

CEO, Chlorinated Polymer Upcycling

About Ashwatta

Ashwatta is a climate venture studio turning breakthrough science from Indian research labs into scalable high-impact startups. We provide technical de-risking, pilot planning, and grant leverage to unlock early-stage capital to commercialize advanced technologies tackling GHG mitigation, industrial decarbonization, heavy transportation, sustainable and circular materials and sustainable food. Beyond venture creation, we are building climate innovation infrastructure—training scientists to become founders, partnering with Indian research institutions, and shaping the deeptech ecosystem across India.

Chlorinated Polymers

Chlorinated polymers are a class of polymers where chlorine replaces some of the hydrogen ions in the polymers. This replacement with chlorine increases the chemical resistance of the polymers, improves its weatherability, flame retardancy and versatility. Common examples of such polymers include Poly vinyl chloride (PVC), Chlorinated PVC (CPVC), Poly vinyl dichloride (PVDC), Chlorinated polyethylene (CPE).

Domestic demand for just PVC in India in 2023 was 4 million tonnes with 60% of the demand being met by imports. Demand for PVC - 73% of which - comes from pipes and fittings is expected to reach 7 million tonnes in 2030.

Current recycling rates of these polymers is less than 1% and most of them end-up in landfills at the end of their life. Depending on the end-use, PVC is mixed with thermal stabilizers and pigments containing metal oxides (titanium, lead, tin, zinc), plasticizers like phthalates and phosphates. Similar additives are added to other chlorinated polymers. While the chlorinated polymers are persistent and degrade slowly, under the heat and pressure of the mounting waste piled up in the landfills, they undergo anerobic degradation potentially leaching these hazardous chemicals and chlorinated organic compounds into the soil and ground water. The degraded chlorinated polymers also generate microplastics that effect our food chains. They also potentially produce methane and CO₂ contributing to worsening climate change.



Current methods for recycling chlorinated polymers such as mechanical recycling and pyrolysis are woefully inadequate due to the additives, contaminants and production of hydrochloric acid.

Project Vikruti by Ashwatta is working to unlock value from effectively upcycling chlorinated polymers to value-added products and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

The Opportunity

Project Vikruti's goal is to effectively upcycle chlorinated polymers and create value added products that break the dependence on fossil-fuel feedstocks through an electrochemical process.

You will join a team of world-class scientists who have developed Project Vikruti's core technology. The current research team has demonstrated lab-scale proof of concept.

Ashwatta is looking for a CEO and Co-Founder to build Project Vikruti into a global company. You will be ultimately responsible for the success of the company including strategy, product, sales, partnerships, team building, operations, fundraising, financial management, regulatory compliance, stakeholder management.

Requirements

We are looking for an entrepreneurial individual with a passion for the chemical industries and a driving motivation to create a massive company that produces green chemicals and mitigates climate change.

You must have demonstrated experience/potential in CEO type responsibilities (see above), the commercialisation of novel technologies, with a strong interest in chemical-related industries. The ideal candidate will have direct experience in polymer industry, project development, and/or scaling science-based companies.

Example of relevant backgrounds:

- **Startup founder / operator / investor** – chemical technology, climate tech.
- **Polymer industry specialists** - with experience in bringing to market new technologies.

We Are Especially Looking For You If You:

- Have always dreamed of starting your own company (or have started your own before – whether successful or unsuccessful)



- You are driven to realise the vision of a sustainable future for all
- Have demonstrated experience tackling climate change in your work
- You are results oriented
- You are a great communicator and a story teller

What We Offer

- Founder-level equity + stipend for a limited time
- Early-stage capital + studio support
- Mentorship and guidance
- Access to our global network of advisors, partners and mentors
- A mission-driven platform to build a company that matters

How to Apply

Send your CV with cover letter to hello@ashwatta.earth

Ashwatta is an equal opportunity employer. We value diversity across gender, age, experience, perspective, and background. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, colour, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other protected status. We are committed to building an inclusive culture where everyone feels empowered to contribute and grow.