

Sumitomo Riko and LanzaTech enter into a joint-development agreement to reuse rubber, resin, and urethane waste, contributing to the creation of a circular economy

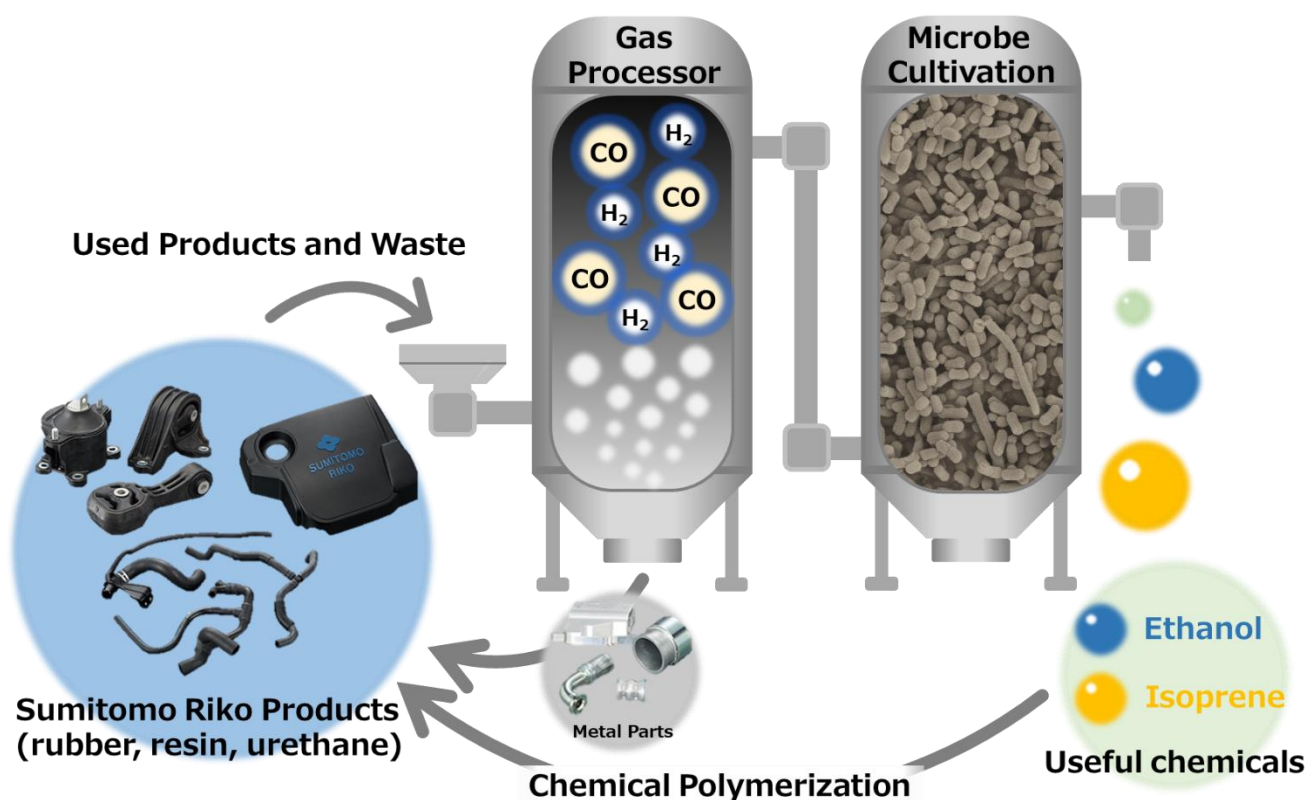
Sumitomo Riko Company Limited (Headquarters: Nakamura-ku, Nagoya-shi; President & CEO: Kazushi Shimizu) and US carbon capture and transformation company, LanzaTech NZ, Inc. (Headquarters: Illinois, USA; CEO & Director: Dr. Jennifer Holmgren) have entered into a joint-development agreement to transition to a circular economy¹ for rubber, resin, and urethane waste. This initiative will enable both parties to establish new technology and accelerate the creation of a sustainable society comprised of carbon neutrality and a circular economy.

LanzaTech  **SUMITOMO RIKO**

Starting with one of our core competencies, “Polymer Materials Technology”, the Sumitomo Riko Group supplies various products using rubber, resin, and urethane as a raw material. Approximately 46 thousand tons of natural and synthetic rubber are used in our leading rubber products annually making rubber one of our most important raw materials. A large amount of rubber waste is also produced from the burr and end materials generated from the manufacturing process and used automobile parts.

¹ In addition to the 3R’s (reduce, reuse, and recycle), the circular economy has been designed to suppress the input and consumption of new resources as much as possible and aims to optimize the worth of resources and products, and minimize resource consumption and the generation of waste material.

In conjunction with LanzaTech, the Sumitomo Riko Group will commence research and development of new technology to reuse this rubber, resin, and urethane waste to create a circular economy for these materials. After turning rubber, resin and urethane waste into gas, it is then transformed, utilizing LanzaTech’s “microbe biosynthetic technology”. Through the application of this carbon transformation technology we aim to produce a new isoprene chemical substance through the cultivation of microbes (while simultaneously producing ethanol). Ultimately, in cooperation with raw materials manufacturers, we will consider applying the recycling technology to reuse isoprene and ethanol as rubber and resin.



The Sumitomo Riko Group aims to be “a corporation that contributes to safety, comfort, and the environment for people, society, and the earth” and develop our business globally. Our joint development with LanzaTech aims to create a world where our anti-vibration rubber and hoses for automotive and general industrial use will be regenerated into new products through the development of a new circular economy.

■ LanzaTech

<https://lanzatech.com/>

LanzaTech has created a platform that converts waste carbon into new everyday products that would otherwise come from virgin fossil resources. With 3 commercial plants operating and additional plants are under construction globally, LanzaTech is based in Illinois, USA with offices in China, India, the UK and across Europe. They are a finalist in the Fix Our Climate category of the 2022 Earthshot Prize.

■ Our initiatives to achieve a sustainable society

<https://www.sumitomoriko.co.jp/english/csr/portal/?theme=policy>

About Us-----
Founded in 1929, Sumitomo Riko is a manufacturing company headquartered in Nagoya-shi, Aichi, Japan. We changed our name from Tokai Rubber Industries, Ltd. in 2014. In the field of "Automotive (Mobility)", we manufacture anti-vibration rubber parts, in which we have a leading global share, as well as rubber and resin hoses, urethane sound controlling & insulation products, and interior equipment. We are also applying the technologies we have accumulated in automobile parts development to expand our business in the fields of "Infrastructure and Housing environment", "Electronics", and "Healthcare". Utilizing our global network in more than 20 countries, we aim to be a "Global Excellent Manufacturing Company" that contributes to the safety, comfort, and environment of people worldwide.

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