

WELLMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.

# **Wellman International Ltd**

## **Moving Towards the Circular Economy in Ireland**

# **NESC Workshop**

**April 2017** 

## **Wellman International - Introduction**



A subsidiary of Indorama Ventures, Wellman manufactures high quality polyester products from recycled raw materials

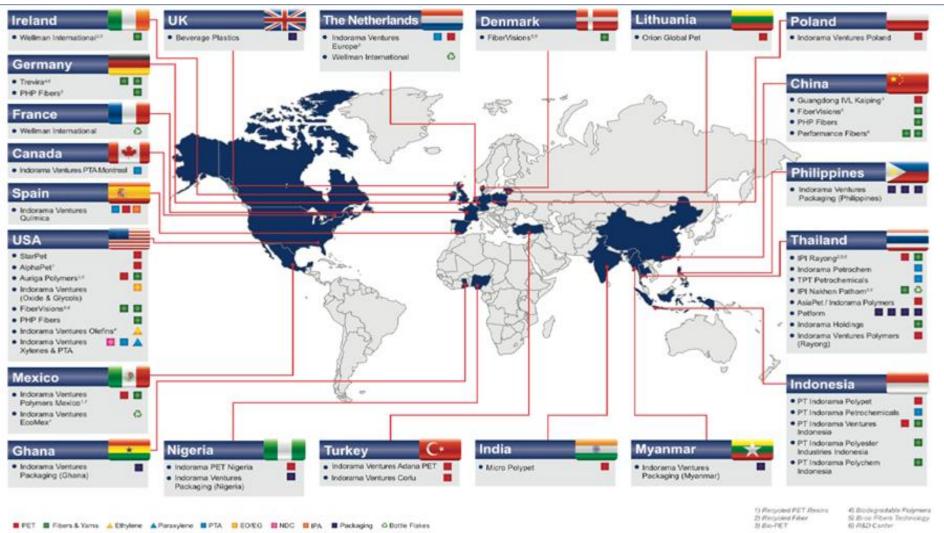


## Indorama Ventures – truly global partner





## **A Global Polymer Company**





## Wellman International – Recycling for over 4 decades



Europe's largest PET recycler, processing >2.6 billion post-consumer PET bottles and containers annually



70,000 tonne of flakes per annum



90,000 tonne of fibre per annum



380 employees



## Wellman – Sustainability is at the Core of what we do

# 2.66 Billion

bottles recycled in one year







**0.95kg** CO2 emissions per kg of rPET, 4 times lower than

virgin PET fibre.

## **Wellman International Fibre Production Site**





## Wellman Fibre – Physical Form & Functionality

## **Physical Form**

- Fibre Profile
  - Solid
  - Hollow
  - Conjugate
  - Trilobal
  - Pentalobal
- Decitex range
  - 1.7-28 Decitex (12-51micron)
- Cut Length
  - 6-150mm
- Crimp Levels
  - 0-12срі

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- Fibre Colour
  - Black/Blue/Green/Grey

## **Fibre Functionality**

- Bicomponent Polyesters
  - Low and High melt
- Modified Polyester
  - Vapour/Moisture transport
- Flame Retardant
- Inherent Treatments
  - Dustmite protection
  - Microbial action
- Topical Treatments
  - Slick/Softhand/Scroopy
  - Dual-action AD/AM
  - Oleophobic/Water Repellent
  - Durable Hydrophilic
  - Food Contact



## **Wellman Fibre Applications**

### **Industrial**

- Pipelining
- Filters
- Geotextiles
- Abrasives
- Roofing Felts
- High Temperature Felts
- Hydrolysis Resistant Felts
- Breathable Membranes
- Thermal Insulation
- Acoustic Insulation
- Concrete/Asphalt
- Interlinings

## Personal Hygiene

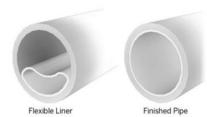
- Baby diapers
- Femcare
- Adult Incontinence
- Bandages/Wound care
- Pressure Relief

#### **Automotive**

- Moulded parts
- Carpet
- Filters
- Insulation
- Seating

### Home and Apparel

- Duvets
- Mattress Components
- Seat Cushions
- Back Cushions
- Throw Cushions
- Carpet
- Flooring









#### 9 Wellman International Limited Confidential

**Fibre Production Process** 

## **Raw Material Storage**



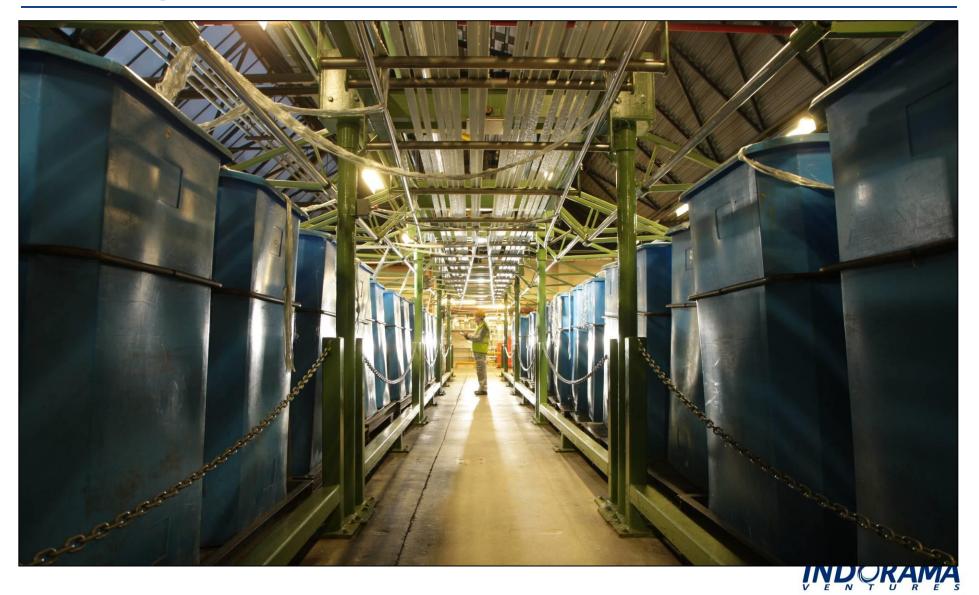


## **Fibre Spinning**





## **Fibre Preparation**



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## Fibre Storage





## Wellman International and the Circular Economy

It starts with ecodesign

- Multiple and complex polymers
- Barrier layers
- New generation glues
- Multi-coloured designs

#### Quality is key

- Yields as low as 40%
- Recycling technology lags behind pace of manufacturing / market development
- Significant capital investment required to sort material

#### Where do all the bottles go?

- According to the EU Commission only 24% of plastic waste is recycled in the EU with up to 50% still going to landfill
- Very active Asian market for EU material competing against EU business
- Intra-EU trade in recyclable plastics has been increasing at a much slower pace than exports to non-EU countries (mostly Asia & China)

#### **Collaboration will deliver results**

 Among other initiatives Wellman are currently working on a project to recycle bottles collected from the Catalan sea shore – program aims to recycle material back into clothing made from 100% recycled PET





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# **Thank You**