

# STØRE Hybrid Services from Advanced Thermal Energy Storage Systems

# **D2.1 Report on the final selection of PCM materials for HYSTORE solutions I-III**



# <span id="page-1-0"></span>1. Table of Contents





# <span id="page-2-0"></span>**2. List of Figures**





# <span id="page-3-0"></span>**3. List of Tables**





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## <span id="page-5-0"></span>**4. Nomenclature**





### <span id="page-6-0"></span>**5. Executive Summary**

The objective of this deliverable is to identify the most suitable solid and liquid Phase Change Materials (PCMs) for solutions I-III. This includes considering the materials used in the storage heat exchanger, techno-economic metrics, and environmental impacts, while also aligning with the findings from T1.1.

Different climate conditions at the demosites consider various TES solutions. This deliverable contains results from the final material selection for solutions:

**I: PCM ALL-IN-ONE** solution (developed by AIT, PINK, OCHS, RAAL and RUBI)

**II: PCM LOW-TEMP. HEATING&COOLING** solution (developed by RUBI)

**III: PCM HEATING** (developed by KTH),

an update to Del. 2.2 data, results from the implementation of a PCM database/library and a qualitative Life Cycle Assessment (LCA).

Deliverable 2.2 (M12) showed the various options of potential PCMs in different temperature ranges. They were intensively tested and for each solution two different PCMs were preselected. The final chosen PCMs and their thermophysical properties are summarized here. RT60HC (warm side) and RT8HC (cold side) were chosen for the ALL-IN-ONE solution I. SP31 (low temp. heating) and SP12sk (low temp. cooling) are the two PCMs for solution II. For solution III the RT60HC also fits all requirements.

KTH added the final revised bench-scale cycling results summary for both PCMs (RT57HC and RT60HC). The long-term bench-scale cycling stability of these is still confirmed. The slPCMlib database will contain the bench-scale LHTES performance calculations of the cycled PCMs RT57HC and RT60HC, which were mostly performed with Python scripts. The results are supported by the information presented in Del. 2.2 report. These match also the material modeling for Deliverable 2.1 from KTH.

The developed solid-liquid Phase Change Material library (slPCMlib) provides tabulated thermal properties data and graphical visualizations of 178 PCMs, computer code to calculate thermal properties for common simulation software and an interactive interface for generation of customized thermal material properties.

The last chapter deals with the topic of life cycle assessment. Herein the different steps from material extraction over usage up to end of life of the PCMs are presented in a qualitative way to get a rough overview about the carbon footprint of each chosen material.



### <span id="page-7-0"></span>**6. Introduction**

This section presents a short report summary, a relation to other activities, the contribution of partners to this deliverable 2.1 and it ends with an outline of the deliverable.

### <span id="page-7-1"></span>**6.1. Summary**

The use of thermal energy storages (TES) becomes more and more relevant as a key technology in reducing greenhouse emissions. In order to advance beyond the state-of-the-art, which primarily consists of sensible TES (e.g. water) with a significantly lower specific storage capacity, latent heat TES are important to improve. For phase change material (PCM) storage systems to be successful over the long run, reliable PCMs that meet the precise TES design parameters and keep them stable throughout long-term cycling must be used.

One aim of this deliverable (within T2.1 and T2.2) is to present the final selection of PCMs for HYSTORE solution I PCM ALL-IN-ONE, solution II PCM LOW-TEMP HEATING & COOLING and solution III PCM HEATING. These phase change materials were intensively tested for their thermal, mechanical and chemical properties in Task 2.2. AIT developed and provided an open source phase change material database with all necessary thermophysical data, computer code for the common programming languages, graphic visualization and an interactive interface for the user. KTH updated data for bench-scale testing of two PCMs for Del. 2.2 and provided information about the final steps in LCA.

### <span id="page-7-2"></span>**6.2. Relation to other activities**

The gained results from Del. 2.2 about the properties of the tested PCMs are shortly presented here. These data represent the final chosen PCMs and are important for further works, storage material selection and the design of the TES solutions. This report and its data are also relevant for the Milestones MS2 and MS3 because of their storage compatibility. It will affect the final TES system operation, therefore directly influencing the WP3 – storage system and low-level controller development, manufacturing and lab testing, as a whole.

### <span id="page-7-3"></span>**Contribution of Partners**

RUBI (Rubitherm Technologies GmbH) is responsible and editor of D2.1 report. They selected and tested the material, storage and heat exchanger for "PCM LOW TEMP. HEATING&COOLING". AIT and KTH are key partners and contributors for this report. KTH tested the chosen PCMs in a small scale and in a bench-scale. They will develop the PCM HEATING solution and the integration of control methods for the storage solutions. AIT, and RUBI are responsible for the selection of materials for "PCM ALL-IN-ONE solution". Moreover, AIT develops the open source database slPCMlib with material properties, numerical models and programming code, which can be used to perform CFD and Modelica simulations of the storage systems. The qualitative LCA was done by RUBI, KTH and AIT.



### <span id="page-8-0"></span>**6.3. Structure of the Deliverable**

The deliverable D2.1 report is structured as follows:

- Section [7](#page-9-0) presents the final chosen PCMs from **RUBI** for solution I-III. Therefore, the **thermophysical and material intrinsic properties** are shown in tables and diagrams for each solution. The setup and methods were described in Del. 2.2.
- Section [8](#page-23-0) presents the work on the solid/liquid Phase Change Material library (**slPCMlib**) done by **AIT**. This library contains data, correlations and models for the computation of so-called "effective" thermal material properties of PCMs. It also provides code for the calculation of thermal properties, which can be used for numerical modelling of heat transfer and the analysis of thermal performance of PCMs.
- Section [9](#page-36-0) shows the qualitative **LCA** of the used phase change material at **KTH** and **AIT**. From material extraction, manufacture, package & transport, usage up to end of life of the product. This LCA should give a rough overview of the carbon footprint from beginning to the end.



### <span id="page-9-0"></span>**7. Material finalization /selection RT8HC, RT60HC, SP31**

This section presents the final selection of phase change material (PCM) used in each HYSTORE solution I-III[. Table 1](#page-9-2) presents the given requirements gained from the proposal. Going further, the specifications of RT60HC, RT8HC and SP31 are shortly presented in a few diagrams and tables (reference: Del. 2.2. (M12, HYSTORE))

The selection of PCMs is based on many criteria, measurement methodologies, and the material's environmental impact. Some topics and test methods were already included in D2.2. As a result, we can utilize both organic (paraffins, fatty acids, alcohols, etc.) and inorganic (salt hydrates, nitrate or nitrite salts).



<span id="page-9-2"></span>*Table 1. Specific operating conditions for each HYSTORE solution*

### <span id="page-9-1"></span>**7.1. Solution I: PCM ALL-IN-ONE**

#### **RT60HC**

The chosen PCM RT60HC is a biobased, organic PCM with a high heat storage capacity of over 200 kJ/kg. It has a density of ~0.8 kg/l and has no corrosive effects on metals. RT60HC is easy to handle, though its form are small plates or pellets. [Figure 1](#page-10-0) shows the sharp enthalpy peaks for melting and solidification in the temperature range 60-61°C. For this, all given requirements are fulfilled by RT60HC and it is chosen as the final phase change material for the warm side of solution I: ALL-IN-ONE.





