

## International Innovation Award for Vepa and Plantics

Hemp chair collection made from hemp fibers and thermoset bio-resin is awarded The Renewable Material of the Year 2021

Huerth, 21 May 2021 - Furniture manufacturer Vepa and Plantics Superior Natural Materials won the prestigious Innovation Award during the international Renewable Materials Conference on 19 May. The Hemp chair collection was awarded Renewable Material of the Year 2021. The jury was particularly impressed by the unique composition of the product. The seat shell is made of hemp and resin that is completely organic, plant-based and recyclable. Something that was not possible before. The collection is designed, developed and produced entirely in the Netherlands and consists of chairs and bar stools with various bases. Production absorbs more CO<sub>2</sub> than it emits. The chairs are also designed in such a way that parts are easy to separate and materials can be reused endlessly.



### Renewable Material of the Year 2021

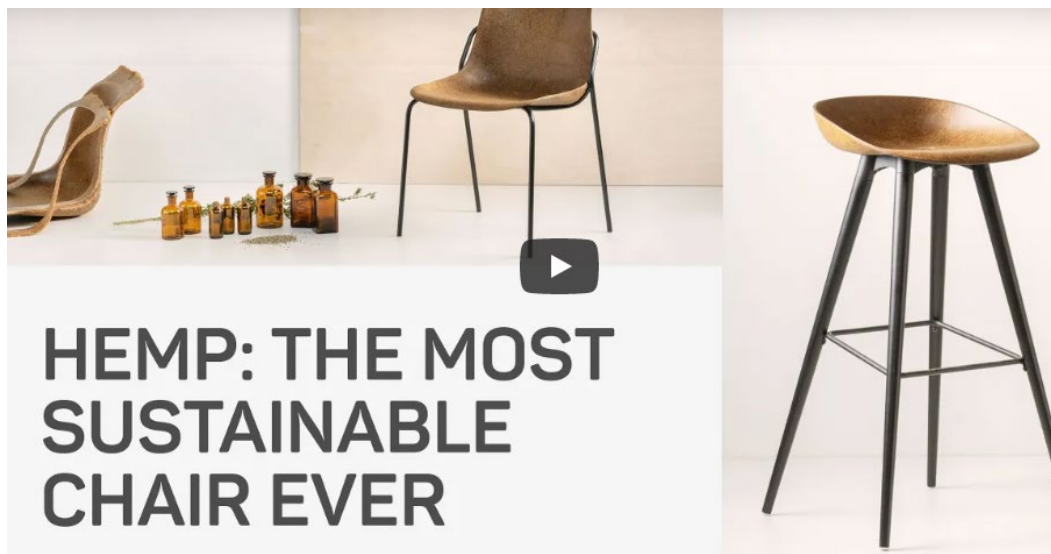
The Renewable Materials Conference, organized by the nova-Institut GmbH, is the successor to the International Conference for Biomaterials. During the three-day (online) conference, with more than 400 participants from 31 different countries, the focus lies on sharing knowledge and solving issues in the field of renewable, bio-based and recycled materials. The Renewable Material of the Year award is for the most innovative, renewable and "trend-setting" product

and/or material. In the finals, which consisted of six nominees from different countries, including India, the United States and France, the Hemp chair collection was chosen as the winner.

### A seating shell of hemp and bio-resin

The fibers of the hemp plant serve as raw material to make the seating shell of the chair. Plantics' unique biological resin has been used as a binding agent. Dr. Wridzer Bakker, CEO Plantics: "The secret of the biomaterial developed by Plantics lies in combining our unique biological resin with the hemp fibers. Just like these hemp fibers, the resin is made from pure

This biomaterial formed the basis on which Plantics and Vepa set to work for the development of the chair collection. "For years we have been looking for a biomaterial in which both the raw material and the binding agent are organic, plant-based and recyclable. Only then could we really develop a sustainable product. We are extremely proud that we have been able to realize this after years of research and that we are the first in the world with furniture made of this material ", says Gertjan de Kam of Vepa. The Hemp chair collection is only the beginning of a real **material revolution**. "We are sure that our unique material forms the basis for many other products that we can create together" concludes Bakker.



In [this video](#) we explain how this beautiful chair is developed

## Note to the editor, not for publication

Images and video can be downloaded via: [Press kit - Hemp](#)

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## About the project

This project is being carried out with the Top Sector Energy Subsidy from the Ministry of Economic Affairs. For more information: [ispt.eu](https://ispt.eu) and [rvo.nl](https://rvo.nl)



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## About Vepa

Furniture manufacturer Vepa from Drenthe has developed into the most sustainable manufacturer of office and project furniture in the Netherlands. As the only manufacturer in the industry, Vepa produces all products 100% in its own factories in the Netherlands. The factories are virtually waste-free. Besides our own waste, waste from others is also processed into products.

Vepa is a family business focused on continuity, innovation and sustainability. Ever since it was founded in 1951, the vision and working method has been sober and stubborn. That means innovating and investing where possible. The more than 270 employees at the locations in Hoogeveen and Emmen are characterized by cooperation and thinking along in a practical way. Vepa is part of the Fair Furniture Group. For more information: <https://vepa.nl/?lang=en>

## About Plantics

Plantics B.V., founded in 2014 and located in Arnhem, is a spin-off from the University of Amsterdam and builds on a revolutionary invention of this university. This has resulted in unique 100% biological thermosetting resins and the world's first thermosetting biomaterials. Together with its partners, it develops high-quality circular and CO2 negative products. Plantics is on the eve of enormous growth and is increasingly recognized as a game changer. For example, Plantics has already received several prestigious prizes and subsidies, such as the European Forum of Biobased Industries Pitch Fest award at the end of 2018, a European SME Horizon 2020 subsidy in 2019 and now also voted Renewable Material of the Year 2021. For more information: [www.plantics.com](http://www.plantics.com)