

## SOPHIA Consortium Gathers in Germany for Second Progress Meeting



*SOPHIA project partners at the second consortium meeting in Halle (Saale), Germany*

Twelve months into the SOPHIA project, partners gathered in **Halle (Saale), Germany**, for the **second consortium meeting**, hosted by the **Fraunhofer-Center for Silicon-Photovoltaic (CSP)** and organised by **AIMPLAS**, the project coordinator. Taking place on 6 and 7 May 2026, the meeting marked the completion of the project's first year and provided an important opportunity to review progress across all eight work packages, align on the next phase of activities, and strengthen collaboration among the partners working to increase the circularity of photovoltaic (PV) panels across Europe.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit the **Fraunhofer CSP technical centre**, gaining first-hand insights into its advanced research and pilot facilities for silicon photovoltaics. Fraunhofer plays a central role within SOPHIA as leader of **Work Package 2 - PV panel pretreatment for recycling**, developing the dismantling and separation technologies that will feed high-purity material streams into the project's downstream recycling and upcycling routes.

The two-day agenda covered detailed presentations from each Work Package leader on deliverables, milestones, from AI-based State-of-Health evaluation and robot-assisted repair to advanced recycling, eco-design with debonding adhesives, Digital Product Passport implementation, the secondary raw materials marketplace, and the project's sustainability, social and regulatory analysis. The discussions reinforced the consortium's shared vision of building a more circular and competitive European PV value chain.

Looking ahead, the next consortium meeting will take place in **Brussels** and will be paired with a **public policy event open to external stakeholders**. The session will showcase SOPHIA's first results and engage policymakers, industry representatives, researchers and

civil society in a dialogue on the future of PV circularity in Europe. Further details will be shared in the coming months.

The SOPHIA project, launched on 1 June 2025, brings together 15 partners from across Europe, coordinated by **AIMPLAS (ES)**: CIDETEC (ES), Fraunhofer (DE), WILOCK (ES), LHV (ES), SADAKO (ES), BIOSOLAR (NL), AKUMPT (BG), SISECAM (TR), FERROG (ES), IS (LT), Recyclia (ES), Recycling Europe (BE), CEPS (BE), ENCO (IT).

Through strong cooperation and continuous innovation, SOPHIA is taking important steps toward boosting circularity throughout the entire PV panel value chain.

You can contact us at [info@recyclingeurope.org](mailto:info@recyclingeurope.org) and don't miss a project update by signing up for the [SOPHIA newsletter](#) and by following us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!