*Figure 1. partial enthalpy distribution of RT60HC*

#### <span id="page-10-1"></span><span id="page-10-0"></span>*Table 2. main thermophysical properties of RT60HC*



#### **RT8HC**

The chosen PCM RT8HC is an organic PCM with a high heat storage capacity of 190 kJ/kg. It has a density of ~0.8 kg/l and has no corrosive effects on metals. RT8HC is liquid at room temperature and for this easy to handle. [Figure 2](#page-11-0) [Figure 1s](#page-10-0)hows the sharp enthalpy peaks for melting and solidification in the temperature range 7-8°C. RT8HC also fulfils all necessary requirements, though AIT might test this in the future, depending on the available resources. Rubitherm manufactured a small storage for solution II and RT8HC was tested for several cycles with an aluminum heat exchanger with very good results as seen in [Figure 3.](#page-12-0)





*Figure 2. partial enthalpy of RT8HC*

#### <span id="page-11-1"></span><span id="page-11-0"></span>*Table 3. main thermophysical properties of RT8HC*







<span id="page-12-0"></span>*Figure 3. power and capacity of the TES with aluminum HEX; RT8HC*



*Figure 4. thermal energy storage with aluminum heat exchanger*

<span id="page-12-1"></span>[Figure 4](#page-12-1) pictures the TES unit for solution II LOW TEMP COOLING at RUBI. The dimensions of the storage are 350x420x1000 mm. The storage material consists of plexiglass and a metal bracing for additional stability. An aluminum heat exchanger is located on the inside. For testing of power and capacity of the storage, it was filled with RT8HC. There are also water connections for easy installation on the top of the storage. [Figure 3](#page-12-0) shows a diagram of the measured power and capacity of RT8HC with a flow rate of 8.5l per minute. The capacity rises over time upto its maximum peak at 2h45min. After this



point the capacity decreases to its minimum after 4h40 min. The power of the storage decreases quite constantly over time with a fast drop-off at the capacity peak at 2h45min.

### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**7.2. Solution II: LOW-TEMP. HEATING & COOLING**

#### **SP31**

The chosen PCM SP31 is an inorganic PCM with a high heat storage capacity of over 200 kJ/kg. It has a density of ~1.3 kg/l and has a corrosive effect on metals. For this the use of a polymer storage and HEX is recommended. SP31 is solid at room temperature and has to be melted before filling in[. Figure 5](#page-13-1) [Figure 1s](#page-10-0)hows the sharp enthalpy peaks for melting and solidification in the temperature range 30-33°C. The used separation inhibitors make it a long-term stable PCM. It fulfils all given requirements as is chosen as the final material for the low temperature heating PCM. Rubitherm manufactured a small storage for solution II and SP31 was tested for some cycles inside together with a polymeric HEX. The power of the storage can be seen in [Figure 6.](#page-14-0)



<span id="page-13-1"></span>*Figure 5. partial enthalpy of SP31*





<span id="page-14-1"></span>*Table 4. main thermophysical properties of SP31*



<span id="page-14-0"></span>*Figure 6. diagram of power of the SP31*





*Figure 7. thermal energy storage with polymer heat exchanger and insulation*

<span id="page-15-0"></span>[Figure 7](#page-15-0) pictures the TES unit for solution II LOW TEMP HEATING at RUBI. The dimensions of the storage are 350x420x1000 mm. The storage material consists of plexiglass and a metal bracing for additional stability. A polymer heat exchanger is located on the inside. For testing of power and capacity of the storage, it was filled with SP31 and insulated. There are also water connections for easy installation on the top of the storage. [Figure 6](#page-14-0) shows a diagram of the measured power of SP31 with a flow rate of 8.2l per minute. The real data of the storage starts after 60 min, the maximum power of the storage is  $\sim$ 21  $kW/m<sup>3</sup>$  and it decreases over time as the storage is discharged. This is a prototype and the SP31 will be part of the demosite in Montserrat.

The initial idea of the Montserrat PCM system was to use a low-temperature PCM in parallel to the sorption system as added inertia to the cooling system. However, based on the preanalysis of Montserrat's demand profiles and the detailed analysis of its thermal heating and cooling network, it is imperative to change its final application from low temperature cooling to low waste heat temperature application (temperature of phase change around 31ºC). This need arises firstly from the inertia already existing in the district cooling network that would dilute the role of PCM storage at low temperature, and secondly from the operating characteristics of the thermochemical sorption system, where heat rejection occurs at a peak temperature of 35°C. Ideally, the return temperature should be targeted at 30°C. The heat thus rejected will be harnessed to preheat the high demand of domestic hot water of the building, which is introduced into the system at a temperature range of  $8^{\circ}$ C to 15<sup>o</sup>C. Consequently, to optimize the system's efficiency and facilitate this process, the phase change temperature of the PCM must be set at 31°C.



This adjustment is pivotal in our project's strategy to transition from utilizing a lowtemperature PCM (spanning 7°C to 12°C) to one operating around 30°C. This strategic shift is not merely a technical preference, but a calculated decision aimed at augmenting the efficiency of preheating DHW (the DHW demand does not overlap with the cooling demand of the installation, hence the benefits of TES), especially when compared to the limited benefits of employing a low-temperature PCM in parallel with the sorption process within a district cooling network framework. The proposed approach leverages higher temperature PCM to more effectively capture and utilize waste heat, thereby enhancing overall system performance and contributing to significant energy savings.



*Figure 8. demosite for solution II in Montserrat*

### <span id="page-16-2"></span><span id="page-16-0"></span>**7.3. Solution III: PCM HEATING**

#### **RT60HC**

The given requirements for solution III PCM HEATING (developed by KTH) are nearly the same as for solution I and for this the usage of the same PCM RT60HC is recommended. The PCM will be used in a stainless-steel tank and the volume should be  $\sim$ 750 l. In the next months it hast to be clarified whether the PCM is encapsulated or not. This requires the use of a heat transfer fluid or a copper coil.

### <span id="page-16-1"></span>**7.4. Updated data from Deliverable 2.2**

Upon final calculations and adjustments on the RT57HC and RT60HC bench-scale testing performed at KTH, as reported in Deliverable 2.2 report, the final data on the cycling tests are summarized in [Table 5,](#page-17-0) [Table 6,](#page-18-0) [Table 7](#page-19-0) and [Table 8.](#page-21-0) These have some minor refinements as compared to Deliverable 2.2 report (Tables 25-28) on heat loss.

In summary, these PCMs were cycled between around 35 °C and 85 °C, while the data analysis was done between 35 °C to 79 °C (filtering out the isothermal parts). Each heating and cooling cycle accounted for around 16 hours. Heat storage and thus heat loss calculations were also



considered for the corresponding time points between the 35 °C to 79 °C temperature ranges. This corresponded up to  $\sim$ 9 hours in heating,  $\sim$ 11 hours in cooling for RT57HC and up to  $\sim$ 7 hours in heating and ~9 hours in cooling for RT60HC. The heat stored in the SS HEX parts were calculated without considering the time factor, only as the sensible heat stored between 35 °C-79 °C. The heat loss was calculated by deducting the heat stored from the heat supplied. This corresponds to the heat from the HTF deducted by the total absorbed by the PCM and the SS HEX parts during heating cycles, and the heat from the PCM deducted by the sum of that absorbed by the HTF and SS HEX parts during cooling cycles. Further details of this methodology are found in Deliverable 2.2 report. Although these heat loss data are only relevant to this bench-scale system, the methodology is relevant even to the HYSTORE solutions and hence (while serving as an addendum to the values in Deliverable 2.2 (Tables 25-28)), this is presented here.

It is important to note here that due to the quite raw specific heat capacity values from the calorimetric method employed in the material analysis (c.f. Deliverable 2.2, section 6.1.2), the PCM heat storage capacities here appear to be over-estimated. This is more evident in the heating cycles. In addition, the weight of the stainless steel LHTES container and HEX parts (referred to as SS-HEX as a whole) altogether which is considered as 150 kg is also an approximate value given by these units' manufacturer. These uncertainties on specific heat capacities and approximation on the SS-HEX mass affect the estimation of the heat stored in these SS parts, considered as 3300 kJ. When comparing the TES capacity from the PCM (latent and sensible heats combined) versus the heat provided (in heating) and absorbed (in cooling) by the heat transfer fluid (HTF) and heat absorbed by the SS-HEX (in the considered temperature range), it seems that the heat loss in fact is a heat gain. This is however merely an artifact due to these uncertainties in specific heat capacities as well as the SS-HEX weight.

Nevertheless, this aspect does not affect the obtained PCM-TES capacity data for cycling performance, which are very comparable and consistent throughout all the tested cycles, 27 for RT57HC and 53 for RT60HC. These verify very satisfactory cycling stability of both these PCMs RT57HC and RT60HC for this type of long-term cycling.



