TOMRA SORTING TOWARDS A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Frédéric Durand PETcore presentation June 2021



Alliance Members Around the World





THE FUTURE SENSORS

TODAY INTO R TOMORROW

NEW TECHNOLOGIES / MOTIVATION

Using a new technology to achieve the high product and customer requirements, which can not be solved using only conventional technology.



SPECTRA OF NIR



PE-HD vs PE-HD Silicon Cartridges



BASIC INFORMATION

Artificial intelligence

- is intelligence demonstrated by machines, in contrast to the natural intelligence displayed by humans
- is any technique that enables computers to mimic human intelligence
- Artificial intelligence is a part of computer science

Machine learning

- Is the scientific study of algorithm and statistical models.
 Computer systems use to perform a specific task without using explicit instructions.
- relying on patterns and inference instead Machine learning is a part of artificial intelligence

Deep Learning

- Use artificial neural networks which are inspired by information processing and distributed communication nodes in biological systems.
- Deep Learning is a part of machine Learning





Training a network can be compared to learning a toddler.

By showing an object several times and explaining what it is, the toddler trains himself.

After a while and several trainings it is possible to assign the objects correctly.

This principle is also pursued by Deep learning



DEEP LEARNING









DEEP LEARNING "GAIN"



- simple image processing like Object Recognition [feature engineering] solve the problem only seemingly.
- as soon as objects touch, overlap or are deformed, this technique no longer works.
- Technology only works in the parameter specified by humans
- GAIN allows also detection of overlapping, touching, deformed and destroyed objects





DEEP LEARNING-CASE STUDY

| Input material | | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Input material | PE-HD | | | |
| Grainsize | > 50 mm | | | |
| Bulk density | 50 - 60 kg/m ³ | | | |



PE-HD silicon cartridge 60 numb. of pieces

| | Input | Recovery Step 1 | Recovery step 2 |
|--|-------|------------------------|-----------------|
| PE-HD silicon cartridge number of pieces | 60 | 58 | 2 |



Step 1 Recovery of PE-HD silicon Cartridges 96.7%

Step 2 Recovery of PE-HD silicon Cartridges 100%



WAT'S NEXT ?

IDEAS INTO AR ACTION

OVERCOMING TODAYS LIMITS – DIGITAL WATERMARKS

- Holy Grail member from beginning
- Improve detection and sorting of materials, especially of "difficult to sort / recycle" fractions
- Enable food and non-food recycling applications, among others
- Proof-of concept successful within Holy Grail project
- Open day events @ TOMRA in May and October 2019



- "readable" digital watermarks have been created
- An open house at TOMRA Sorting Gmbh took place in October 2019 to demonstrate that this project as strengths for going forward
- These promising trials already stated that 90% of hit rate was possible with regular mechanical setup like belt speed at 3 m/s running a mix packaging stream
- Whatever the type of material, flexibles or hard plastics have been tested



- Enable and develop a true circular economy has high priority in TOMRA
- Identify and evaluate potential test markets and sites with project partners large installed base of TOMRA equipment in different applications and markets (clean/dirty MRF, PRF etc.)
- Establish dedicated, ringfenced DW project team (two additional headcount planned) to build, install and support test machines for industrial trials, once funding is secured
- Continue add-on module development (connected to standard NIR) based on new specification defined
- Good, established **working relationship** with Digimarc R&D team
- Support **business development** activities, share market knowledge in HG 2.0





PLASTICS ARE OFTEN WRONGLY COLLECTED AND HIGH AMOUNTS ARE LOST

PRODUCT DESIGN LEADS TO FURTHER LOSSES IN SORTING/RECYCLING

HIGH QUALITY AND QUANTITY RECYCLING WILL BE NEEDED TO SATISFY BRAND OWNER EXPECTATIONS

PRE-INCINERATION PLANTS/MSW PLANTS AS ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR FEEDSTOCK OF RECYCLED PLASTICS

NEW TECHNOLOGIES CAN HELP TO IMPROVE PROCESSES AND QUALITY OF RECYCLED FRACTIONS





"Museums of the world save the past, recyclers - the future"

www.tomra.com/recycling