZING  
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY**



**ENABLING GLOBAL  
COMMUNICATION  
NETWORKS**



**MAKING FACTORIES &  
HOMES SMARTER**



# Our Purpose

**WE CREATE A SAFER, SUSTAINABLE, PRODUCTIVE AND CONNECTED FUTURE.**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY 2021 BEST ESG COMPANIES**  
ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE

**CDP**  
DISCLOSURE INSIGHT ACTION

Member of  
**Dow Jones Sustainability Indices**  
Powered by the S&P Global CSA

**SCIENCE BASED TARGETS**  
IN PROGRESS  
DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION



“ We’ve been demonstrating our commitment to sustainable business for years and our strategy is the next evolution of that.

It’s proof of concept that sustainability isn’t something we do, it’s who we are.”

**Terrence Curtin, CEO**

# Automotive at a Glance



A GLOBAL LEADER IN  
AUTOMOTIVE  
CONNECTIVITY  
& SENSOR  
TECHNOLOGY

**>40,000**  
PARTS

**>2,000**  
ENGINEERS

**>\$6B**  
REVENUES

## PRODUCTS

Terminals &  
Connectors



E-Mobility



Data



Sensors



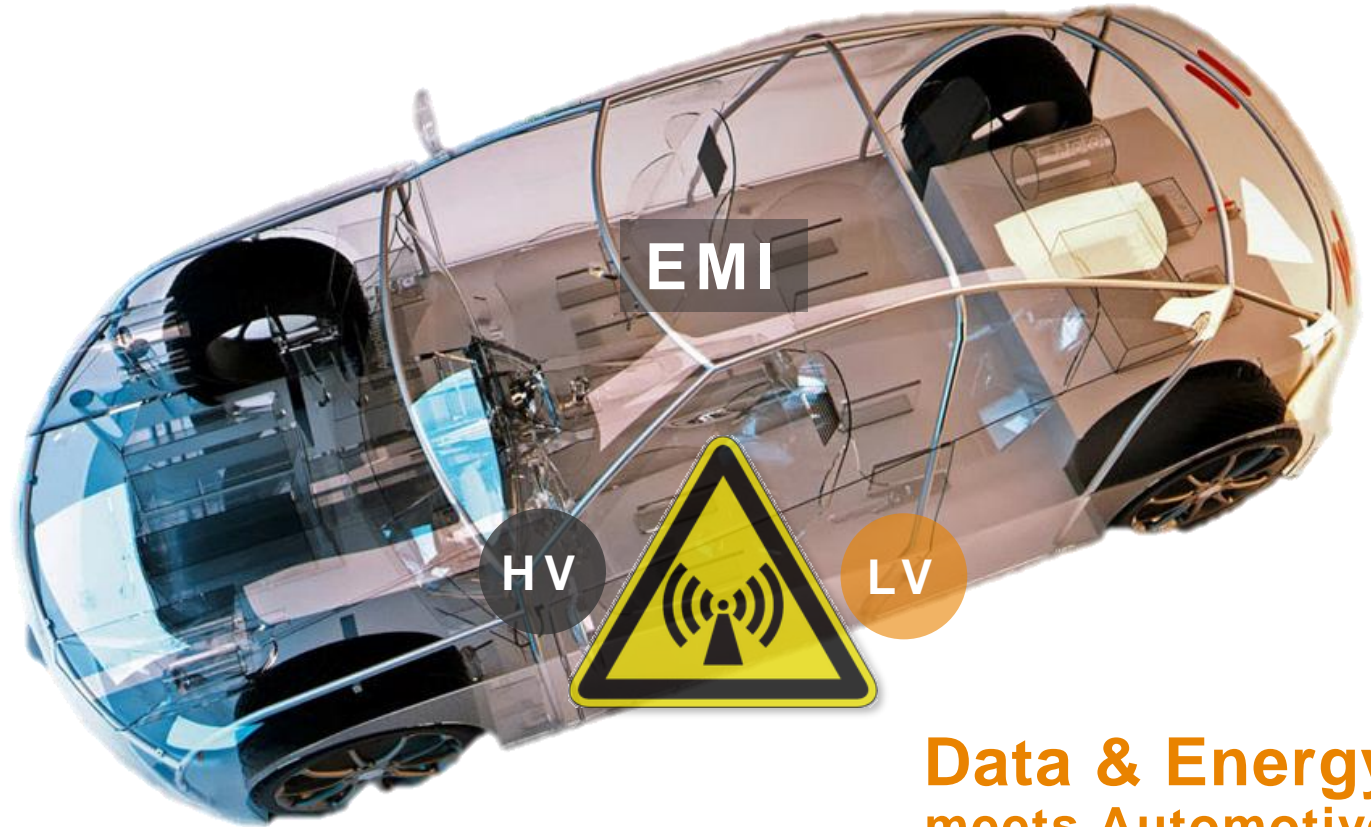
## FOOTPRINT



	GLOBAL
Manufacturing Sites	>20
Engineering Centers of Excellence	>20



# Megatrends



## Data & Energy meets Automotive

A high reliability on the physical level is needed including HV and LV connectors



# Next-Generation Mobility

## NEXT-GENERATION MOBILITY

All-Electric Vehicles + Autonomous Driving + New Transportation Models

### REQUIREMENTS

#### ARCHITECTURAL IMPACT

Software Driven Architectures	High-power Drive Systems / Low Voltage Data Networks / Working in Parallel	Wireless Connectivity to Multiple External Points
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### CHALLENGES

#### CONNECTIVITY CHALLENGES

Connectivity for High-power Charging	Reliable Data Connectivity in All-electric Environment	Connectivity Software Driven Architectures	Wireless Connectivity
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### SOLUTIONS

