

# Approches innovantes d'ignifugation de bio-composites thermoplastiques

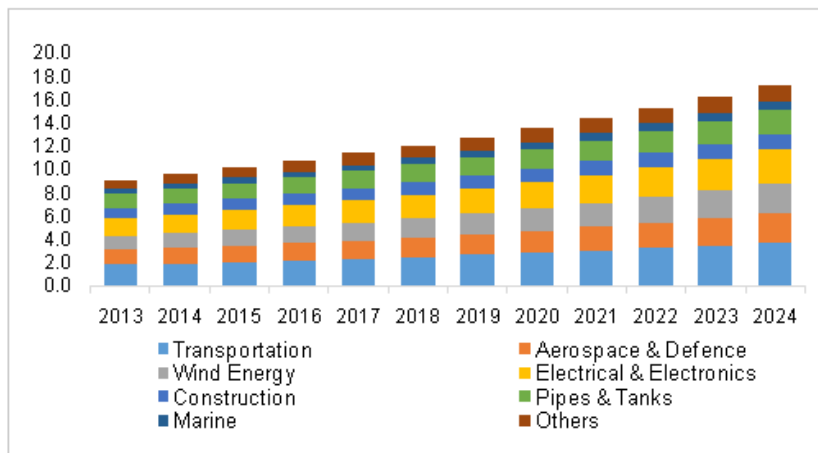
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## Context

U.S. composites market revenue by application, 2013 - 2024, (USD Billion)



Composites is an increasing market



Durables



High Performance

<http://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/composites-market>



**Need to be flame retarded**

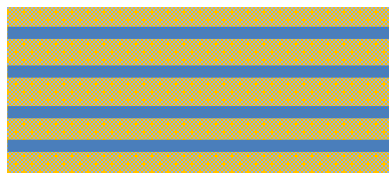
## Context

### Classical approaches to flame retard composites



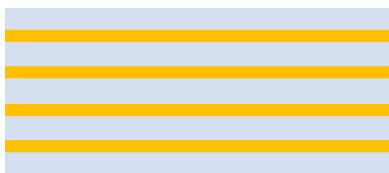
#### ✓ **Modification of the resin**

Incorporation of **FR additives**  
(loading 15 to 40% FR)



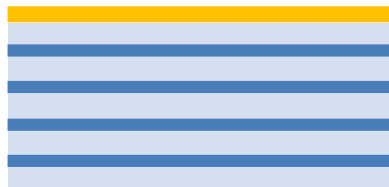
#### ✓ **Treatment on the fibres**

Padding of fibres with **FR solutions**



#### ✓ **Protection from the surface**

Insulative materials like intumescent/  
ceramic coatings or fabrics



## Drawbacks

*Not suitable for some of the processing technologies used*

*Modification of the interface fibres/matrix and decrease of the mechanical properties*

*Adhesion problems*

*Additional processing step*

## Context

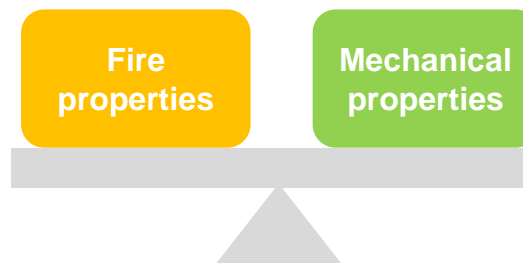
### How to balance FR/mechanical properties?

- ✓ *Protection from the surface*
- ✓ *Modification of the resin*
- ✓ *Treatment on the fibres*

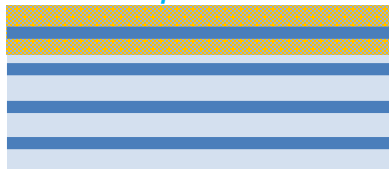


Localize the FR on  
the surface

Preserve as much  
untreated materials  
as possible



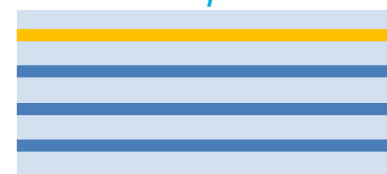
**First approach:** Partial  
modification of the resin with FR  
on the exposed surface



**Second approach:** Partial  
modification of the resin + fibres  
with FR on the exposed surface



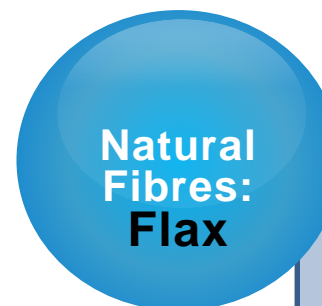
**Third approach:** Partial  
modification fibres with Si-N or  
Si-P on the exposed surface



## Focus on flame retarded thermoplastic bio-composites

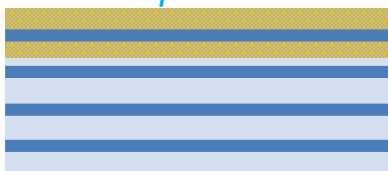


**Flame retardant  
Thermoplastic  
bio-composite**



Potential  
carbonization  
agent

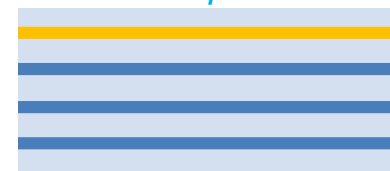
**First approach:** Partial  
modification of the resin with FR  
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**Second approach:** Partial  
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with FR on the exposed surface

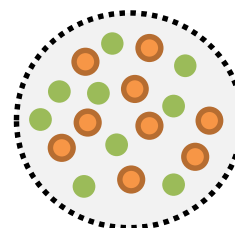


**Third approach:** Partial  
modification fibres with Si-N or  
Si-P on the exposed surface



3plis

Use of PLA films + Flax fabrics  
Additive approaches

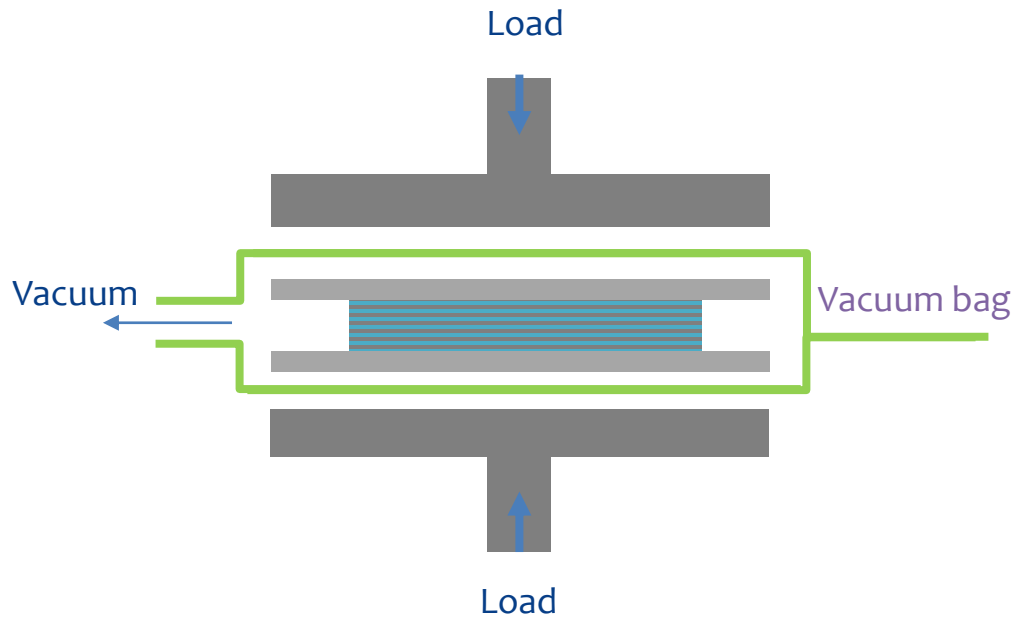


50% wt. PLA / 50% wt. Flax

4plis

Use of comingled fabric  
Reactive approach

## Consolidation = vacuum bagging



Optimized conditions for the impregnation:

- ✓ Temperature: 175 to 190°C
- ✓ Pressure: 40KN
- ✓ Time: 6min

Example of optical microscopy pictures of the laminate

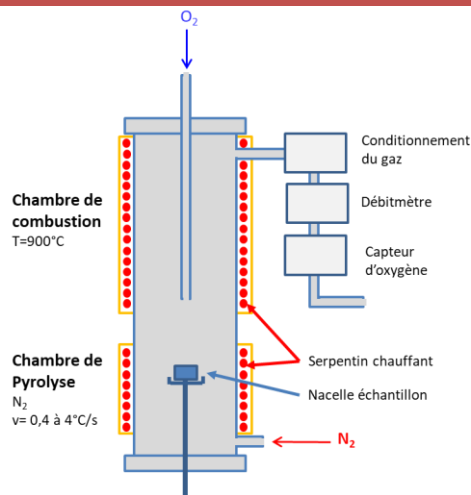


Final composites:

- ✓ 40% matrix
- ✓ 2mm thick

## Characterizations

### Pyrolysis-Combustion Flow Calorimetry (PCFC)



Sample: ~5mg fibres  
Flux: 35kW/m<sup>2</sup>

Evaluation of the composites in terms of:

- ✓ HRR versus temperature
- ✓ THR

### Mass loss cone calorimeter



Sample 10x10cm<sup>2</sup> ;

Flux: 35kW/m<sup>2</sup>

Evaluation of the composites in terms of:

- ✓ HRR versus time
- ✓ Mass loss versus time
- ✓ Time to ignition
- ✓ THR

### Deposit / fibres characterizations

<sup>29</sup>Si NMR: level of condensation of Si

ATR- FTIR: evolution of the group present on fibres

GPC: molar weight evolution

### Uniaxial tensile test (composite)



Sample 12x2cm<sup>2</sup>

Evaluation of the composites in terms of:

- ✓ Maximal stress
- ✓ Maximal force
- ✓ Strain at break
- ✓ Young modulus

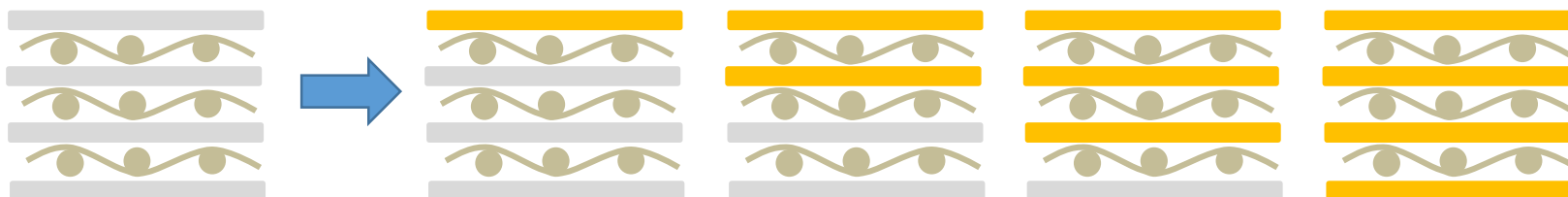
### Microscopy

Digital microscope: Keyence VHX-1000 microscope: observation of the samples after cone experiments

SEM: HITACHI S-3400N microscope in which a voltage of 10 kV was applied to the metalized samples

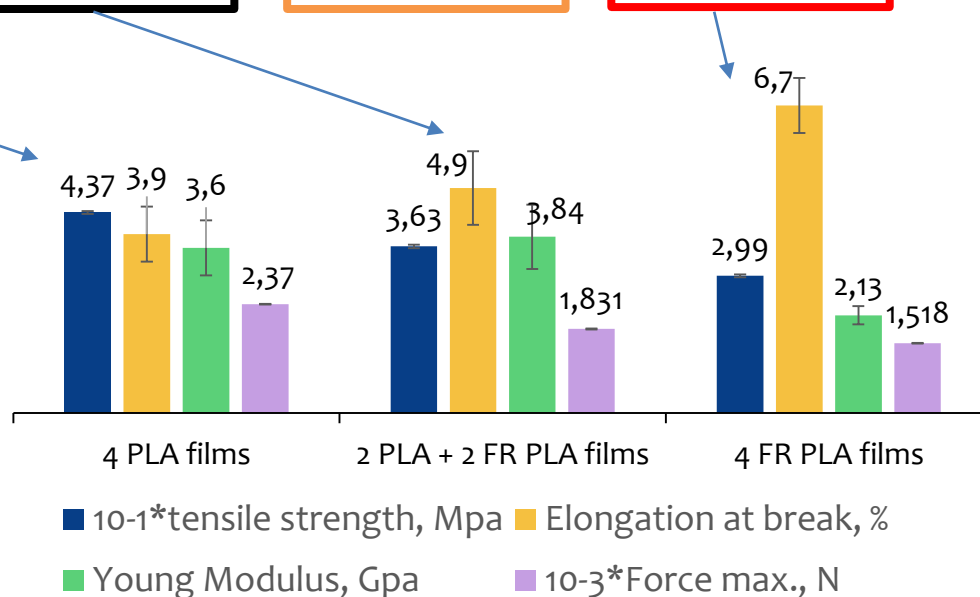
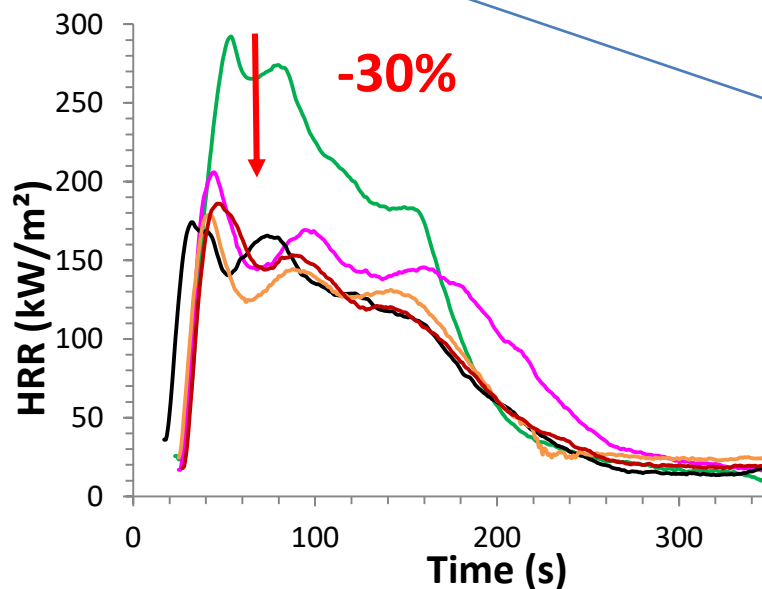
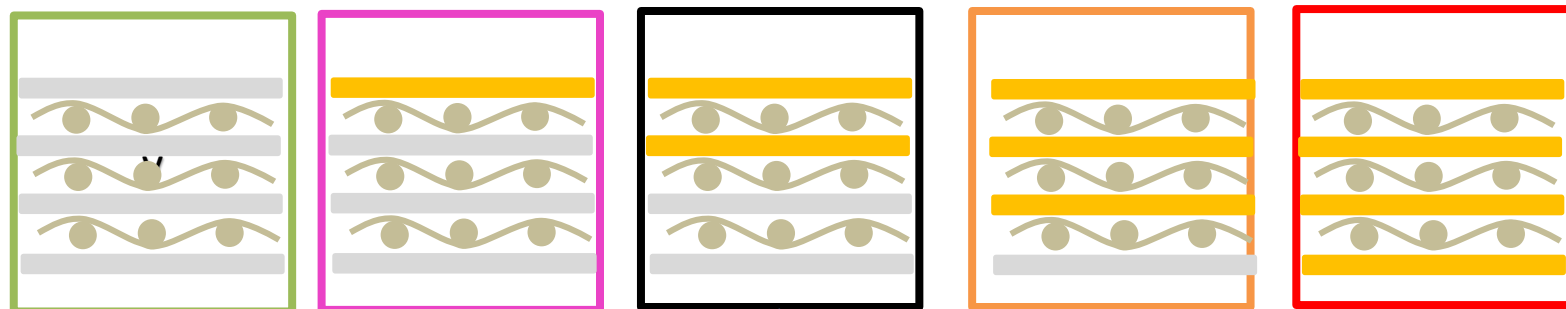
## 1<sup>st</sup> approach