<span id="page-17-0"></span>*Table 5. RT57HC LHTES capacity, energy delivered by HTF and heat losses for 27 heating cycles*





<span id="page-18-0"></span>*Table 6. RT57HC LHTES capacity, energy delivered by HTF and heat losses for 27 cooling cycles*







#### <span id="page-19-0"></span>*Table 7. RT60HC LHTES capacity, energy delivered by HTF and heat losses for 53 heating cycles*









<span id="page-21-0"></span>*Table 8. RT60HC LHTES capacity, energy delivered by HTF and heat losses for 53 cooling cycles*









### <span id="page-23-0"></span>**8. Solid-liquid Phase Change Material library slPCMlib**

### <span id="page-23-1"></span>**8.1. Introduction and scope of the library**

The solid-liquid Phase Change Material library slPCMlib provides computer code for the calculation of the so-called "effective" thermophysical properties of PCM for the following programming languages/CFD programs: Python, Matlab, Modelica/Dymola and Ansys Fluent. The PCM properties can be used for the numerical modeling of heat transfer in PCM and for the analysis of the thermal performance of PCM enhanced materials and components. The database contains data, correlations and models for the computation of a more realistic phase transition of PCM, therefore accounting for the following phenomena: non isothermal phase change, extended crystallization temperature range caused by hysteresis, multi-step phase transitions ([Figure 9](#page-23-2)).



*Figure 9. Ideal versus real phase change behavior of PCMs*

<span id="page-23-2"></span>To date, the library includes a total of 178 PCMs from 6 different manufacturing companies: Rubitherm GmbH, Pluss Advanced Technologies Pvt Ltd, Axiotherm GmbH, Croda International Plc, Climator Sweden AB and Knauf Gips KG. The materials included in slPCMlib differ from each others for: material class (wax, salt-hydrate, paraffin-based etc.), phase change temperature (from -63 to 115 °C), encapsulation method (macro- or micro-encapsulation), biobased classification. Moreover, different measurement procedures have been used to determine the heat capacities of the PCMs: 3-layer-calorimetry, heat-flux Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC) and T-history. An overview of the PCM currently included in slPCMlib is provided in [Figure 10](#page-24-0).





*Figure 10. Overview of PCM included in the solid-liquid Phase Change Material library slPCMlib*

<span id="page-24-0"></span>The general workflow for the integration of new PCMs to the database is based on three major steps, as described in [Figure 11](#page-24-1). First, data are collected from the PCM manufacturers. In most of the cases, heat capacity data is usually provided in the company´s datasheets in the form of partial enthalpy datasets, while the other thermophysical properties are given as single values for the solid and liquid phases. Once the data is collected, it is processed by the use of twophase, temperature-dependent phase transition models, where the solid and liquid phases coexist as homogeneous mixture within a mushy zone, as further described in section 3. Postprocessed data corresponds to continuous functions for all the relevant effective thermophysical properties of PCMs for heating and cooling, such as: apparent heat capacity, phase fraction, enthalpy, density and thermal conductivity. Therefore, a computer code including the full abovementioned datasets is available for the user for download.



<span id="page-24-1"></span>*Figure 11. General workflow for slPCMlib*



### <span id="page-25-0"></span>**8.2. General features of slPCMlib**

#### **8.2.1 Selection and screening of PCM using the database interface and interactive filters and graphs**

The library provides the user with the possibility to select the PCM based on relevant material properties or product specifications, given in the form of filters and switches (red box in [Figure](#page-25-1)  [12](#page-25-1)). The user can select the PCM based on: manufacturing company, product family, material class, phase change temperature, encapsulation type, data source and heat capacity measurement method. Once the material is selected, the main interface presented in [Figure 12](#page-25-1) is filled out with relevant information about the PCM. An info-box on "material´s specification" summarizes in a small paragraph some of the general properties of the PCM according to the manufacturer´s website, among which, for instance, the application field in which the material is usually employed. The overview table for the selected PCMs shows in a concise format the main thermophysical properties of the PCMs at solid and liquid state, as well as the phase transition enthalpy and temperature ranges, and other relevant metadata. For biobased PCMs an additional green leaf symbol is added next to the "In/-Organic" field. Lastly, an info-box about measurement procedure and data processing includes specific information on the way data was generated by manufacturers and integrated in the library.



*Figure 12. Main interface for selection of PCM in the slPCMlib database*

<span id="page-25-1"></span>To visualize the full PCM property datasets, a switch between "heat capacity data and baseline", "heat capacity normalized peak", "phase fraction, heat capacity, enthalpy" and "density and thermal conductivity" allows the user to have online access to the continuous curves for the aforementioned properties coming from the data processing (an example is given in the blue box in [Figure 12](#page-25-1)).

#### **8.2.2 Graphic visualization of effective thermal material properties**



Most of the manufacturers provide PCM data for heating and cooling. These are treated in slPCMlib as two different datasets. A special example is provided for the PCM Crodatherm 32 in [Figure 13](#page-26-0). Here, the heat capacity data is shown as histogram plot, with a net distinction between the baseline area (grey) corresponding to the sensible heat contribution, and the colored area (orange or blue for heating and cooling respectively), representing the latent heat contribution during the phase transition of the PCM.



<span id="page-26-0"></span>*Figure 13. Heat capacity data for heating and cooling. Distinction between baseline and latent heat contributions*

An example of continuous dataset for the same PCM is given in [Figure 14](#page-27-0). Here, the heating and cooling datasets are plotted together with a red (heating) and blue (cooling) curves respectively. Whenever data is processed and differs from the original manufacturer´s datasheet, i.e. interpolation and smoothing techniques are used to generate the continuous curves for a specific property, this is indicated in the figure description.





*Figure 14. Liquid fraction for Crodatherm 32 during heating and cooling*

#### <span id="page-27-0"></span>**8.2.3 Code export functions**

Once a material is selected, a source code containing the continuous datasets of its thermophysical properties is available for the user to download for the following programming languages/simulation software: Python, Matlab, Modelica/Dymola and Ansys Fluent. This latter can be directly copied using the function "Copy to clipboard" or even downloaded in the correct format using the option "save to file", as presented in [Figure 15](#page-27-1).



#### <span id="page-27-1"></span>**8.2.4 Interactive interface "Explore" to get a quick overview**

The Explore interactive interface gives the user a quick overview of the materials included in slPCMlib by plotting their phase change enthalpy over their phase change temperature. A switch function allows the selection of the phase change temperature per unit mass or per unit volume. The materials are sorted by manufacturer (color) and product family (symbol). The user can pick the PCMs of interest by deselecting the manufacturers/product families which are less relevant for him. The wideness of the temperature range could be selected by zooming in or out within the plot area. Finally, when the user places the mouse pointer directly on a specific PCM, its most important thermophysical properties are displayed in a box, e.g. its material class, phase change enthalpy and density in the liquid state, as visible in [Figure 16](#page-28-0).





*Figure 16. "Explore" interface in slPCMlib*

#### <span id="page-28-0"></span>**8.2.5 Interactive interface "User-defined" for customized effective thermal materials properties**

The interactive interface "User-defined" offers the possibility to customize the effective thermal properties of a PCM for which data is not yet available in the database. The user can set the phase transition range and the phase transition enthalpy, as well as the other relevant single phase change properties of the material at solid and liquid state, e.g. specific heat capacity, thermal conductivity, density, thermal expansion and dynamic viscosity. Moreover, a preferred peak shape function could be selected between: smooth step, sigmoid function, Gumbel minimum distribution and Log-Normal distribution. Therefore, the material properties are computed, and could be graphically visualized, with the possibility to switch between their plots (blue selection in [Figure](#page-29-0)  [17](#page-29-0)). Finally, the dataset source code could be exported, as explained in 7.2.3.





*Figure 17. "User-defined" interface in slPCMlib*

#### <span id="page-29-0"></span>**8.2.6 Interface "Links & Network" to acknowledge external contributors**

The interface "Links & Network" acknowledge the several external contributors which have collaborated with slPCMlib to include a greater number of PCMs, as well as to extend the programming languages and simulation software supported by the library ([Figure 18](#page-30-1)). The latter are divided in three main categories: "Companies and Accredited Laboratories", "Universities and Research Institutions" and "Databases and Libraries". The AIT accredited Laboratory for Thermophysics supports slPCMlib providing valuable knowledge on material characterization methods. Companies in the field of PCM production and characterization, such as METTLER TOLEDO GmbH and Croda International Plc, have shared valuable information regarding thermophysical properties of PCMs, as well as their measurement methods. Moreover, the research group of Applied Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer (ATHT) at the University of Ghent has provided relevant inputs to the numerical modeling of heat transfer problems with phase change, solution methods and code development for Ansys Fluent. Finally, the cooperation with other relevant PCM databases and libraries is considered valuable for the further development of slPCMlib. For example, ongoing discussions on material properties, standards and data processing are held with some members of IEA ECES Annex 29 and SHC Task 42, who have developed the thermalmaterials.org database.