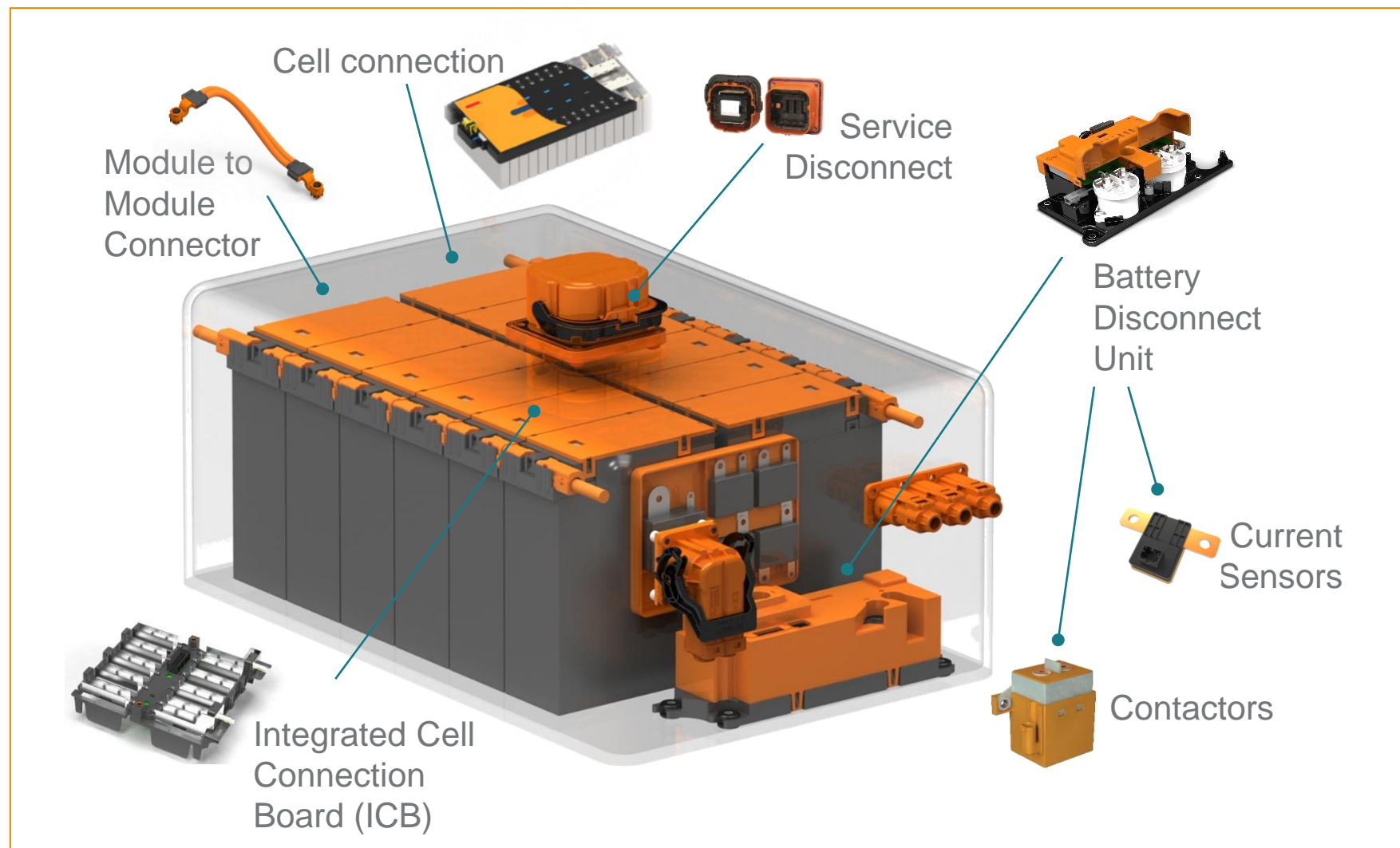
#### TE PRODUCTS & TECHNOLOGIES

Advanced Thermal Modelling	End-to-end Data Connectivity Solutions: High-speed, EMC standards compliant, Backplane Connectors	End-to-end Antenna Portfolio for all Wireless Connectivity
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# Battery Connection