C. Réti, M. Casetta, S. Duquesne, S. Bourbigot, R. Delobel, Flammability properties of intumescent PLA including starch and lignin, Polym. Adv. Technol. 2008; 19: 628–635



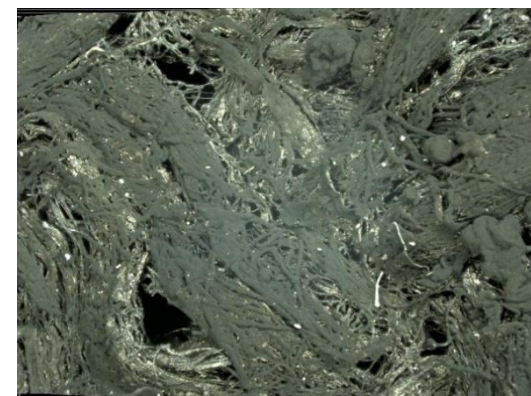
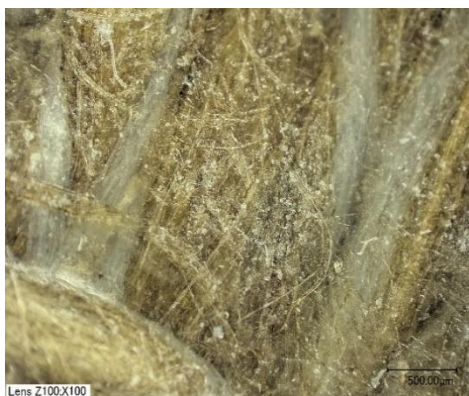
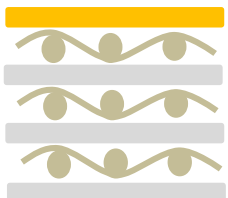
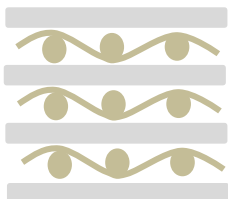