#### Links & network

Mettler-Toledo GmbH

Contact: Dr. Andreas Bach

We would like to thank our partners for their valuable contributions and support!

#### Companies and Accredited Laboratories

METTLER TOLEDO supports slPCMlib by providing a large

quantity of thermophysical measurements for pure PCM.

Thanks to its contribution, we have received more than

50 organic and inorganic PCM. The data processing and

its integration in sIPCMlib is currently ongoing. A large

database of PCM properties is available for METTLER

TOLEDO's customers, who purchase their calorimetry

**METTLER TOLEDO** 

equipment, see www.mt.com/ta-libraries.

#### Universities and Research Institutions

#### Research group Applied Thermodynamics and Heat **Transfer (ATHT) Contact: Prof. Michel De Paepe** The Research group Applied Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer (ATHT) at the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of Ghent University supports slPCMlib with valuable inputs to the numerical modeling of heat transfer problems with phase change, solution methods and code development for Ansys Fluent. Our special thanks go to Dr. Wim Beyne and Maité Goderis!



#### Databases and Libraries

#### thermalmaterials.org Contact: Dipl.-Biol. Stefan Gschwander

The open-source database thermalmaterials.org contains thermophysical measurements and properties of phase change materials (PCM), sorption and thermochemical materials (TCM), which has been generated according to measurement standards developed within the framework of the IEA ECES Annex 29 and SHC Task 42. The database is developed and maintained by the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems. We acknowledge the collaboration and many discussions on material properties, standards and data processing methods.



#### Croda

Branch office: Croda Ibérica SAU Contact: Dr. Jon Vilasau Croda supports slPCMlib by providing thermophysical measurements of their biobased PCM waxes in microand macro-encapsulated form. Croda shares with slPCMlib specific information and valuable inputs on their measurement methods which are developed according to the RAL standard.

### **CRODA**

#### **AIT Laboratory for Thermophysics** Contact: Dr. Daniel Lager The AIT Laboratory for Thermophysics supports slPCMlib as an accredited testing laboratory (EN ISO/IEC 17025) providing valuable knowledge on material

characterization methods. **TOMORROW TODAY** 

*Figure 18. "Links & Network" interface in slPCMlib*

### <span id="page-30-1"></span><span id="page-30-0"></span>**8.3. Data processing workflow and modeling of PCM effective properties**

The following assumptions are taken for modeling effective PCM properties [1]:

- There are only two phases (two-phase model): a solid and a liquid phase
- Phase transitions are induced by temperature and are independent of pressure
- Phase transitions extend over a temperature range (non-isothermal phase transitions) and are continuous
- Within the phase transition temperature range the solid and liquid phases coexist as a homogenous mixture
- The material is in a semi-solid or semi-liquid state which produces a mushy zone in the PCM domain
- Properties of the mushy state are local effective (also apparent) mixture properties, which are defined by a weighting of contributions from solid and liquid phases. The



weighting is based on the phase change progress, i.e. the mass (or volume) phase fraction. As an example, the enthalpy could be calculated as follows:

$$
h(T) = (1 - \xi(T)) h^{s}(T) + \xi(T) h^{l}(T)
$$
\n(1)

Where  $\xi$  is the phase fraction of the material as a function of temperature, and  $h^s$ and  $h^l$  are the solid and liquid enthalpies of the PCM, whose difference is equal to the latent heat of the material.



*Figure 19. Data processing workflow*

<span id="page-31-0"></span>Based on the aforementioned assumptions, the following workflow is used to process the data from the manufacturers and provide continuous temperature-dependent curves for all the relevant thermophysical properties ([Figure 19](#page-31-0)):

- 1. The heat capacity data is collected for a specific PCM produced by a manufacturer. This is usually provided in the form of partial enthalpy datasets for heating and cooling, and could be expressed as a function of the phase fraction of the PCM, which is varying within the mushy zone as a function of temperature and within 0 (PCM fully solid) and 1 (PCM fully liquid). The goal of the data processing is to transform this type of tabulated dataset in a continuous and smooth peak function
- 2. The baseline function is constructed by identifying two temperature limits at the lower and upper boundary of the phase transition region. The area below the baseline function (in grey in [Figure 19\)](#page-31-0) is accountable for the sensible heat exchanged during the process and must be subtracted from the total heat capacity to calculate the latent storage capacity of the PCM. The baseline function is obtained by summing the



contribution of the temperature-dependent specific heat capacities of the PCM at solid and liquid state, and averaged over the liquid fraction of the material

3. The phase fraction of the PCM corresponds to the integral of the normalized peak function. Moreover, peak smoothing techniques are used to obtain a continuous function over the temperature range of interest. Once the peak function is obtained, all the other thermophysical properties of the PCM are calculated as a function of it, i.e. apparent heat capacity, density, enthalpy and thermal conductivity

### <span id="page-32-0"></span>**8.4. The role of slPCMlib in the HYSTORE project**

#### **8.4.1 KTH functions**

As reported in Deliverable 2.2, bench-scale long-term cycling stability tests were performed at KTH for the short-listed PCM candidates RT57HC and RT60HC. Their material property calculations were performed using Python as explained in detail there, in section 7.1.3 for fundamental concepts and in Appendix B for the specific codes for several calculation steps. These Python codes will be made available within this sIPCMlib, for other similar type of bulkscale PCM-TES capacity analyses. Here, what is meant by bulk scale analyses are e.g. conducted at bench-scale (or pilot-scale) and in many cycles, thus generating a large database of data that benefits from this type of automated calculations. These correspond to the numerical modelling at material-scale provided from KTH, for this current report.

#### **8.4.2 Ansys Fluent: Modeling of PCM melting behaviour in RPW-HEX**

Modelling the solidification and melting behavior of PCMs can present several challenges, including non-isothermal phase change, multi-step transitions, complex enthalpy-temperature relations and convective heat transfer. To tackle these challenges, a novel numerical method based on information of effective properties and phase change behavior of commercial PCM included in slPCMlib has been developed for modelling their complex phase change behavior in Ansys Fluent CFD software. The case study is based on the heat exchanger fin geometry designed by RAAL for the "ALL-IN-ONE Solution".



*Figure 20. Simulation mesh and aluminium fin geometry*

<span id="page-32-1"></span>The air fins are made from 0.2 mm thick aluminium sheets folded in trapezoidal shape ([Figure](#page-32-1)  [20](#page-32-1), center). The refrigerant flows in micro-multiport extrusion (MPE) aluminum tubes, directly in contact with the fins (Fig. 12 right, marked as bars). The investigation focuses on the heat transfer inside the cavities formed by the air fins filled with PCM, approximated by a



rectangular shape ([Figure 20](#page-32-1), left). The heat transfer contribution of the MPE tubes is modelled within the boundary conditions, e.g. a temperature ramp profile. The geometry considers a PCM and a fin domain, identified as "fluid" and "solid" bodies, respectively ([Figure 20](#page-32-1), left). Furthermore, symmetry constraints are applied to the outer vertical walls of the domain to mirror the geometry and obtain a continuous fin structure across the x-axis.

The melting process of the PCM is simulated by adopting the apparent heat capacity (AHC) method. The apparent specific heat capacity is calculated as the derivative of the specific enthalpy considering a temperature dependent phase change enthalpy:

$$
c_{app}(T) = (1 - \beta(T))c_p^s + \beta(T)c_p^l + (d\beta(T)/dT)\left(h^l(T) - h^s(T)\right)
$$
\n(2)

Where  $h^s$  $(T)$  and  $h^l$ are the extrapolated single phase solid and liquid specific enthalpies [7]. The temperature dependent liquid volume fraction  $\beta(T)$  equals the liquid mass fraction  $\xi(T)$  and represents the phase change progress. The AHC model differs from the standard Solidification and Melting (S&M) model implemented in Ansys Fluent, which is instead based on the enthalpy porosity method and does not consider the heat capacity as a continuous function of temperature, but as a stepwise function.