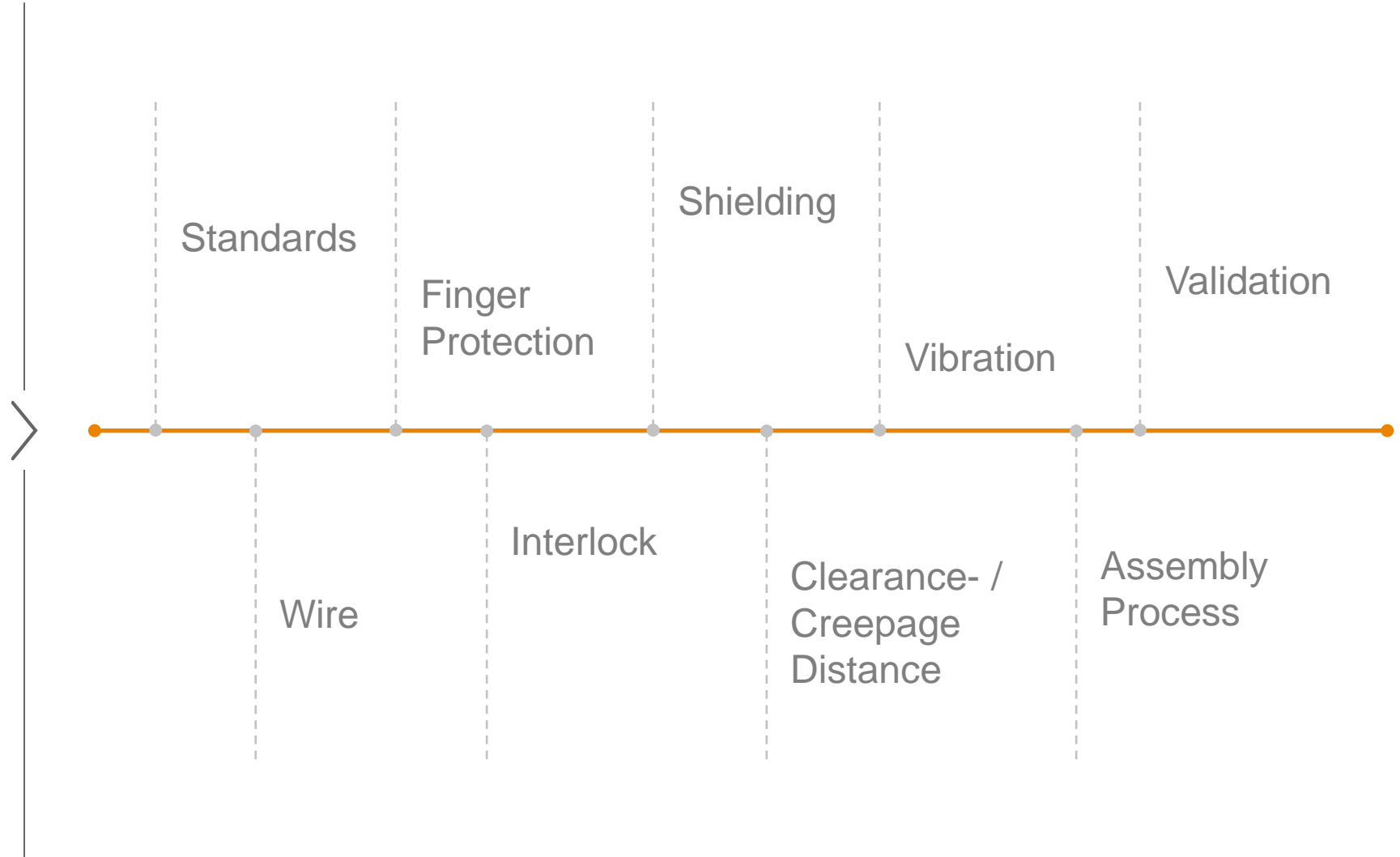
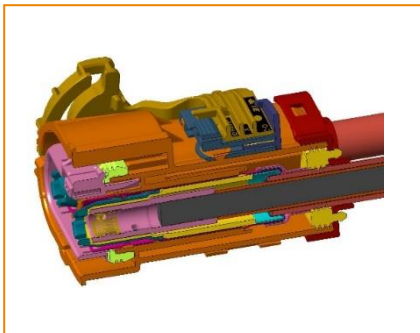
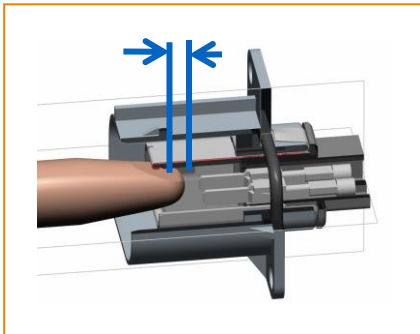
**TE  
Connectivity**

Battery  
Connectivity  
& Protection  
Solutions





# Raised requirements for HV Connectors



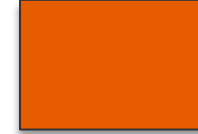
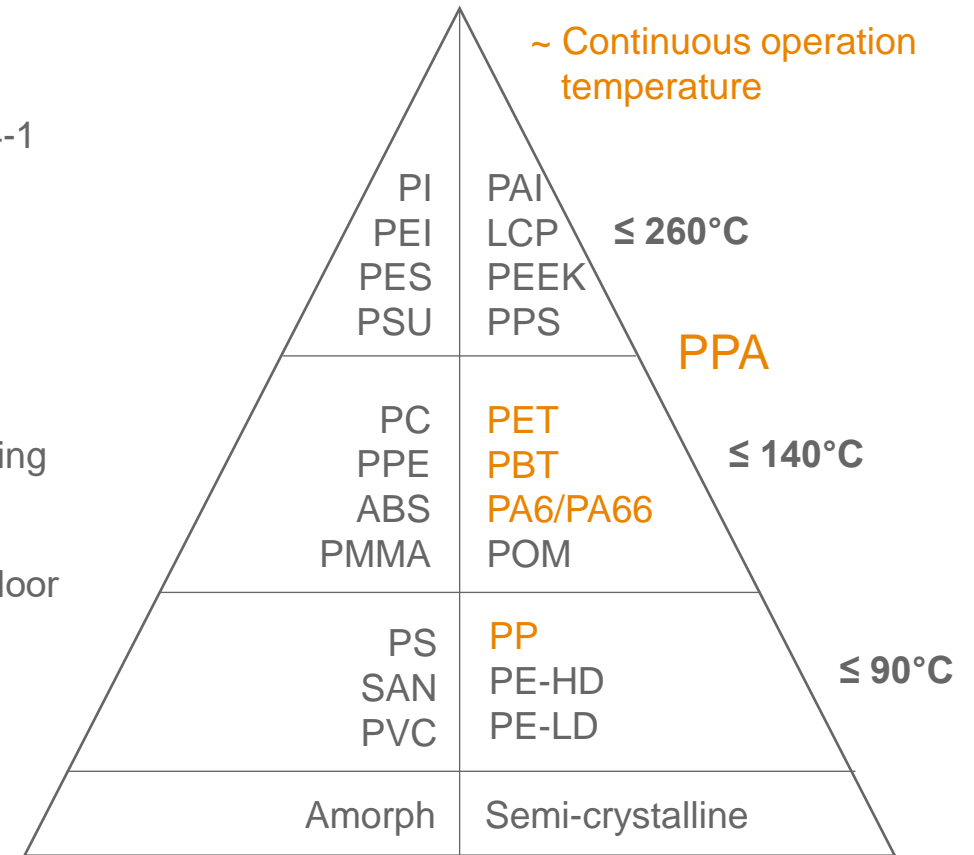
# Material Trends & Technical Requirements

