

# Recycling contaminated steel scrap

Key words: recycling, metals, sustainability



## Bert Bult

Co-owner and Director of Purified Metal Company |  
Main product: Purified Metal Blocks

### Aim

To recycle contaminated steel scrap in a patented and innovative way

**EIT Community connection**  
EIT RawMaterials

## The project

### The idea

The PMC solution recycles contaminated steel scrap in a cost-effective and sustainable manner, rather than dumping it in landfills or cleaning it at high cost. Through a single patented process, we produce a high-quality end product for the steel industry: Purified Metal Blocks™ (PMBs).

### Inspiration

While working at a steel plant, we realised that asbestos-contaminated steel scrap was either being dumped in landfills or being cleaned at high cost. We started to consider alternatives.

### Unique selling points

PMC offers a circular and cost-efficient alternative to dumping contaminated steel scrap in landfills, which is a global issue for the environment and labour safety.

Steel scrap is normally considered to be a waste product because of the contamination attached to it. PMBs will be one of the few types of steel scrap that will meet the end-of-waste criteria of the European Union.

### EIT Community support

EIT RawMaterials is a key supporter and sponsor of PMC. They introduced us to potential partners and provided financial support to get through critical stages of development.

### Teamwork

Our venture started between three partners (Nathalie van de Poel, Jan Henk Wijma and myself). We continue to work very closely to achieve our main goal, and our complementary competencies have helped us to move quickly.

### Venture development

We are currently working on financing the first factory, and the funding is almost complete. Our goal is to start building the factory in January 2018.

## The nominee

### The beginning

I was approached by my two partners after they came up with the idea of recycling contaminated steel scrap. I immediately saw the potential and the rest is history.

### Entrepreneurial flair

I believe that an entrepreneur needs to be open to new ideas, able to deal with setbacks, and able to build a strong network of potential partners.

### Learning from experience

My advice is to reach out and be open to the EIT Community network. Within this network, entrepreneurs can find professionals, institutions and companies to support their start-ups in getting to the next level and exchange ideas to help manage potential challenges.

### Best memory

My best memory was the whole process of setting up the company. Before this, I worked for quite a few companies, developing new products, processes and markets for them. Doing this for my own company – and solving a major environmental problem – makes me very happy.

### Ideal advisor

We have already been working with our ideal advisors over the last three years – key individuals from major companies and institutions in the industry (EIT RawMaterials, RWTH Aachen, Royal HaskoningDHV, SGS Search, Visser & Smit Bouw, Renewi, EY and AON).



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