*Figure 21. Predicted heat capacities temperatures at upper, middle and bottom cells for five PCMs*

<span id="page-33-0"></span>For each PCM simulated with the HEX fin geometry, the single phase thermal properties, such as solid and liquid specific heat capacities, liquid density and liquid thermal conductivity, are assumed constant and taken from the slPCMlib database. Five commercial PCMs are considered for the investigation ([Figure 21](#page-33-0)): Crodatherm 9.5, Crodatherm 19 and Crodatherm 32 are produced by Croda International Plc, while RT55 and RT60 are manufactured by Rubitherm Technologies GmbH. The selection represents different melting behavior, i.e. different phase transition ranges and peak shapes in the apparent heat capacity curves.

Despite the relatively high shape complexity, height, and variations in curvature, all computations showed a good level of convergence. Moreover, it is generally observed that in PCMs showing very sharp heat capacity peaks, the closest cell to the aluminium fin (cell-up) undergoes a faster melting process, followed by cell-middle and cell-bottom. Furthermore, the melting behavior within the domain becomes more homogeneous in PCMs with larger peak areas.



#### **8.4.3 Dymola: Modeling of RPW-HEX and fresh water station loop**

The modeling of the PCM heat exchanger storage in connection with the fresh water station loop is further modelled in Dymola. The system is represented in [Figure 22](#page-34-0) and corresponds to a first simplified representation of the "ALL-IN-ONE Solution" design. The PCM heat exchanger is simulated with a unidimensional model, assuming a constant mass flow charging/discharging the storage through one horizontal tube. The heat transfer contribution affecting each PCM layer is simulated only through the y-axis, where the phase fraction of the material varies as a function of temperature from completely solid ( $\xi = 0$ ) to completely melted ( $\xi = 1$ ). The temperature profile for each of the PCM layers is calculated to assess how long the desired temperature of 60 °C is maintained by the material. The material properties for the PCMs are loaded from slPCMlib, thanks to the use of the TIL library. Specifically, the Rubitherm PCM RT60HC is used for the investigation.



*Figure 22. Dymola PCM-HEX and fresh water station loop*

<span id="page-34-0"></span>As visible in [Figure 22](#page-34-0), once the water passes through the PCM-HEX a final temperature of around 54 °C is expected to be reached. Being the heat exchanger made of aluminum, this water could not be directly pumped to the final user due to corrosion problems. Therefore, a second loop including a fresh water station is needed to pump the warm water to the tap.

The source code used for Dymola/Modelica is available at slPCMlib, as visible in [Figure 23](#page-35-0).



Source code:	
Copy to clipboard   or   Save to file: Rubitherm RT6oHC.mo Select language: Modelica *.mo $\blacktriangleright$ and	
crise prisoner's using comparison careering	
redeclare function extends phaseFrac complSolidification	
"Returns liquid mass phase fraction for complete solidification processes"	
protected	
constant Integer len $x =$ data C.len x:	
constant Real data x[:] = data C.data x;	
constant Real data y [:] = data C.data y;	
constant Real $m[k]:$ = data $C.m[k]$	
constant Real iy start[:] = data C.iy start;	
constant Real iy_scaler = data_C.iy_scaler;	
algorithm	
(xi, dxi) := slPCMlib.BasicUtilities.cubicHermiteSplineEval(T-273.15,	
len x, data x, data y, m k, iy start, iy scaler);	
end phaseFrac complSolidification:	
package data H "spline interpolation data for heating"	
extends Modelica Icons Package;	
constant Integer len $x =$ 14:	
constant Real $14$ data $x =$	
constant Real $[14]$ data y = (0.0000000000000000E+00, 1.2768133011999999E-02, 3.0590439165999999E-02, 3.1892708887999999E-02, 8.1894258654999996E-02, 1.8696	
constant Real $[14]$ m k =	
constant Real[14] iy start = {0.000000000000000E+00, 2.1132995318000000E-02, 6.0826279545999999E-02, 1.1351162332700000E-01, 2.2903176267100001E-01, 3.7279	
constant Real iv scaler = 9.9652958170012729E-01:	
end data H:	
package data C "spline interpolation data for cooling"	
extends Modelica. Icons. Package:	
constant Integer $len x =$ 14:	
constant Real[14] data x = {5.10000000000000E+01, 5.2625000000000E+01, 5.3875000000000E+01, 5.4375000000000000000000+01, 5.5625000000000E+01, 5.8125	

<span id="page-35-0"></span>*Figure 23. Export code for Modelica*

36



### <span id="page-36-0"></span>**9. Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)**

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a method for evaluating the environmental effect of a product or process from the beginning to the end. It assesses every stage, from raw material extraction to disposal or recycling, with the goal of qualifying and quantifying inputs like energy and outcomes like emissions. By assessing the whole life cycle, it aids in the identification of environmental hotspots and guides impact reduction options.

A product's life cycle usually includes:

- 1. **material extraction**: this is the process of obtaining natural materials such as minerals, metals and fuels.
- 2. **manufacture**: known as the production, is the process of transforming the gained raw materials into end products, which frequently involves the use of energy and a possible production of waste and emissions.
- 3. **package and transport**: this includes moving the materials from industrial facilities to customers, thus resulting in energy consumption and emission release.
- 4. **use**: consumers or companies use the product with a possible consumption of energy
- 5. **end of life**: the process of disposing or recycling a product, including waste management and possible environmental impacts

Life cycle assessment (LCA), which is a specific analysis involving quantitative assessments, stems from the broader concept of life cycle thinking (LCT). LCT and LCA give an extensive overview of environmental consequences, including carbon footprint (CF), wastewater management and energy consumption. Their application in e.g. manufacturing industries influences a sustainable decision making of the whole product. [2]

In this chapter, qualitative LCAs, i.e., in LCT, applied to the PCMs considered in HYSTORE project are presented. Qualitative Life Cycle Assessment is a methodology used to evaluate the environmental, social and economic aspects of a product, process or service throughout its life cycle. In this chapter only the environmental impacts of the PCM are described. The LCT here is mainly composed of the key life cycle steps in [Figure 24:](#page-37-1)





<span id="page-37-1"></span>*Figure 24. Typical life cycle steps of a product (Conceptualized based on [2])*

The following sections represents the LCA of the selected PCMs (RT8HC, RT60HC and SP31) which are chosen for ALL-IN-ONE solution at AIT, PCM HEATING at KTH and LOW TEMP. HEATING at the demosite in Montserrat.

### <span id="page-37-0"></span>**9.1. Raw material**

The extraction of raw material is a crucial phase in the life cycle of goods and procedures. It has a massive impact on their environmental footprint. It is the first stage of resource extraction from the environment to suit various human needs.

#### **RT8HC**

The life cycle of RT8HC begins with the extraction of different hydrocarbons with a chain length of C14 upto C18. They mainly consist of carbon and hydrogen. These paraffins are part of crude oil and natural gases. The raw material supplier performed a thorough analysis of the individual specifications and grouped the results. They have been generated via Product Carbon Footprint (PFC) calculations using the ISO 14040, 14044 & 14067 standard and TfS guidelines for guidance. The included supplier process steps are extraction of natural resources, processing and the transport to Rubitherm, Berlin. These processes need the input of natural resources and energy. The output are raw materials and energy emissions. Around  $\sim$ 1000 g carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per kg product and  $\sim$ 1000 g  $CO<sub>2</sub>/kg$  product are the PFCs of the two used raw materials. The transport to Rubitherm is estimated at  $\sim$ 70 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product.

#### **RT60HC**



The life cycle of RT60HC begins with the extraction of different long-chain organic compounds from natural origin e.g. fats or fatty oils. A technical way of production is possible with the hydrogenation of an acid (from natural resources). These processes of extraction or synthesis, hydrogenation and combination need the input of natural resources and energy. The output are a raw material and energy emissions. To get a little bit closer to this important topic a short quantitative analysis was done with the given data of one of our suppliers for raw materials. The material extraction and processing produce ~-300 g CO2/kg product, because of the use of renewable resources. The transport emissions amount to ~60 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product. The production processes produce ~770 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg through fuel, steam and electricity. The transport via truck to Rubitherm caused  $\sim$ 70 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product.