Clearance-  
and  
Creepage-  
Distance

Plastics  
and  
Mechanical  
Electrical  
Thermal  
Chemical

## SYSTEM KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED!

- Orange → RAL 2003
- CTI 600 - IEC60112 → Design - DIN EN 60664-1
- Long term voltage stability → 1000VDC
- Maximum 140°C Environment Temperature
- Fire Classification V0 (HB) → 0,8 mm / 0,4 mm
- GWIT 775°C (GWFI 960°C)
- Stable Electrical Properties → Initial & After Aging
- Good chemical properties → HV Battery
- Charger Inlet → UL94/f1 Rating → Ozone/Outdoor
- Reflow Soldering (PPA)
- Processability → Low maintenance
- Sustainability → Green Materials → Re grind





# Challenging HV requirements → Design & materials impact

1000hrs / 3000hrs



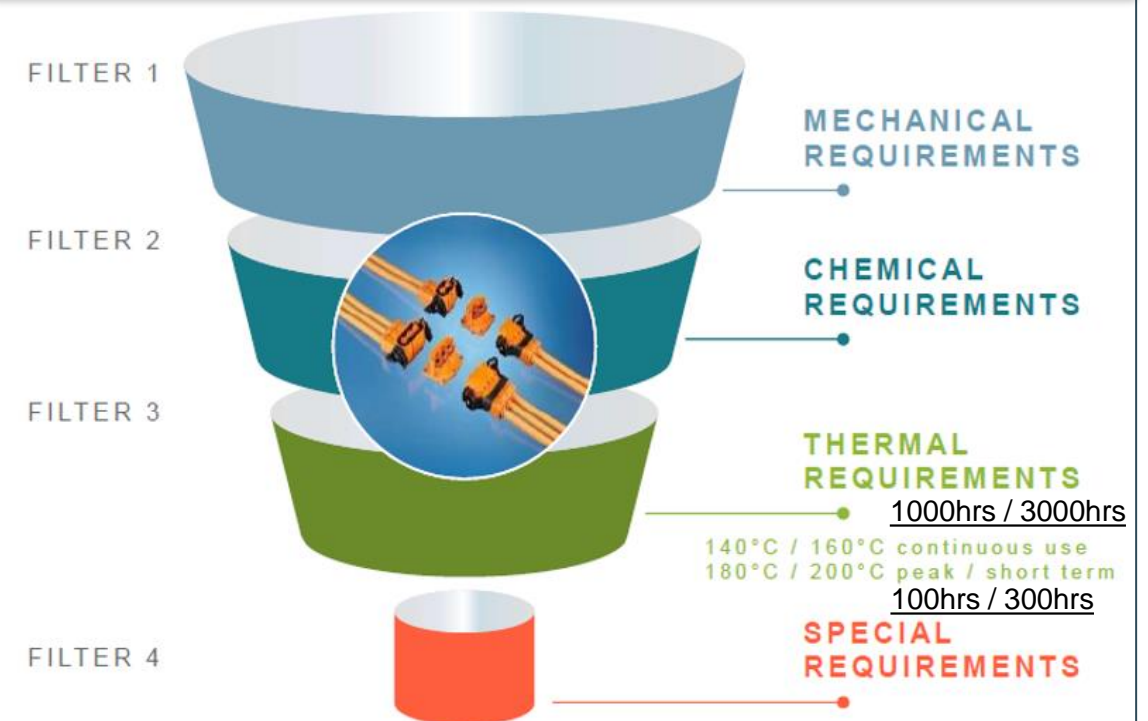
## The Challenge / Opportunity

### Key requirements are:

- Move from UL94 HB → to UL94 V0 Resin  
FR compounds with UL 94 V0 at 0,8 mm → V0 at 0,4 mm  
Main Resin: PBT, PA6, PA66, HT-PPA
- CTI 600 V (IEC 60112) → Product design acc. DIN 60664-1  
Stable electrical properties → Initial & after aging  
High dielectric strength & resistivity → 150°C/1008hrs - Us car
- RAL 2003 / stable after thermal aging  
Improved laser-marking performance → DMC, data matrix code
- Sustainability –and- Circular Economy  
REGRIND up to 25% → UL746D



