

# Toxic Free Metallization process for plastic surfaces

## 1<sup>st</sup> PRESS RELEASE Kick-Off Meeting

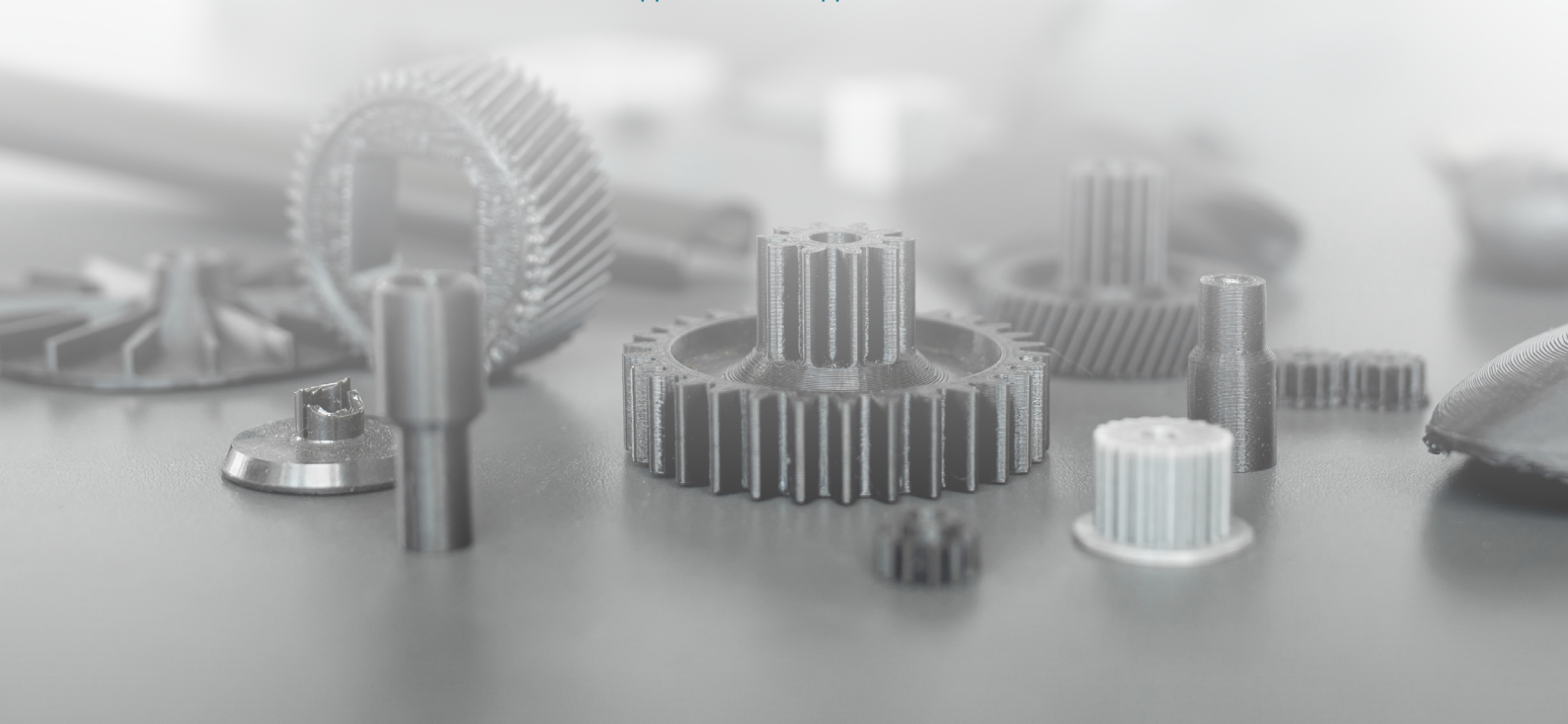
*20<sup>th</sup> of June 2022*



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The main target of the FreeMe project is to eliminate the use of Cr6+ and Pd from the Plating on Plastics (PoP) process. PoP is the main plating method that introduces metal coatings on plastic substrates, enhancing the wear and corrosion resistance, as well as the visual appearance

of the final surface. The current industrial PoP processes, however, face drawbacks in terms of environmental sustainability, occupational safety, and coating quality. FreeMe revolutionary approach is based on REACH compliant chemicals, avoiding toxic compounds and ensuring long-term sustainability. In particular, FreeMe's technologies address the metallization of polymeric (plastic or resins) surfaces without the use of Cr6+ and Pd. The proposed technologies will be applied in three different applications in the automotive, aerospace and home appliances industries.



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## Kick-off Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2022

FreeMe project officially launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2022 and its activities will be carried out over last 48 months. During the project implementation, 12 partners from 5 countries (Italy, Greece, Spain, Israel, and Turkey) are combining knowledge, expertise and experience to achieve the project objectives. With the participation of 6 Small-Medium Enterprises (GASER, CNANO, IDENER, IRIS, EXELISIS, INCOTEC), 3 Large Enterprises (CRF, IAI, ARCELIK), and 3 Universities (POLIMI, AUTH, UBU), the consortium aims to ensure the exploitation of FreeMe results.



In the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic, the kick-off meeting was held remotely on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. During the meeting, which was hosted by the project coordinator, Gaser, FreeMe's structure and objectives were discussed, and the partners presented their role and next actions within the project.

All 12 partners of FreeMe have set the foundations for a prosperous collaboration and are looking forward to presenting the first project results in the next physical meeting.