## Performances according to the number of FR films used



## Before MLC

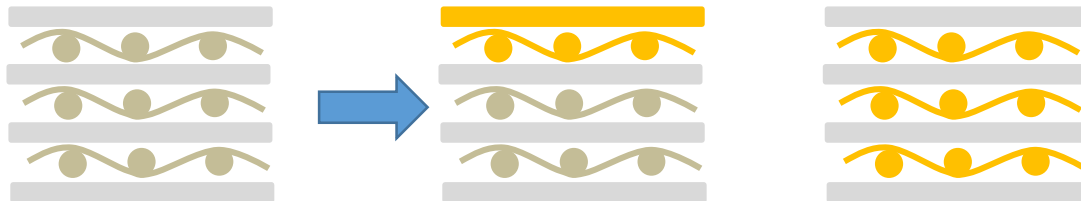
## After cone calorimeter experiment



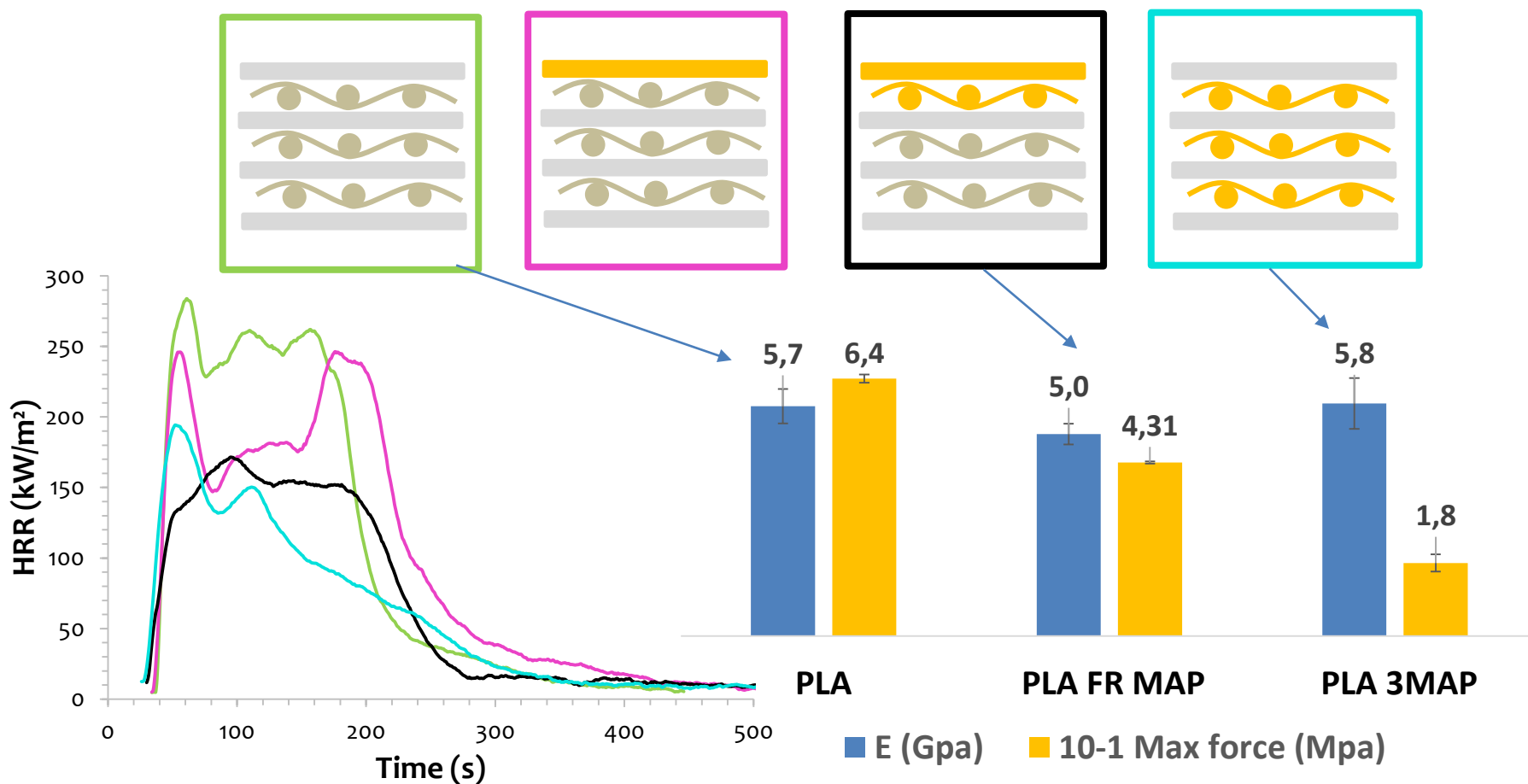
## 2<sup>nd</sup> approach



Choice of the MAP  
based on a preliminary  
study done at the  
laboratory



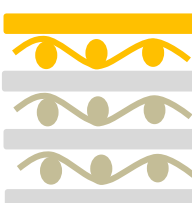
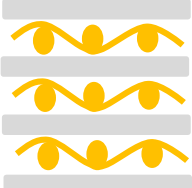
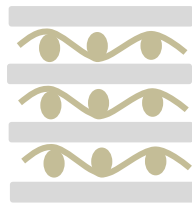
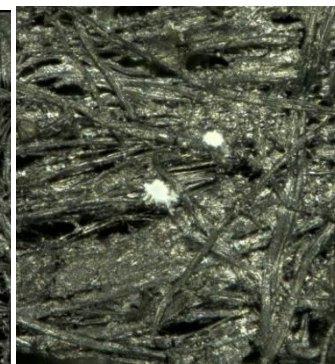
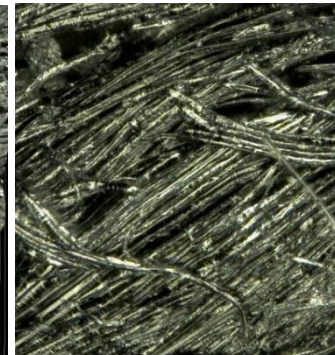
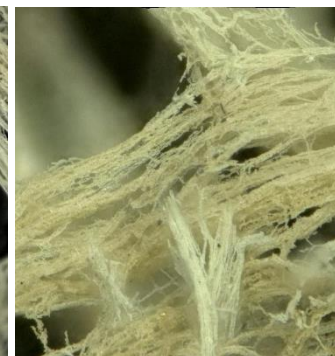
## Performances of MAP treated fabrics





## Before MLC

## After cone calorimeter experiment



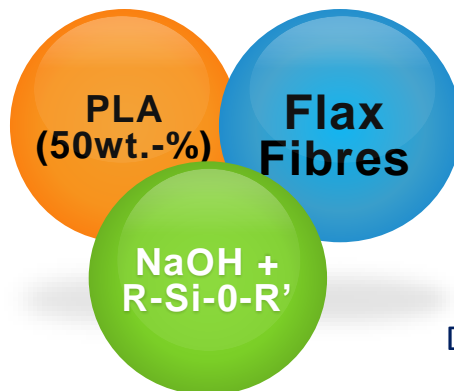
## Performances of the different composites



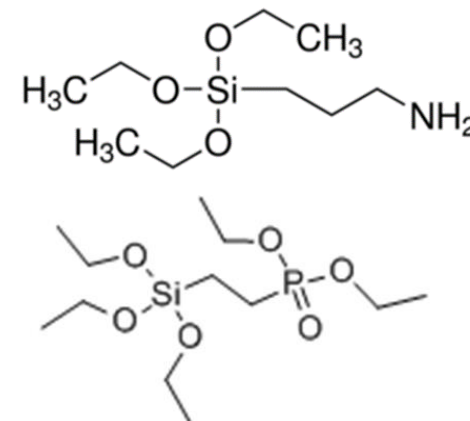
%FR	0	$2.77 \pm 0.03$	$5.5 \pm 0.4$	$4.38 \pm 0.07$
ti (s)	$37 \pm 1$	$34 \pm 1$	$26 \pm 1$	$31 \pm 1$
PHRR (kW/m <sup>2</sup> )	$280 \pm 6$	$247 \pm 2$	$188 \pm 9$	$172 \pm 0.8$
MAHRE (kW/m <sup>2</sup> )	$187 \pm 6$	$153 \pm 9$	$108 \pm 7$	$123 \pm 0.6$
THR (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	$43.8 \pm 0.1$	$45.1 \pm 0.2$	$28 \pm 2$	$34 \pm 2$
Residual weight (%)	$2.8 \pm 0.1$	$2.3 \pm 0.1$	$15.50 \pm 0.05$	$7.5 \pm 0.4$



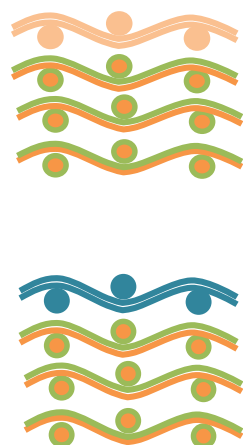
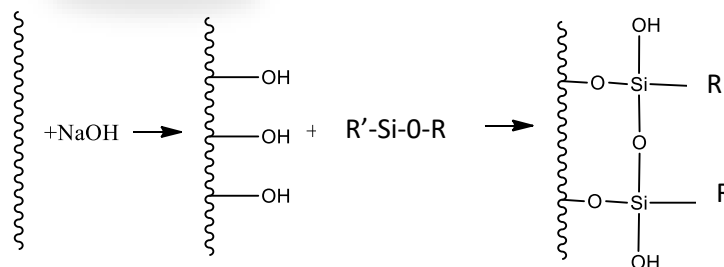
# 3<sup>rd</sup> approach



Aminopropyltriethoxysilane (APTES)

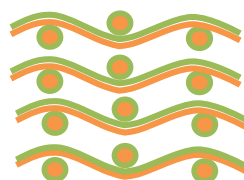


Diethylphosphatoethyltriethoxysilane (DEPTES)



APTES

DEPTES

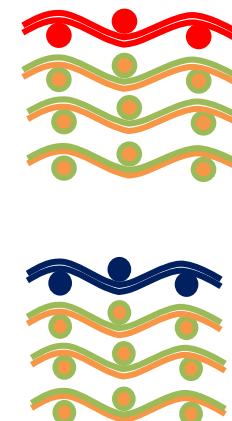


NaOH



APTES

DEPTES



## Details on the treatments

### Pre-treatment with NaOH

3h  
5% wt.  
Under stirring  
Neutralization with tap water  
Dry at 50°C for 48h