## The Approach



# Main topics → Project headline



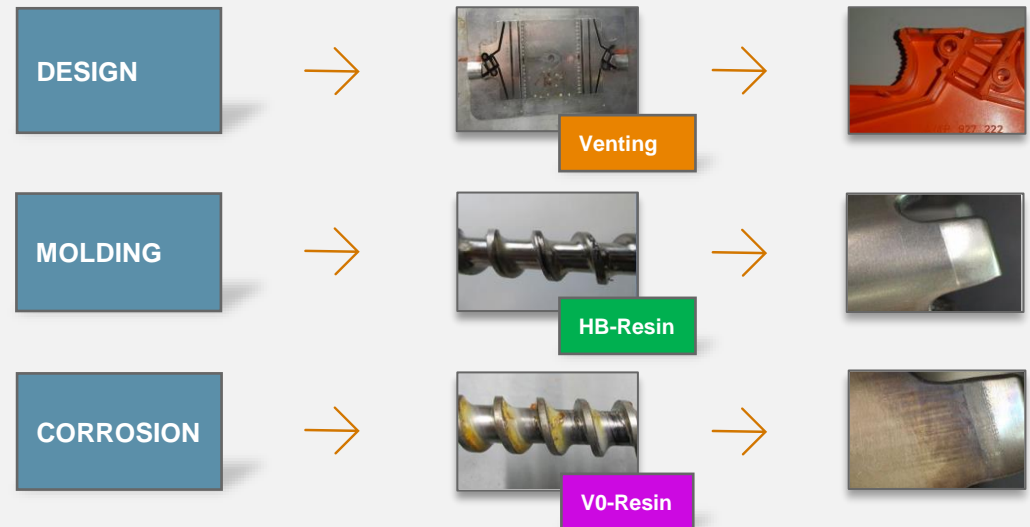
## The Solution

- Halogen-free Flame Retardants for PA 66, PBT and HTPA  
Low Halide content → Sealed application, over-molding design
- Further additives to booster specific polymer properties,  
Hydrolytic resistance, Influence of humidity: PBT /Polyamides  
Low pH value, Consider acid scavengers → FR resin & silicone
- Heat aging and color stability → During processing  
and final application → Orange ~ RAL 2003
- Increased CTI requirements → Stable electric properties  
Over product lifetime, Dielectric strength, Resistivity  
(above 600V up to 1000V DC)
- Low maintenance during production, tool & molding machine
- Technical alignment along value chain for transportation



## The Achievements

- Optimization led to well suited solutions for all HV application  
(HV connectors, Charger inlet, Busbars, Sealing elements)  
depending on technical requirements vs. application areas

