

Fireside Chats - Sustainable Chemistry Innovation

Date: Thursday 26th June, 2025

Time: 14:00 – 14:45

Modality: Hybrid

Convened by: ISC3

Context and Background

The chemical sector presents significant risks, including environmental pollution, human health hazards, and unsustainable resource use. As such, for a sustainable transformation the chemicals sector and associated sectors play a crucial role. Innovations and ecosystems in Green and Sustainable Chemistry are urgently needed in order to reach this transformation towards more sustainability in the future.

This activity supports Target D1, which implies that “by 2030, companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations towards advancing sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of chemicals.

Session Objectives

The fireside chat follows the approach of emotional storytelling and provides authentic insight. It is an informal insightful conversation between the moderator and the founder to show the journey, challenges and lessons learned while building their start-ups. The outcome is to deliver personal experiences, share lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities towards establishing a sustainable chemistry start-up. The entrepreneur will also outline the trends and innovation within his/her industry. The outcome is that the audience is inspired and informed on the challenges, opportunities and risks when setting up a start-up through a story-telling approach.

Entrepreneurs

Cryosmetic (Natural Skincare); Session will be held in English

Cryosmetics is a Uruguayan start-up that has been developing natural, synthetic-free skincare and make-up products since November 2019 - microbiome-friendly, preservative-free and manufactured under GMP standards. From the outset, founder Vanesa Piattoni, a microbiologist with a biotech background, placed great importance on products that are kind to the skin and the environment and support the skin microbiome. The startup exemplifies sustainable chemistry innovation in the cosmetics sector.

Photio (Nanotech Photosynthetic Additives); Session will be held in Spanish

Photio is a Chilean cleantech startup founded in 2017 by Matías Moya, Jaime Rovegno, and Constanza Escobar. They developed a nanotechnology-based additive that simulates photosynthesis to capture greenhouse gases from the environment. This additive can be incorporated into paints, asphalt, concrete, plastics, textiles, and even synthetic leather, transforming surfaces into air purifiers when exposed to UV light.