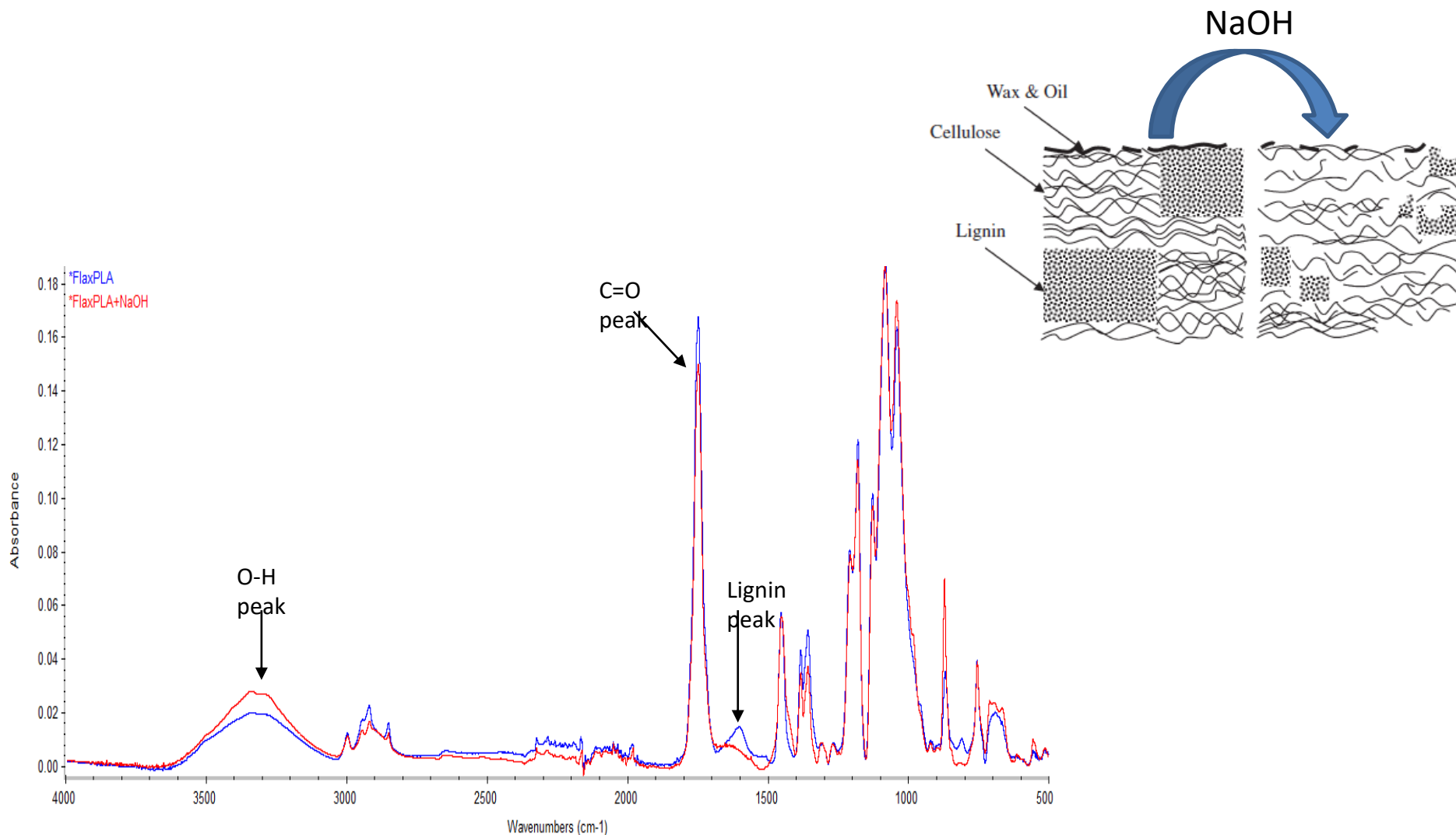
### Treatment with R'-Si-O-R

1h  
70/30 v/v Ethanol/Water  
10% wt.  
Under stirring  
Dry at 50°C for 48h

**Effect of these treatments on PLA fibres?**

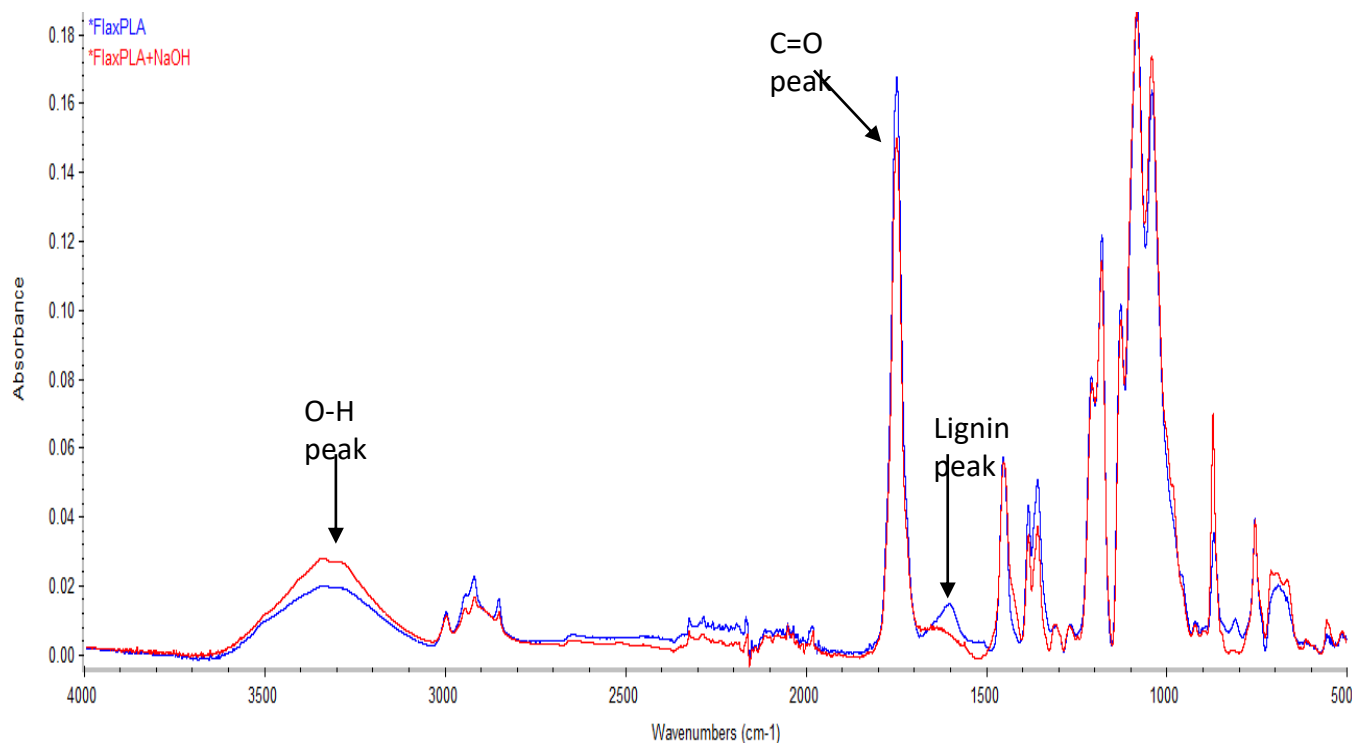


## Effect of the pre-treatment on PLA/flax fabric (3h)



## Effect of the pre-treatment on PLA/flax fabric (3h)

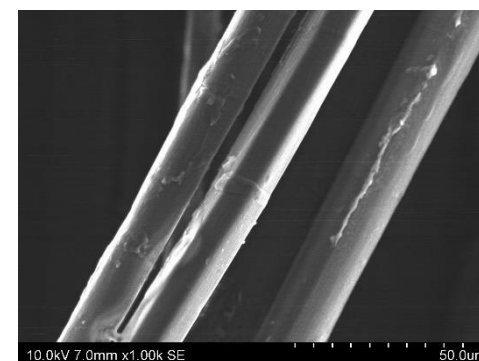
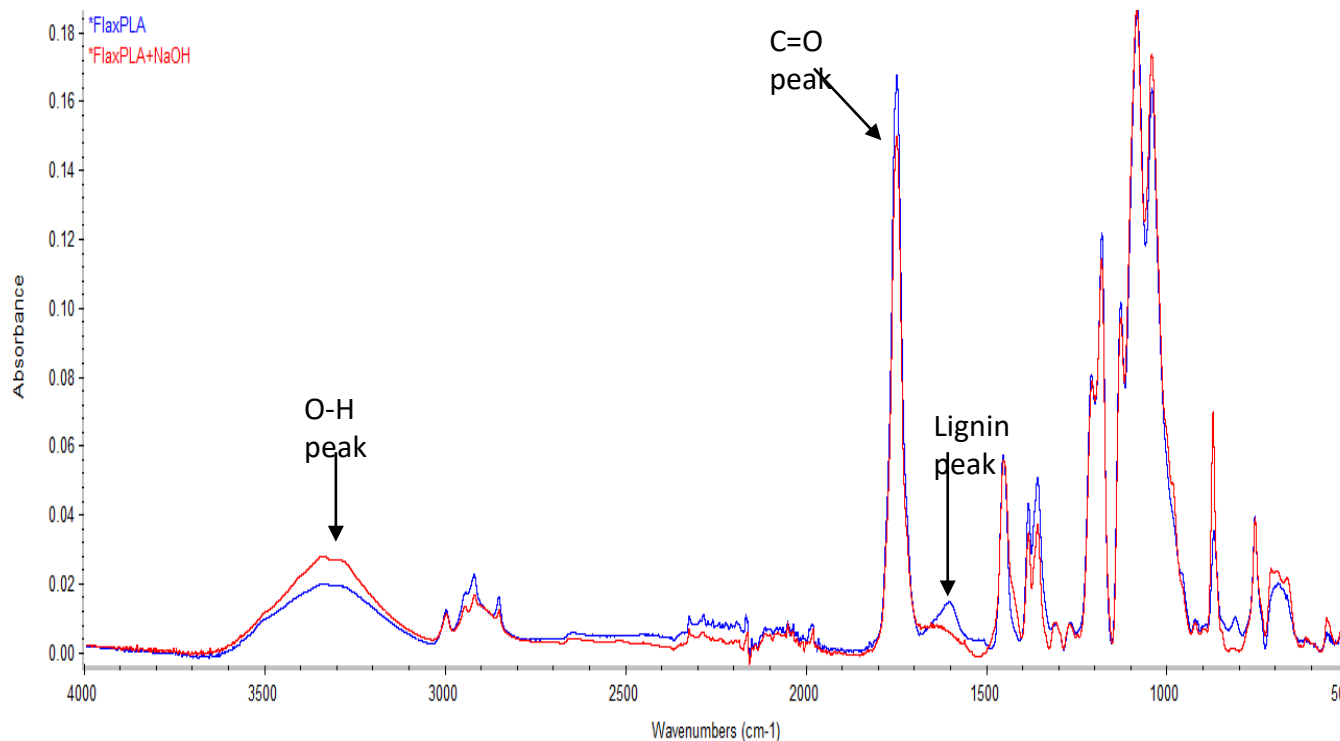
Sample	Increased/Decreased mass after treatment [%]
FlaxPLA	0.00
FlaxPLA+NaOH	-25.16



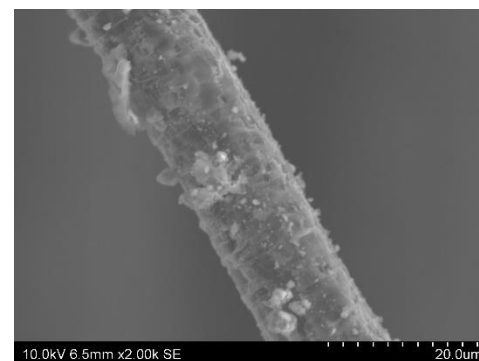
## Effect of the pre-treatment on PLA/flax fabric (3h)

Flax diameter [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]		Reduction percentage [%]
Before treatment	After treatment	
23.99	23.79	0.83
PLA diameter [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]		Reduction percentage [%]
Before treatment	After treatment	
18.41	16.91	8.15

Sample	Increased/Decreased mass after treatment [%]
FlaxPLA	0.00
FlaxPLA+NaOH	-25.16

