Press Briefing K-Messe

Düsseldorf, October 9, 2025

Profile Melanie Hackler:

Melanie Hackler is CEO of matterr, a cleantech company specializing in polyester recycling that works with industry partners and investors to promote the development of a sustainable circular economy. She brings over 20 years of international experience and leadership in circular economy, corporate management, and global business development to the table.

In addition to her role at matterr, she is an author in the “Frauen schaffen Zukunft” (Women Create the Future) series published by Frankfurter Allgemeine Buchverlag, in the volumes ‘Werte’ (Values) and “Innovationen” (Innovations), and regularly speaks on the topics of entrepreneurship, industry, and sustainability. As an independent consultant and mentor, she supports start-ups in developing strategies and business models in the field of circular economy.

Profile Benjamin Rump:

Ben Rump is COO of matterr, a cleantech company specializing in polyester recycling that works with industry partners and investors to accelerate the development of a sustainable circular economy. He brings over 20 years of international leadership experience in the chemical industry, with a strong focus on the polymer sector. In previous leadership roles in procurement and marketing, he was instrumental in sourcing polyester globally and introducing sustainable polyester raw materials to the market.

Beyond his role at matterr, Ben actively contributes to shaping the future of the polymer and recycling industries through collaborations with global partners and stakeholders, combining deep technical understanding with a strong strategic and entrepreneurial mindset.

Statements:

Melanie Hackler, CEO matterr

“matterr industrializes chemical polyester recycling: hard-to-recycle textiles and packaging are turned into drop-in raw materials in virgin quality –

scalable, with a significantly reduced carbon footprint, with plans to make the technology available internationally through licensing models."

"Our vision is to transform what today is considered waste into a secure and high-quality raw material stream. In doing so, we create resilience for industries, credibility for brands, and a concrete contribution to Europe's climate targets."

"With the EU funding, we have reached an important milestone to build a small-scale industrial depolymerisation plant at Chemiepark Knapsack – the foundation for a future-proof, circular PET industry independent of fossil feedstocks."

"Courageous entrepreneurship made Germany great in the past – and that is exactly what we need more of today. This challenge is demanding, but it is also an opportunity: to secure competitiveness and sustainability for our industries in a world that must move away from fossil fuels."

Benjamin Rump, COO matterr

"Our process is based on chemical depolymerisation. Where mechanical recycling reaches its limits – with mixed colors, lower quality, multilayer packaging or textiles – our technology begins to unlock new potential. We break polyester waste back down into its building blocks: monomers of virgin quality. These monomers are drop-in ready. They integrate seamlessly into existing production processes for bottles, fibers, or films, without compromises in quality."

"For the industry it means security of supply, with recycled feedstocks that reduce dependency on fossil resources and support long-term resilience. It means that global brands and manufacturers can actually meet their ambitious recycling and decarbonization targets – using raw materials that are accepted by the market and proven in performance."

"The Chemiepark Knapsack offers ideal conditions: infrastructure, energy networks, skilled workforce, and proximity to strong partners across the value chain. For us as a team, it is also about setting up standards and processes that allow fast replication and international roll-out."