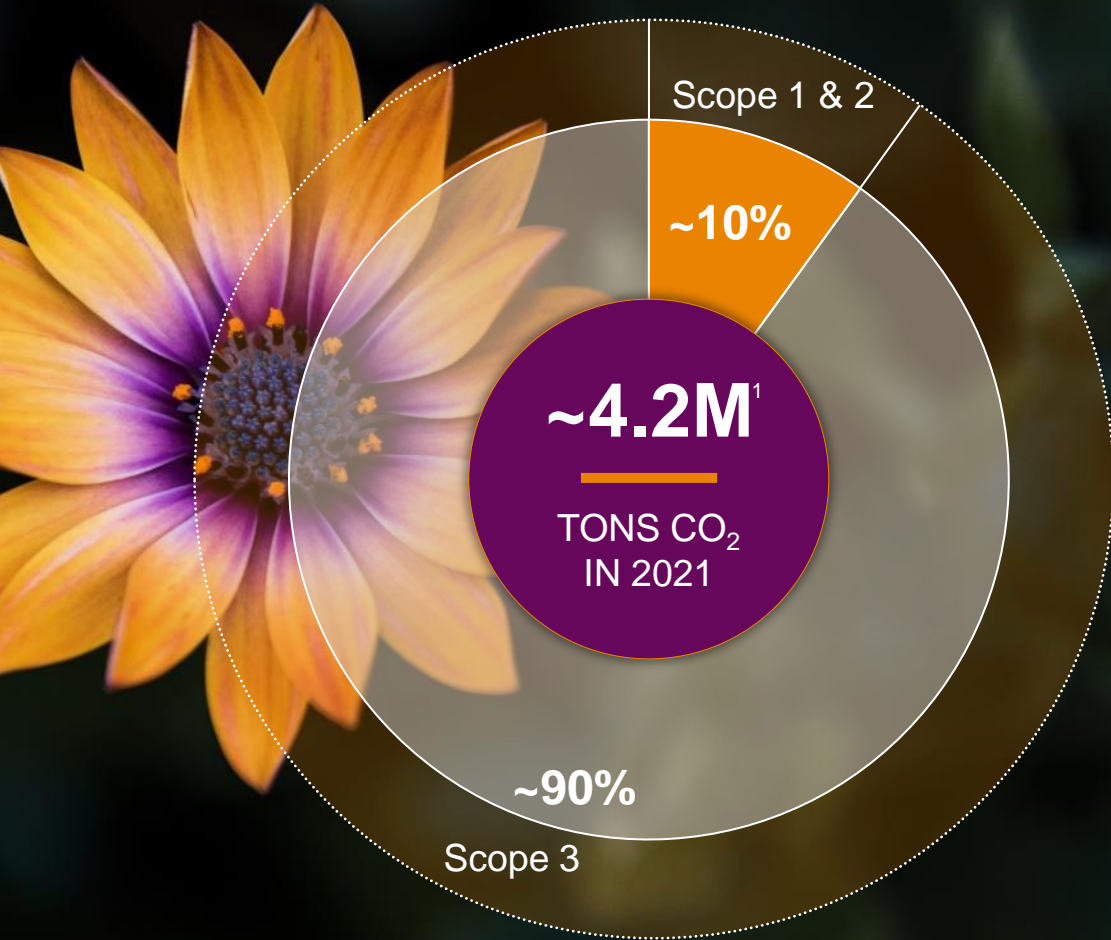




# Workstream → HV Testprogram → TE & Resin Suppliers

HV RESIN PLATFORM - AUT. ENGINEERING ACTIVITIES - 2019 to 2023																									
R & D Resin Topics	Test Standards	FY 2019				FY 2020				FY 2021				FY 2022				FY 2023							
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Comparison CTI 600V vs. Tests >600V → IEC 60112 → Proof current design standards acc. IEC60664-1	IEC60664-1	Remarks: Tests on different material types/different FR technologies																							
Conclusion Materials CTI above 600V up to 1000V	IEC 60112													Test on selective materials (PA-FR &PBT-FR resin & HT-FR resin)											
Laser marking for HB and V-0 materials → DMC performance / Data Matrix Code / high contrast	TBD					Remarks: Technical solution available for PBT and Polyamide (Master Batch & Pre-colored resin)																			
UV-Stress / Outdoor Exposure / Time Conditions	TBD									Test for Charger Inlett resin / PA6-GF30 V0 resin															
pH-Value / acc. actual Standards?	Ford Test									Test for technical advanced products															
Influence of FR-Resin to LSR Silicone → DVR - Compression set & 2K-molding technology	TBD									Test for 2K capable material combination															
Material definition for 2K molding & single seals	TBD									Remarks: Based on test results with Momentive and Wacker															
FR Resin: Influence on Mold desposit & Maintenence	TBD									Remarks: Proof FR-system (corrosive/less corrosive) → Material type (PBT/PA/HT resin)															
FR Resin: Influence on Molding machine & Tool	TBD									Remarks: Proof FR-system (corrosive/less corrosive) → Material type (PBT/PA/HT resin)															
FR Resin: Corrosion influence on contacts & PCB	TBD									Remarks: Proof FR-system (corrosive/less corrosive) → Material type (PBT/PA/HT resin)															
Conclusion: Material selection → Avoid corrosion	TBD									Remarks: Proof FR-system → Impact on steel specification (Chrome content)															
specificationRecycling: Regrind - Closed Loop Process	TBD									Sustainability: Waste reduction / Regrind / Closed loop system / GWP (Global warming potential)															
Sustainability: Carbon Footprint → DIN EN ISO 14044	TBD									AMST: Improve resin selection (PP/PBT/PA/HT-PA) → Reduce energy consumption (NPD)															
Renewable Resin / Material Proposal (ECO)	TBD									NPD: Bio-based-Resin / Reduce CO <sub>2</sub> - Footprint → Release new materials															
Technical/Summary: Test Results & Material Selection	TBD									Overview: Design Requirements – Test Standards – Resin – Molding – HV Application Area															

# TE Connectivity Carbon Emission Overview



## SCOPE 1 & 2:

Energy used in **production and transportation** with largest share of our carbon emissions

## SCOPE 3:

**Resins and metals** further processed in our plants major carbon emission contributors



## TARGETS

40%+

absolute reduction in **Scope 1 & 2** GHG emissions by 2030

Goal of  
25%

GHG reduction in **Scope 3** by 2030 in progress

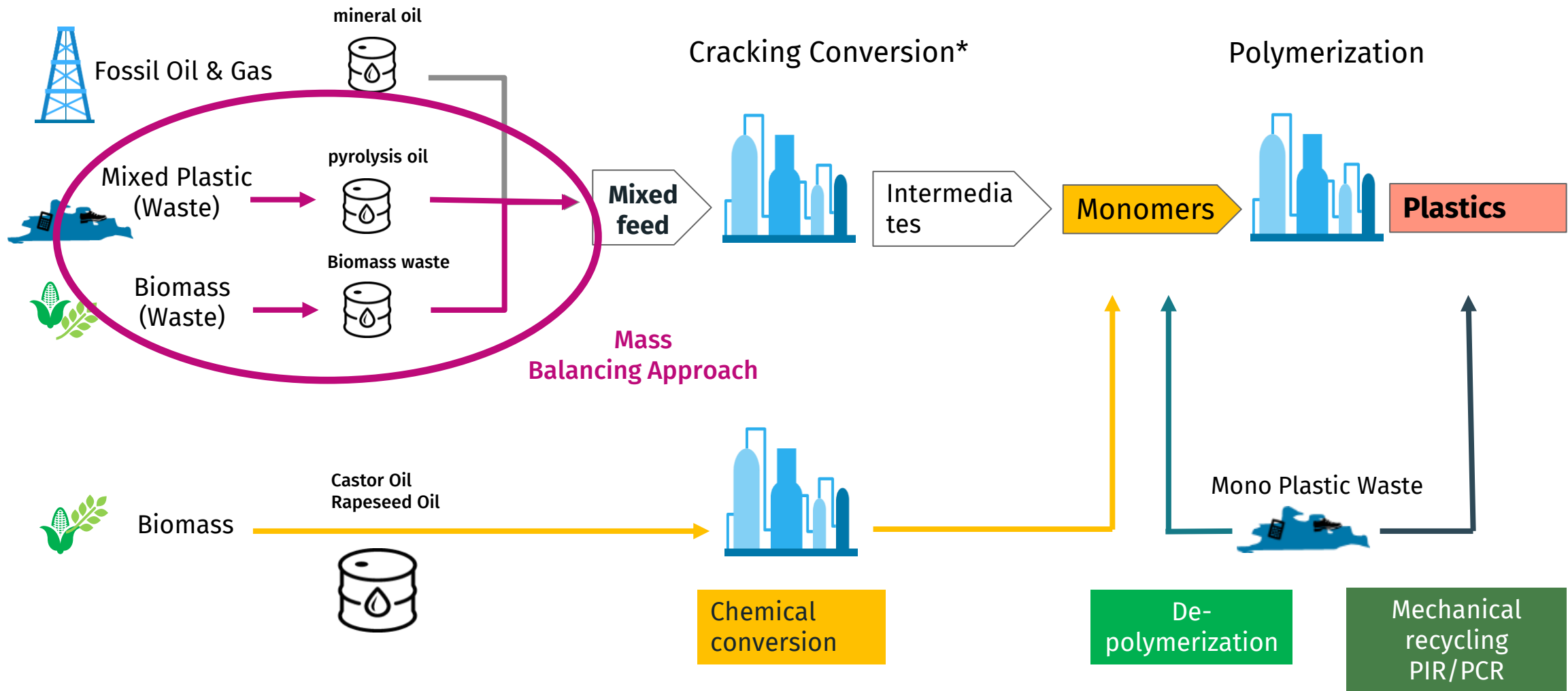
SBTi<sup>2</sup>

**commitment decided,** but we are still in the application process

<sup>1</sup> Total GHG emissions Scope 1-3 of TE Connectivity (in metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) <sup>2</sup> Science Based Targets Initiative