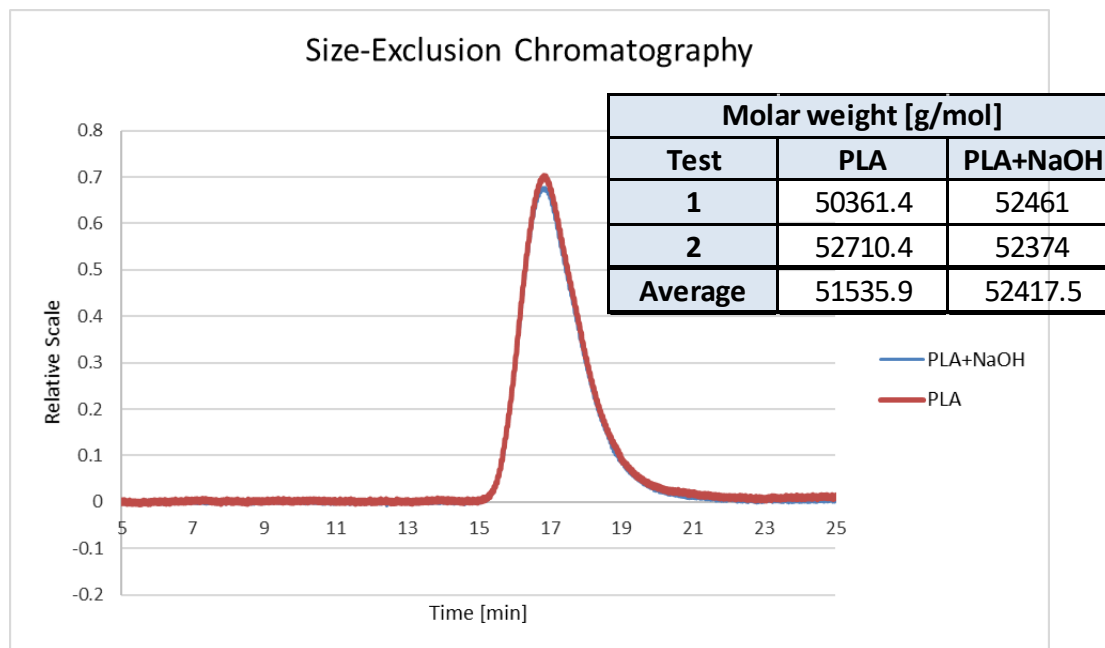


Virgin FlaxPLA

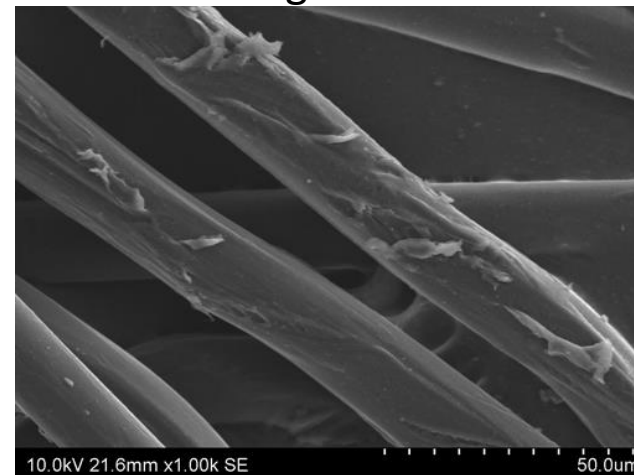


FlaxPLA + NaOH

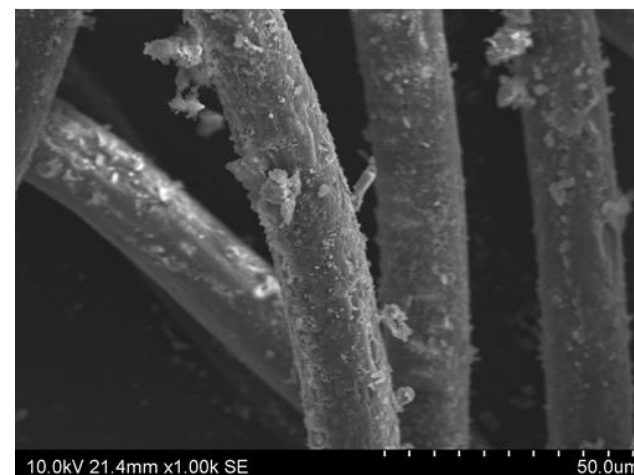
## Effect of the pre-treatment on PLA/flax fabric (3h)