#### **SP31**

The life cycle of SP31 begins with the production of the sodium salt and the synthesis of a nitrogen and additive.

These processes need the input of natural resources and energy. The output are raw materials and energy emissions. Due to missing data from the raw material supplier the PFC of these products can not be quantified. Further investigations will be made to get these important data. The assumption is  $\sim$ 130g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product for the whole transport to the supplier and to Rubitherm.

### <span id="page-38-0"></span>**9.2. Final material**

In this phase raw materials are transformed into finished goods. Herein several processes working hand in hand to convert the raw material into a usable product.

#### **RT8HC**

The manufacturing of the raw material to the final PCM take place at Rubitherm, Berlin. Afterwards a quality assurance is done. Different measurements like viscosity, density and thermal behaviour are carried out under certain conditions. For producing the final material, the paraffins (which are stored in IBCs) have to be pumped into a mixing reactor. After filling, an electric stirrer starts mixing both components together to a contract a contract of the homogenous and fluid. This process needs the input of raw material and energy. The output are final material and energy emissions. The PFC for this process amounts to  $\sim$  5.0 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product.

#### **RT60HC**

The manufacturing of the final material take place at Rubitherm, Berlin. For this, the raw material has to be unpacked from its transport container. Afterwards a quality assurance is done. Different measurements like viscosity, density and thermal behaviour are carried out under conditions. The raw material then has to be melted in a drum melting system operated by an oil heating



system. Afterwards it is filled in a pre-heated reactor and is stirred for several hours. Different additives like e.g. thickener are added. These manufacturing processes need the input of the raw material and energy for heating, stirring and pumping. The output is the final material and energy emissions like  $CO<sub>2</sub>$ . The PFC for these processes amounts to  $\sim$  153 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product.

#### **SP31**

The manufacturing of the final material takes place at Rubitherm, Berlin. For this the raw materials have to be unpacked from their transport containers (mostly bags). Afterwards a quality assurance is done. Different measurements like viscosity, density and thermal behaviour are carried out under certain conditions. The raw materials are then filled in a pre-heated mixing reactor and dissolved in hot water. An electrical stirrer is mixing everything together until it is homogenous. These manufacturing processes need the input of raw material and energy for heating and stirring. The output is the final material and energy emissions. The PFC for these processes amounts to  $\sim$  17.0 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product.

### <span id="page-39-0"></span>**9.3. Packaging and transport**

This sub-chapter deals with the distribution and delivery of final products to the end-user. The key-role of this step is the protection and transportation of products from the manufacturing facilities to distribution centers.

#### **RT8HC, RT60HC, SP31**

The final material will be pumped into drums or in canisters. These containers are stored on a pallet, wrapped with strapping band and foil. Small canisters are packed in cardboard boxes for transportation. The transport is carried out by a truck, over sea or via airplane to the place of destination. A general estimation for the transport to the final destination is due to the multiple variations not possible, but has to be looked at for individual cases. The process step "packaging and transport" needs the input of final material, packaging material and energy. The output are packed and transported material and energy emissions. The PFC for the packaging process amounts to  $\sim$ 0.1g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product.

As an intermediate summary the product carbon footprint for RT8HC from raw material to packaging process amounts to  $\sim$  2.075 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product from "cradle to gate" at Rubitherm.

As an intermediate summary the product carbon footprint for RT60HC from raw material to packaging process amounts to  $\sim$ 753 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product from "cradle to gate" at Rubitherm.

As an intermediate summary the product carbon footprint for SP31 from raw material to packaging process amounts to  $\sim$  147 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kg product (without energy emissions of synthesis) from "cradle to gate" at Rubitherm



### <span id="page-40-0"></span>**9.4. Use of the Product**

The usage of the final product describes the period during which a final product is applicated by the end-user. Important steps are the operation, maintaining and (possible) energy consumption.

#### **RT60HC**

This section specifically concerns the chosen PCM RT60HC for HYSTORE PCM Heating solution at KTH and for the "ALL-in-ONE Solution" at AIT.

In the PCM Heating solution, RT60HC will be used for space heating applications. It also can serve as a potential PCM for any other heating or cooling applications, provided the heating/cooling need is covered by its phase change temperature range (overall at: 56-62 **°**C, as presented in Deliverable 2.2 report, section 7.2.2.3)*.* These could be e.g., but not limited to, other space heating applications, as pre-heating steps for domestic hot water supplies, and possibly some industrial cooling and pre-cooling processes. This might be also of interest for thermal management of e.g. electronics, given the temperature is suitable.

Concerning the application conditions in this specific PCM Heating Solution, the PCM will be melted in an oven. This will be done batch-wise, PCM contained in metal Jerry cans each of  $\sim$  20 L volume, to fulfill the final total LHTES volume which is in the order of 500-800 L. The molten PCM will be then poured into the LHTES unit or capsules (based on the optimal heat exchanger geometry that will be chosen later in HYSTORE project). Afterwards, the LHTES unit will be kept closed and operated in thermal cycles as dictated by the PCM Heating application, thus with minimal interactions with the outside air. The operating temperature range would be maximum 15-85 °C in these use cycles. The LHTES and thus RT60HC PCM are anticipated to undergo very many complete (i.e., one full melting and freezing per day) cycles and possibly over a lifetime of 15-20 years (thus ~5000-7500 cycles in total). The 50+ cycles tested and reported in Deliverable 2.2 show consistent performance upon cycling. Backed by these results and the fact that it undergoes minimal exposure to external ambient conditions, it can be expected to show negligible to minimal degradation within this lifetime.

The "ALL-in-ONE Solution" developed at AIT includes a Refrigerant-PCM-Water heat exchanger (RPW-HEX) connected to the fresh water station circle, which delivers domestic hot water to the user thanks to a closed loop (see scheme in [Figure 25\)](#page-41-0).





*Figure 25. CAD drawing and laboratory set-up at AIT of RPW-HEX storage* 

<span id="page-41-0"></span>The PCM is filled from the top of the storage maintaining an additional upper volume between the PCM and the lid, to allow its volume expansion during the melting process without physical deformation of the storage container. After filling, minimal interactions with the outside environment are expected for the PCM. A total of 10 temperature sensors and one pressure sensor are located directly in contact with the PCM in order to monitor its state of charge and its changes over time and number of cycles, e.g. this way it is possible to detect the degradation of the material.

Specifically, the LHTES is heated up by the heat pump modul within a temperature range of 20 – 70 °C (charging period), ensuring the complete melting of the PCM (RT60HC). Once the storage gets to the homogeneous temperature of 70 °C, the fresh water station pump is activated with a flow rate of 2 – 25 l/min and the discharge of the PCM takes place. In the final use the charge and discharge operation can be characterized by tests defined in norm ÖNORM EN 16147.



<span id="page-41-1"></span>*Figure 26. Hydraulic connections to perform charging and discharging tests*



Similarly to the space heating solution at KTH, the RPW-HEX storage is expected to undergo up to two melting and solidification cycles per day over a lifetime of 15-20 years, reaching a total of ~7000-10000 cycles.

### <span id="page-42-0"></span>**9.5. Reuse and recycling**

This phase of LCA is crucial to the whole assessment as the used materials are splitted up from disposal and being reintegrated into the production process. To reduce the PFC, the used materials are collected, sorted, processed and reprocessed for minimizing waste production.

To have a minimal life-cycle impact, at the end-of-life (EoL) of the PCM in LHTES, recovery, reuse and recycling are the most preferred and prioritized options. In the PCM Heating solution, in case of the PCM in a tank LHTES where the HEX is submerged, the recovery is straightforward and will be with high recovery rates. If the PCM would however be encapsulated and then submerged in HTF, the recovery would be more tedious (to take the PCM out of the capsules) and may have somewhat lower recovery rates. Avoiding too intricate and complex geometries may contribute here for better EoL PCM recovery rates. Once the PCM at EoL is recovered, it could be reused for other TES or thermal management applications, or if not: as feedstock in chemical and other industries, if it has not considerably degraded. RT60HC is a relatively bulky molecule, which however has the potential to be broken down and used as raw material to chemicals industry e.g. in solvents production. As RT60HC is anticipated to have sound cycling stability, higher recovery, reuse and recycling potential is expected.

