

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How did the idea of using cigarette butts to create eyeglass frames come about?

Answer: We get the idea from a meeting where we participated with the idea to recycle the waste, to create something new, to make a resource, the wasted resource, so we decided to use the cigarette butts because they are rich in cellulose that is the main, how can we say, is the main elemental that we use to create the frames, so frames are made of cellulose acetate and we just decided to use the cellulose that is inside the cigarette butts to create the cellulose acetate and then the frames.

2. What public decisions and administrative procedures gave rise to the project? And which organizations are involved in the development of the Project and how?

Answer 1: Well, actually now is incoeres project with the CNR a and different institutes Italian research institutes business neighbours. So we are in partnership with them to make our idea a real project.

Answer 2: Well I said basically the CNR is the Italian Research Institute together with the Institute of Polymers that tells us exactly in extracting from the cigarette butts the cellulose acetate with chemical procedures to create from the cellulose acetate inside the butts to create the acetate that we need to the acid sheet that we need to create the frames.

3. How is the process of collecting and treating cigarette butts for the production of eyeglass frames managed, and what measures have been taken to ensure the environmental sustainability of the entire process?

Answer 1: We collect the butts from a different hotspot that we have in Ariano Irpino, in currently in Italy there is no any rule or law about the cigarette butts, so cigarette butts are treated as normal waste. What we would like to do is to create, to stimulate the debate, to create a law that will treat the cigarette butts as a different path, a different waiting process. So, currently we just have hotspots based in the such a bars or restaurants on the outside, so when you smoke a cigarette at the end you can put the cigarette butts inside the hotspot and once a week we collect the cigarette butts and we send to a partner such as the C N R to treat them and to create the reserve that we need to create.

Answer 2: Well basically using this kind of hotspots helps us to reduce the waste in the environment so it is a way to not only to collect but also to reduce the waste in environment and then we try to use as much as possible organic chemicals to treat the cigarette butts to greater than the estate.

4. What are the main strengths of the Oscar project - Cigarette Glasses?

Answer: The main strength is of course the use and reuse waste so to create something new, something valuable such as the optical frames and sunglasses from waste so basically that is the strength and also the synergy that the Italian Research Institute and Essequadro create together to create something new and to add the planet somewhere

And what would instead be its weaknesses?

Answer: Maybe weaknesses in the low itself I mean we would need a certain loads the types of to collect to treat this kind of waste so at the moment it is just something that we do from ourselves so our hotspot are paid by as installed by as mentioned by as and so it is maybe this is the most important weakness.

What were the main obstacles encountered during the development of the project and how did you overcome them?

Answer: Maybe the most important one was just to collect the material to start the research and you know it's something really new so I sold the new things you have to try you have to invest a lot so basically. Thanks

5. At what stage is the patent process for this innovative cigarette butt recycling technology?

Answer: Currently the patents has been approved so we are the owners of the patent and so the patent process is completed . We are just going forward to use the patent and to be able to use the acetate that we created in mass productions so in industrial productions to create to use effectively the acetate from cigarette butts as a material such as the usual cellular acetate so the button is complete. Thank you very much

6. What is your vision for the future of the Oscar project?

Answer: Well the Oscar project is now in it's pretty face so once we get the patterns now we just have to start the production with the this kind of acetate and we already are in a new phase that is the two dots to your face to use the same material but with 3D machines, 3D printers to use a different techniques so as you saw we use a technique that make a lot of waste because we cut the acetate with this new technology with the material that we create from the cigarette butts we will be able to use effectively just wath we need are using the 3D printer so this is new face.

Do you have plans to expand the range of products or to involved other recyclable materials?

Answer: no currently we are just focused on the cigarette butts

7. How has Oscar's innovation potentially opened up new economic prospects for the local community and contributed to retaining young talent in an area often characterized by the phenomenon of youth migration from rural or economically?

Answer: Basically we do that by creating an innovative production process so the aim is to attract as much as possible other brands to produce with us with our techniques

with our new product and of course all the researchers that are involved in the process are researchers that are now in Italy thanks to this project so we can say that I contribute to the local economies debt so retaining the local researchers but also increasing our business to attract our partners and to add more employees so they don't have to go away.

This is an disadvantaged areas?

Answer: Yes because we are not in the India word district so it's important to convey the abilities to keep the abilities to work the in the work industry to keep the the people here and with this project we are trying to do that also.

What are the future prospects of the project, both in terms of business growth and contribution to the well-being of the area and its attractiveness to young people?

Answer: Our aim is to create lines such as small capsules to use the material the new material to add value to alliance by using this kind of material and of course if the business will grow more people will be involved more people will be hide in the factory and so that we have positive effects on the on the territory also. Okay thank you.

8. How is the Oscar project addressing logistical or sourcing challenges of cigarette butts to maintain its production?

Answer: The most challenging things was the collecting face, because as I said before in Italy we don't have any specific law about the cigarette butts, so they are treated like the usual waste, the normal waste, so the main difficulty was to collect the cigarette butts and that's why we installed the hotspot where smokers come to the frames inside and so to collect. In the future we hope that more local entities will be involved in this project that help them to collect to, to reduce the waste for example mainstreams and then pass also to give value to far industry by recycling waste.

9. What has been the interest and support from local communities, local or regional institutions towards the Oscar project? How has this support influenced the development of the initiative and what could be done to further involve local communities, institutions, or other stakeholders?

Answer 1: The main interest was exactly what I said the ability to reduce the waste, inside the streets for example, so it's hard to convey the message that we should put all the wastes in the right places especially the cigarette butts, so, many authorities were happy to have something that smokers can use to put the cigarette butts inside.

Answer 2: Of course it was crucial, because without their help, and their vision, somehow, it would have been impossible to collect the material that we need to go on with this project, so it was crucial.

(Interview with Antonio Biele, Sales Export Manager at Essequadro Eyewear)