Virgin PLA

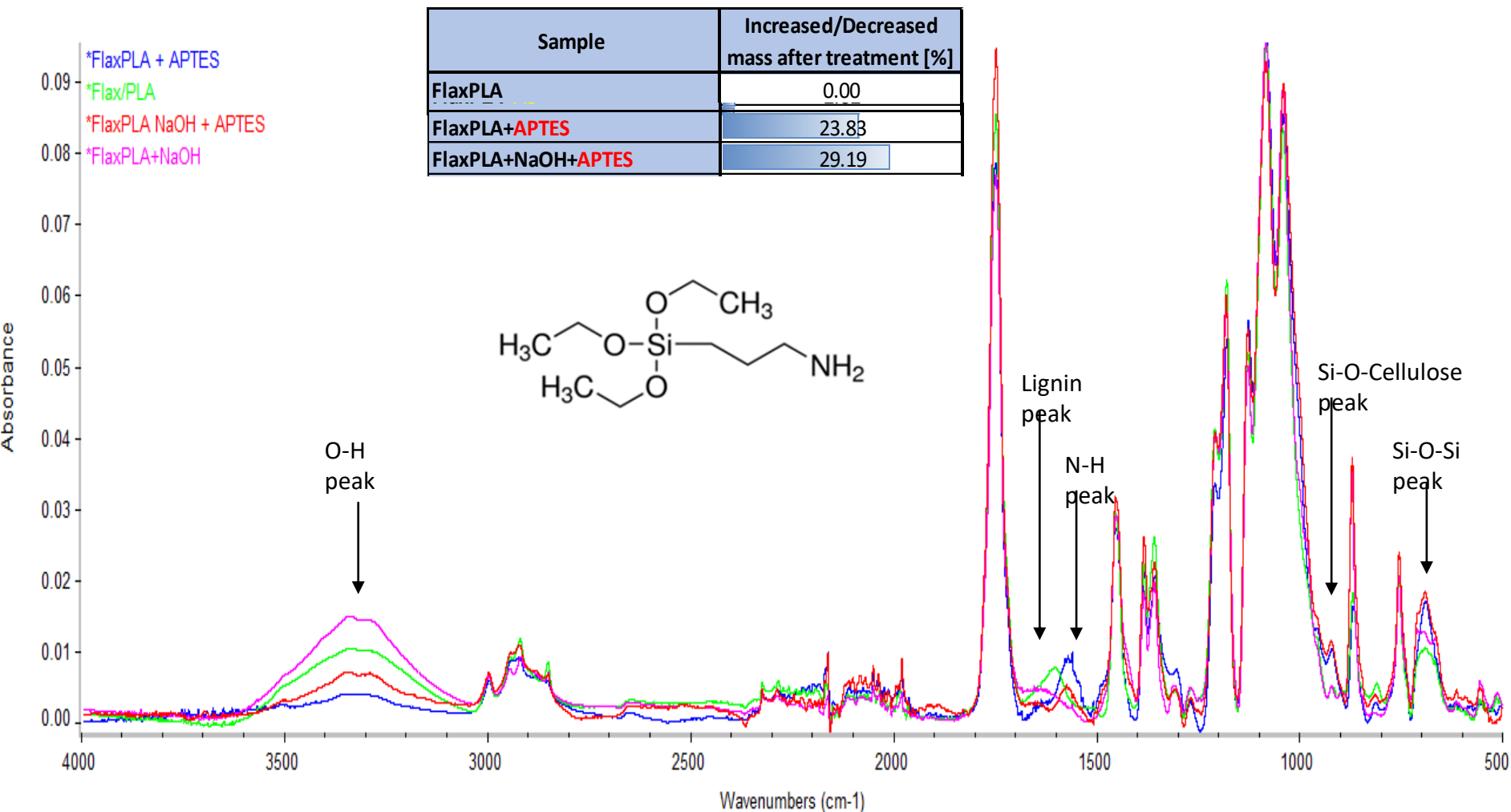


PLA + NaOH

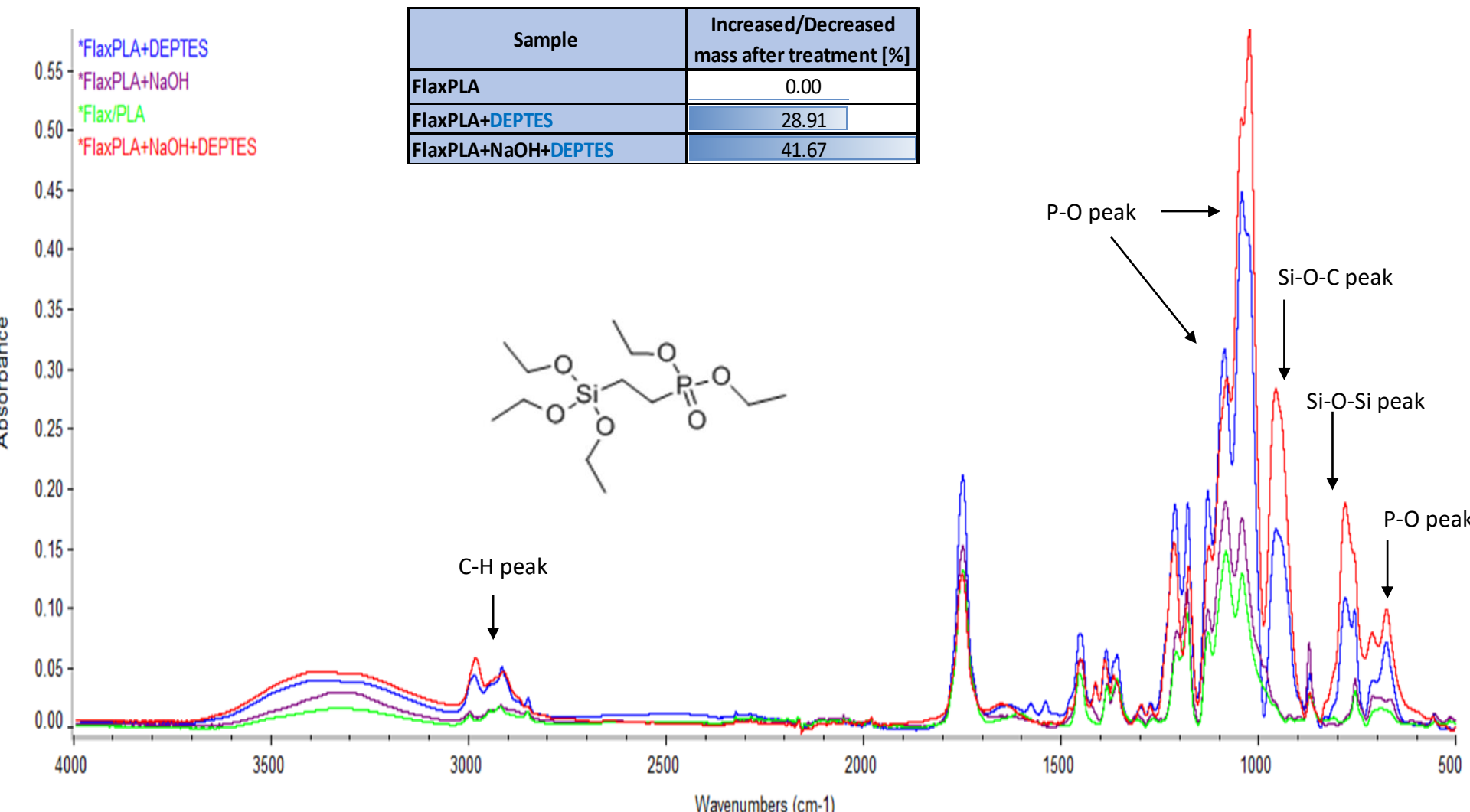


- ↪ Lignin of flax fiber was dissolved in NaOH solution
- ↪ PLA is affected by the NaOH treatment
- ↪ Erosion of PLA fibers is observed

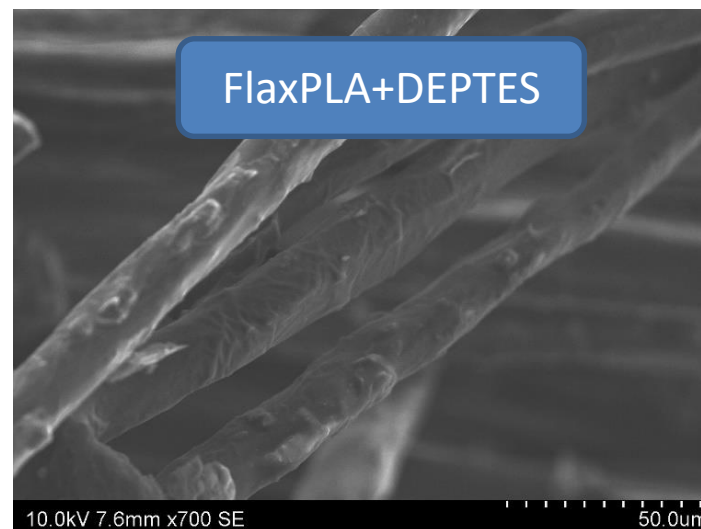