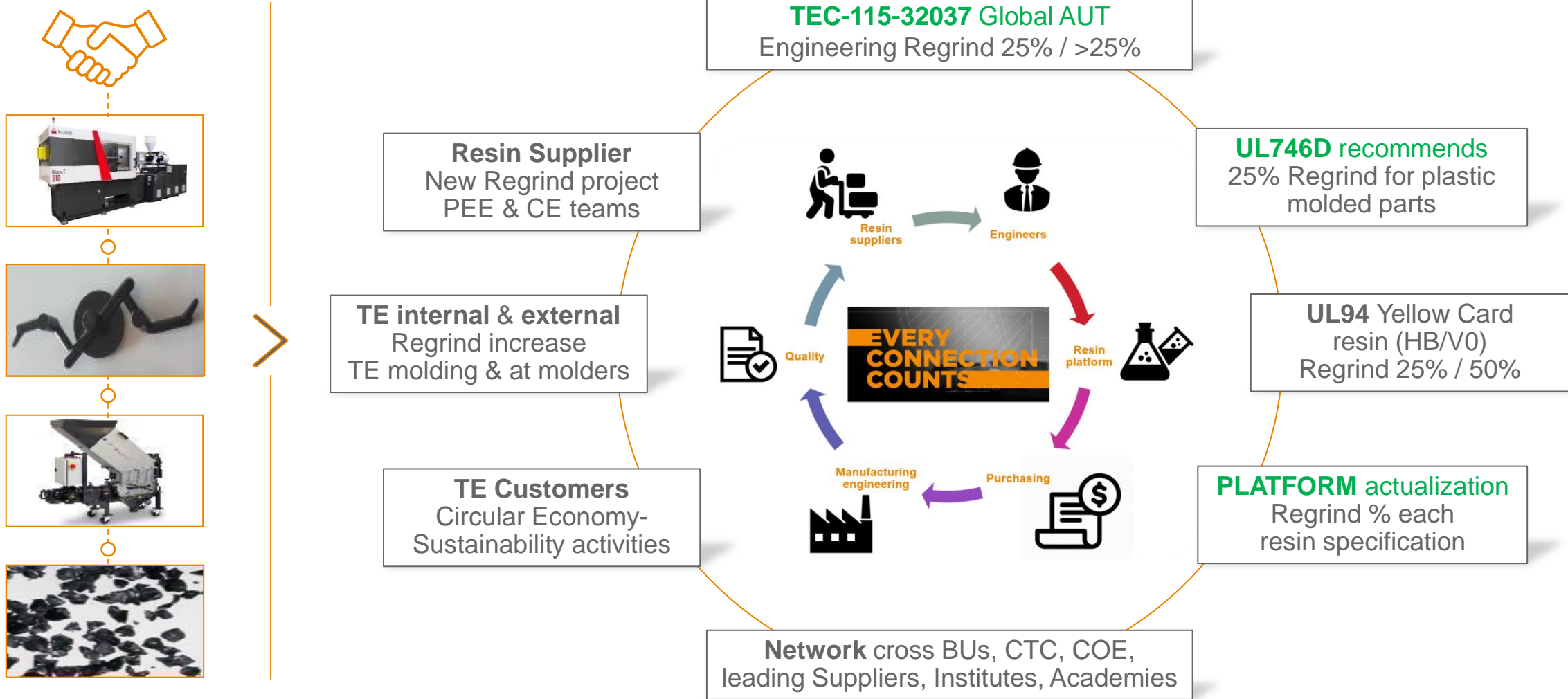


# Recycling Trends → Circular Economy Solutions

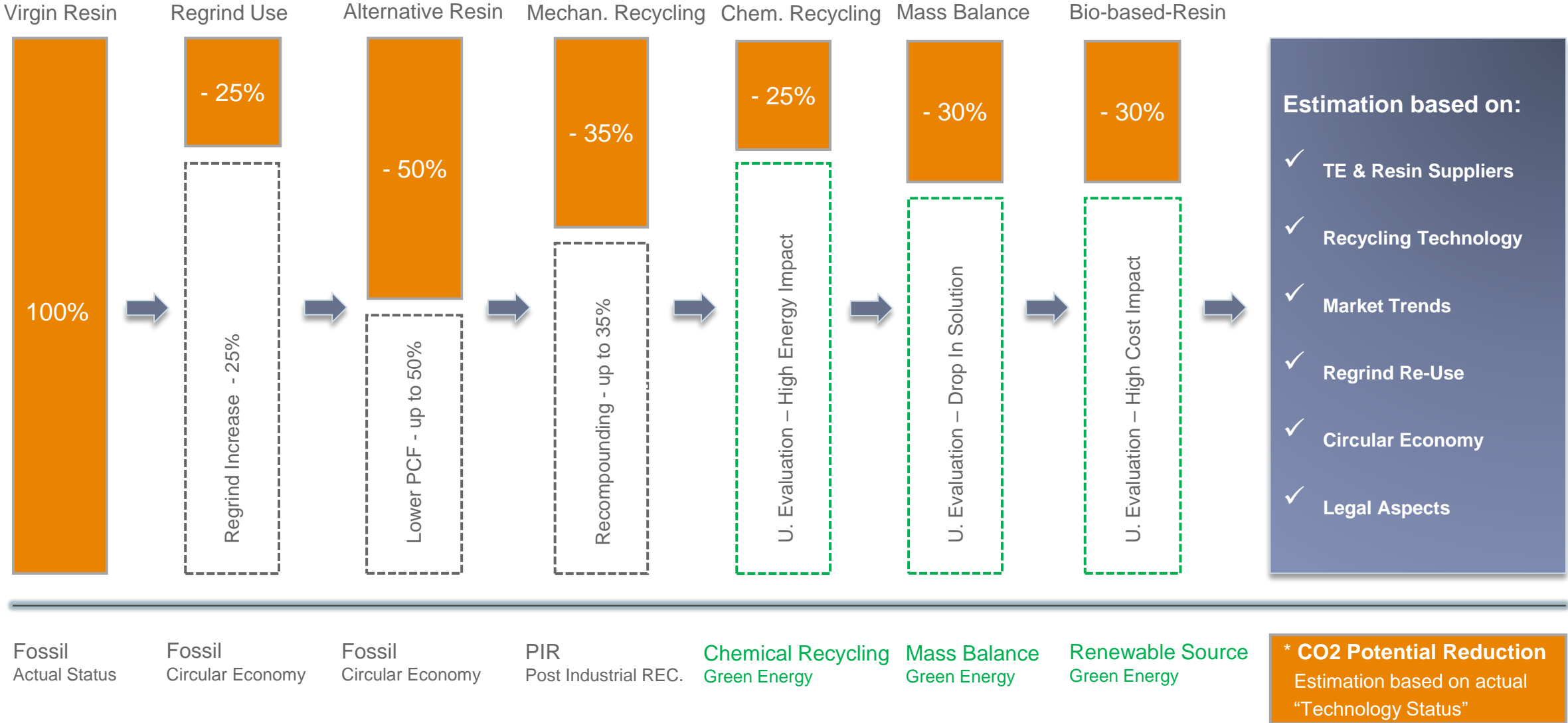


# Regrind → Actual Automotive Engineering Activities

TE quality on part level secured over different internal & external specifications!



# Sustainability → Impact on CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction







# Safety of Electric Vehicles

Requirements & Conclusion

- 1 TE - Company Introduction
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# Conclusions → HV & Sustainability Trends

## HV - Resin Requirements

- **HV Design** → UL94 V0 requirements as main resin focus  
Main Materials: PBT, PA6, PA66, HT-PA
- **Stable resin performance** → Lifetime, initial and after aging
- **CTI 600V** IEC 60112 → Product design acc. DIN 60664-1  
Improved electrical properties → 800V DC / 1000V DC
- **Orange ~ RAL 2003** → Main color standard for HV application  
Improved laser-marking → data matrix performance → DMC
- **Circular Economy** → UL746D, consider up to 25% REGRIND
- **Sustainability** → NPD, consider CO<sub>2</sub> footprint for materials

## Sustainability - Recycling

(Supplier footprint differs depending on energy sources)

- **Mechanical recycling** → Trend requested by TE customers  
High impact in CO<sub>2</sub> reduction, Lowest price, PIR/PCR content becomes limited for larger volumes, Mainly BLACK colors  
Lower properties, Design & Process adaption to be verified
- **Mass Balance** → Direct drop in solution in actual design,  
Same properties as VIRGIN-fossil-based-resin, Colors possible  
Higher price vs. virgin resin, Highest impact on CO<sub>2</sub> reduction
- **Chemical recycling** → Depolymerization = High Energy consumption vs. Mechanical recycling, Colors possible  
Potential drop in solution, Highest price impact
- **Bio-based-Resin** → Limited volume, High price, SMD soldering

# E-Mobility → Test Standards & HV Materials

Demanding Safety Requirements / Fire Protection / Electrical Performance

### Burning Behavior / UL 94 V

**Traditional flame testing on injected molded specimens or samples cut from finished parts**

Basis for raw material evaluation (e.g. effectivity of flame retardants for polymers in battery applications)