As a thermal management PCM (e.g. in electronics cooling), the amount of PCMs used per electronic unit will vary greatly depending on the type of electronic devices (e.g. small portable batteries of super-capacitors and stationary batteries, and mobile phones to data centers). This will thus also decide how easy or difficult it is to extract and recover the PCM at the EoL of its intended thermal management application. In smaller devices, extracting small amounts of PCMs may not be as cost-effective or technically feasible as that with large devices. This will impact the recovery options as well as the quality of the PCM at EoL that is recovered, thus affecting its reusability (again for TES applications, or as a feedstock (a secondary raw material) to chemical industries) and recycling. The CF of these processes will also play a major role, which could be increasingly embedded in the processing and recovery costs (with increasingly stringent climate regulations etc.), thus affecting the cost-effectiveness of these different recovery, reuse and recycle routes.

### <span id="page-42-1"></span>**9.6. Disposal**

This part represents the end-of-life of the product, if recycling and reuse is not possible. If products have reached their end-of-life different methods like landfilling or incineration are common.

As an organic compound, RT60HC has a relatively high energy capacity, when considering incineration to recover energy. At its end of life of use in LHTES (or another TES or thermal management) solution, if it is found to be too degraded or contaminated due to some



unavoidable reasons, it could be thus sent for ultimate disposal for incineration for energy recovery. Examples for this route are waste incineration plants for combined heat and power production (CHP).  $CO<sub>2</sub>$  emissions from these incinerations bring about a considerable CF however. Incineration of these EoL PCMs in CHP or similar plants that are coupled with carbon capture and storage (CCS) or even better, with carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) [3] would enable minimizing the CF in this life cycle step.

RT60HC does not contain minerals or metallic compounds and hence would produce minimal amount of bottom ashes and which are also typically not hazardous. Therefore, the ashes generated from the PCM are expected to have minimal environmental impact after incineration and would require minimal landfilling. RT60HC itself would not risk landfilling as it is, for its high energy capacity. An exception here would be that the PCM is contaminated with a very hazardous compound. This however is also very unlikely in the intended thermal applications.

### <span id="page-43-0"></span>**9.7. Summary LCA**

In this section a qualitative LCA was performed for three final chosen PCMs RT8HC, RT60HC and SP31. The steps from natural resources, raw material, final material, packaging & transport, usage, reuse & recycling, and disposal are described. Though it is a qualitative assessment some data for carbon footprints could be included through the calculations of energy consumption while processing from raw material to packaging & transport. The calculated carbon footprints for these steps "raw material" to "packaging and transport" are summarized in the [Table 9.](#page-43-1)

The main environmental hotspot identified was the raw material extraction. It can be seen that the biobased RT60HC has a lower environmental impact than the RT8HC. De Garcia et al. presented in their study that "the use of hydrated salts presents manufacturing impact about 75% lower than paraffins" [4]. The SP31(\*) data are for now incomplete and for this a comparison is yet not possible but a lower impact than paraffins can be estimated.



<span id="page-43-1"></span>*Table 9. carbon footprints for RT8HC, RT60HC and SP31*



### <span id="page-44-0"></span>**10. Conclusion**

Within the work of this deliverable 2.1, the following are achieved, fulfilling the plans and commitments of it quite successfully to a great extent, such as:

- The specified criteria were met in the final selection of biobased PCMs, which exhibit high storage capacity, an appropriate temperature range, non-corrosive characteristics towards the HEX (polymer and aluminium) and storage material, exceptional cycle stability, and absence of phase separation.
- The final data from bench-scale testing of **RT57HC** and **RT60HC** at KTH, as detailed in Deliverable 2.2, are summarized in [7.4,](#page-16-1) with minor adjustments from previous reports regarding heat loss. However, due to uncertainties in specific heat capacities and the approximate mass of stainless steel LHTES container and HEX parts, there are overestimations in PCM heat storage capacities, especially in the heating cycles. Despite this, PCM-TES capacity data for cycling performances remain consistent and comparable across all tested cycles (27 for RT57HC and 53 for RT60HC), demonstrating satisfactory **cycling stability** for both PCMs.
- The PCM **RT60HC**, a biobased organic material, meets all requirements with its high heat storage capacity, non-corrosive nature, and sharp enthalpy peaks. It's chosen as the final phase change material for solution I: **ALL-IN-ONE** and solution III: **PCM HEATING**
- The PCM RT8HC, with a high heat storage capacity of 190 kJ/kg and no corrosive effects on metals, is liquid at room temperature, making it easy to handle. It meets all requirements and performed well in tests with an aluminium heat exchanger for solution I **ALL-IN-ONE** (cool side).
- The PCM **SP31**, an inorganic material with a high heat storage capacity exceeding 200 kJ/kg, is solid at room temperature and exhibits corrosive effects on metals. Recommended with a polymer storage and heat exchanger, it fulfils all requirements for low-temperature heating PCM. Tested successfully in Rubitherm's small storage for solution II **LOW-TEMP HEATING**, SP31 will demonstrate its power at the demosite in Montserrat.
- **slPCMlib** is a PCM library offering **code for calculating thermophysical properties** in Python, Matlab, Modelica/Dymola, and Ansys Fluent. It aids in heat transfer modeling and analysis of PCM-enhanced materials. The users can select PCMs based on various criteria, with relevant information displayed. An overview table summarizes main properties, including phase transition details and metadata. Information on measurement procedures and data processing is also provided.



### <span id="page-45-0"></span>**11. References**

- [1] T. Barz, A. Bres and J. Emhofer, slPCMlib: A Modelica Library for the Prediction of Effective Thermal Material Properties of Solid/Liquid Phase Change Materials (PCM), 2022, pp. 63-74.
- [2] J. Ren, Life Cycle Sustainability Assessment for Decision-Making, 2020.
- [3] IEA (International Energy Agency), "IEA 50 Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage," 22 02 2024. [Online]. Available: https://www.iea.org/energy-system/carbon-capture-utilisation-andstorage.
- [4] D. Garcia, "Life Cycle Assessment of the inclusion of phase change materials (PCM) in experimental buildings," *Energy and building,* vol. 42, no. 9, pp. 1517-1523, 2010.



### <span id="page-46-0"></span>**Appendix**

#### **Modelica/Dymola code from slPCMlib for PCM RT60HC**

```
within slPCMlib.Media Rubitherm RT;
package Rubitherm RT60HC "Rubitherm GmbH, RT60HC; data taken from: Rubitherm
datasheet."
   extends slPCMlib.Interfaces.partialPCM;
   // ----------------------------------
   redeclare replaceable record propData "PCM record"
    constant String mediumName = "RT60HC"; // --- parameters for phase transition functions ---
    constant Boolean modelForMelting = true; constant Boolean modelForSolidification = true;
     constant Modelica.Units.SI.Temperature rangeTmelting[2] =
{3.2314999999999998E+02, 3.3614999999999998E+02}
              "temperature range melting {startT, endT}";
     constant Modelica.Units.SI.Temperature rangeTsolidification[2] =
{3.2414999999999998E+02, 3.3514999999999998E+02}
              "temperature range solidification {startT, endT}";
     // --- parameters for heat capacity and enthalpy ---
    constant Modelica.Units.SI.SpecificHeatCapacity[2] cpS_linCoef =
{2.0000000000000000E+03, 0.0000000000000000E+00}
              "solid specific heat capacity, linear coefficients a + b*T";
    constant Modelica.Units.SI.SpecificHeatCapacity[2] cpL linCoef =
{2.0000000000000000E+03, 0.0000000000000000E+00}
              "liquid specific heat capacity, linear coefficients a + b*T";
     constant Modelica.Units.SI.SpecificEnthalpy phTrEnth =
2.6452741843501542E+05
              "scalar phase transition enthalpy";
     // --- reference values ---
     constant Modelica.Units.SI.Temperature Tref = rangeTmelting[1]
              "reference temperature";
     constant Modelica.Units.SI.SpecificEnthalpy href = 0.0
              "reference enthalpy at Tref";
   end propData;
```
 redeclare function extends phaseFrac\_complMelting "Returns liquid mass phase fraction for complete melting processes"