**V0 materials do not replace smart battery cell designs**

1st and 2nd flame application time    1st and 2nd burning time

Test specimen →

Flame height 20 mm ± 1 mm

Cotton wadding approx. 50 x 50 x 6 mm max. 0.06 g

Burner



### Burning Behavior / FMVSS 302

**US FMVSS 302 (Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards)**

- Burning time
- Burning path
- Burning rate

Flammability ratings (fire classes) are assigned accordingly

Expansion of test scope to electronic components (e.g. screens & displays)

Automotive display

### Electrical Testing / Glow Wire

Test simulates an over-heated part, which then comes into contact with plastic materials

Reflects misuse, malfunction, or failure of an end product

Test temperature: increased by 50 K steps

Exposure to glow wire: 30 s

Failure criteria:

- Sample does not burn or glow 30 s after glow wire contact

### Electrical Testing / Comparative tracking index (CTI)

Test initiates electrolytic corrosion on the surface of a specimen (acc. to IEC 60112 test standard)

Test voltage: 100 to 600 Volt (increased by 25 V steps)

Failure criteria:

- Sample burns
- Current exceeds 0.5 Ampere (>2 s)

**Many clients request CTI testing up to 800 V; requires new test setup!**

Electrolyte between electrodes

### Electrical Testing / Inclined Plane Tracking (IPT)

Test "simulates" isolation behavior of materials exposed to humidity & contamination

Test voltage: 1 kV to 7 kV (increased by 250 V steps)

Failure criteria:

- Sample burns
- Formation of hole(s)
- Tracking path reaches 25 mm
- Current exceeds 60 mA

Electrolyte between electrodes



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**ANY  
CONNECTION  
CAN CHANGE  
THE WORLD**

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EVERY CONNECTION COUNTS



«HV-requirements & Sustainability impacts your material selection for future requirements reflecting connectors in electromobility.»

Franz Janson,

*Senior Principal Product Development Engineer  
Global Automotive Resin Platform*

TE Connectivity



# Thank you.

**Contact: Esther Agyeman-Budu**  
**Sector Group Manager**  
Specialty Chemicals  
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## About Cefic

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