// ----------------------------------



```
 protected
    constant Integer len x = data H.len x;
    constant Real data x[:] = data H.data x;
     constant Real data_y[:] = data_H.data_y;
    constant Real m k[:] = data H.m k;
    constant Real iy start[:] = data H.iy start;
    constant Real iy scaler = data H.iy scaler;
   algorithm 
     (xi, dxi) := slPCMlib.BasicUtilities.cubicHermiteSplineEval(T-273.15,
                 len x, data x, data y, m k, iy_start, iy_scaler);
   end phaseFrac_complMelting;
   // ----------------------------------
   redeclare function extends phaseFrac_complSolidification
     "Returns liquid mass phase fraction for complete solidification processes"
   protected 
    constant Integer len_x = data C.length.
    constant Real data x[:] = data C.data x;
    constant Real data y[:] = data C.data y;
    constant Real m_k[:] = data C.m k;
     constant Real iy_start[:] = data_C.iy_start;
    constant Real iy_scaler = data C.iy_scaler;
   algorithm 
     (xi, dxi) := slPCMlib.BasicUtilities.cubicHermiteSplineEval(T-273.15,
                 len x, data x, data y, m k, iy start, iy scaler);
   end phaseFrac_complSolidification;
   // ----------------------------------
   package data_H "spline interpolation data for heating"
     extends Modelica.Icons.Package;
    constant Integer len_x = 14;
    constant Real[14] data x = {5.000000000000000000}+01,
5.2625000000000000E+01, 5.4875000000000000E+01, 5.6625000000000000E+01, 
5.8625000000000000E+01, 5.9875000000000000E+01, 6.0375000000000000E+01, 
6.0625000000000000E+01, 6.0875000000000000E+01, 6.1125000000000000E+01, 
6.1625000000000000E+01, 6.1875000000000000E+01, 6.2875000000000000E+01, 
6.3000000000000000E+01};
    constant Real[14] data y = {0.00000000000000000000000}, 1.2768133011999999E-
02, 3.0590439165999999E-02, 3.1892708887999999E-02, 8.1894258654999996E-02, 
1.8696226150299999E-01, 3.4794026749599999E-01, 4.9334748718600002E-01, 
5.2575078416099996E-01, 4.2847607736799997E-01, 8.0679170413999995E-02, 
2.7444280046999999E-02, 0.0000000000000000E+00, 0.0000000000000000E+00};
    constant Real[14] m k = {0.000000000000000000000}, -
7.7469021709999997E-03, 1.3460511043999999E-02, 2.0528986514000001E-02, 
1.4122573055000000E-02, 1.9670756622700000E-01, 4.3056625883200000E-01, 
4.5832549208200002E-01, -1.7171492437800001E-01, -6.9228207596699998E-01, -
5.7698655226600004E-01, -8.0073094742000001E-02, 0.0000000000000000E+00, 
0.0000000000000000E+00};
```


```
 constant Real[14] iy_start = {0.0000000000000000E+00, 2.1132995318000000E-
02, 6.0826279545999999E-02, 1.1351162332700000E-01, 2.2903176267100001E-01, 
3.7279235327900001E-01, 5.0119875362400002E-01, 6.0585069281799997E-01, 
7.3606596203700003E-01, 8.5763225187900005E-01, 9.8208566423599997E-01, 
9.9297508217700003E-01, 1.0000000000000000E+00, 1.0000000000000000E+00};
    constant Real iv scaler = 9.9652958170012729E-01;
 end data H;
  // ----------------------------------
  package data_C "spline interpolation data for cooling"
     extends Modelica.Icons.Package;
    constant Integer len x = 14;
    constant Real[14] data x = {5.100000000000000000+01}5.2625000000000000E+01, 5.3875000000000000E+01, 5.4375000000000000E+01, 
5.5625000000000000E+01, 5.8125000000000000E+01, 5.9625000000000000E+01, 
6.0375000000000000E+01, 6.0625000000000000E+01, 6.1125000000000000E+01, 
6.1375000000000000E+01, 6.1625000000000000E+01, 6.1875000000000000E+01, 
6.2000000000000000E+01};
     constant Real[14] data_y = {0.0000000000000000E+00, 1.4736759388000001E-
02, 0.0000000000000000E+00, 0.0000000000000000E+00, 1.5737160898000001E-02, 
4.3312001300999999E-02, 1.0465501299400000E-01, 3.3803301742600000E-01, 
5.4514013709499998E-01, 6.1448961256099999E-01, 4.4475389374399998E-01, 
2.2306507387899999E-01, 5.1183912927000003E-02, 0.0000000000000000E+00};
     constant Real[14] m_k = {0.0000000000000000E+00, 1.6391962816000000E-
02, 0.0000000000000000E+00, 0.0000000000000000E+00, -3.7300167919999999E-03, 
2.0937060800999999E-02, 9.8497598145999996E-02, 6.0352447422099997E-01, 
6.8507492198300002E-01, -5.4392229271000003E-01, -8.2925240799199995E-01, -
8.0154120984300004E-01, -5.9651664761699996E-01, 0.0000000000000000E+00};
     constant Real[14] iy_start = {0.0000000000000000E+00, 8.2992418110000004E-
03, 1.9552843239000001E-02, 1.9552843239000001E-02, 2.9791235958000001E-02, 
9.0264936278000002E-02, 1.8592201589099999E-01, 3.2711213370199999E-01, 
4.3619956348400002E-01, 7.4917354024000005E-01, 8.8198822150300005E-01, 
9.6465103943300001E-01, 9.9759720153499998E-01, 1.0000000000000000E+00};
     constant Real iy_scaler = 9.9195728546595674E-01;
 end data C;
   // ----------------------------------
  redeclare function extends density solid "Returns solid density"
   algorithm 
    rho := 8.5000000000000000E+02;
  end density_solid;
   // ----------------------------------
   redeclare function extends density_liquid "Returns liquid density"
  algorithm 
    rho := 7.5000000000000000E+02;
  end density_liquid;
   // ----------------------------------
```


```
redeclare function extends conductivity solid "Returns solid thermal
conductivity"
   algorithm 
     lambda := 2.0000000000000001E-01;
  end conductivity solid;
   // ----------------------------------
  redeclare function extends conductivity liquid "Returns liquid thermal
conductivity"
   algorithm 
     lambda := 2.0000000000000001E-01;
   end conductivity_liquid;
annotation(Documentation(
  info="<html>
  \langle p \rangle This package contains solid and liquid properties for the PCM: 
<strong>RT60HC</strong> from manufacturer: <strong>Rubitherm
GmbH</strong>.<br>
   Basic characteristics are the material class: unknown, and encapsulation: 
multiple options available<br> The data is taken from: Rubitherm datasheet -
last access 2023-05-23.<br><br>
  <br><br>
   The package contains phase transition functions for
   <ul>
   <li>complete melting : true</li>
   <li>complete solidification: true</li>
   </ul></p><p>
   <p>
   Code export from <strong><u>slPCMlib database</u></strong> on 2023-12-
08.<br><br>
    See:<br>
     Barz, T., Bres, A., & Emhofer, J. (2022).
     slPCMlib: A Modelica Library for the Prediction of Effective 
     Thermal Material Properties of Solid/Liquid Phase Change 
     Materials (PCM). 
     In Proceedings of Asian Modelica Conference 2022 (pp. 63-74). 
     Linkoping University Electronic Press. 
     <a href>https://doi.org/10.3384/ecp19363</a>.
    \langle/p>
     </blockquote>
     </p></html>",
     revisions="<html>
     <ul>
     <li>file creation date: 2023-12-08 </ul>
    \langle/p>\langle/html>"));
```

```
end Rubitherm_RT60HC;
```


### **OUR TEAM**

















**MASTON** 

Ollscoil Chathair **Bhaile Átha Cliath** 





inovaLab<sup>c</sup>

**University College Dublin** An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath

eurac research **Dublin City University** 









### **See you online!**



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