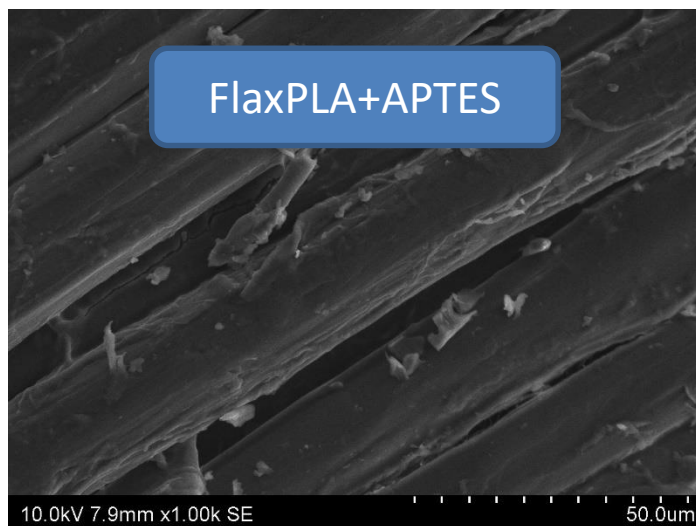
## Characterization of APTES treated PLA/flax fabric



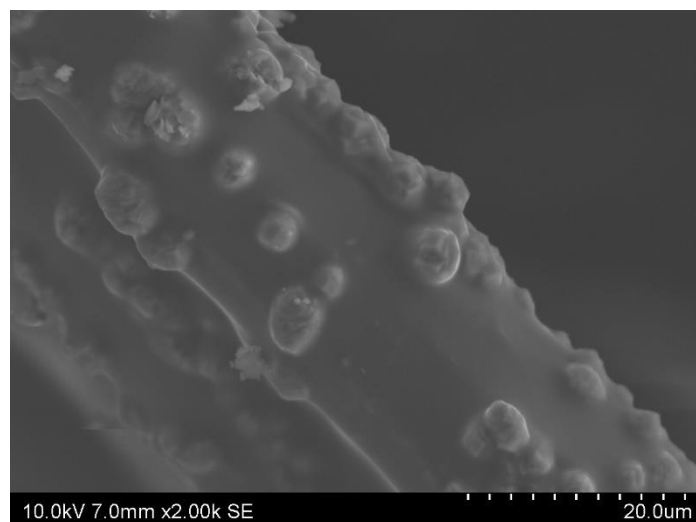
## Characterization of DEPTES treated PLA/flax fabric



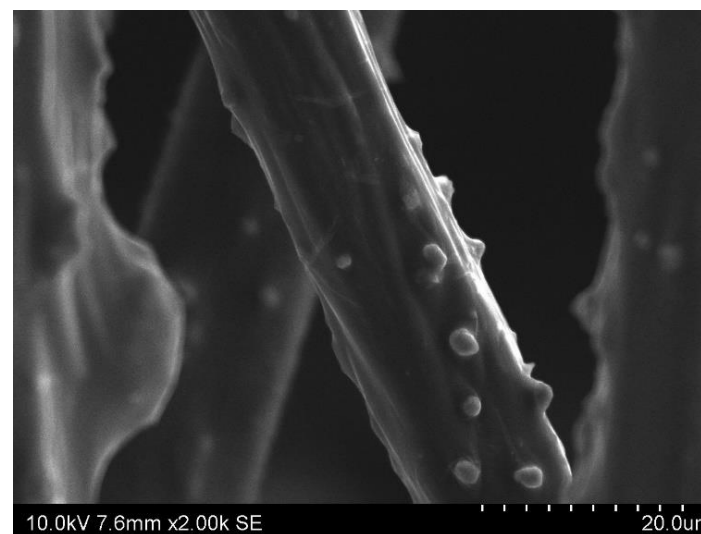
## Characterization of treated PLA/flax fabric



+NaOH



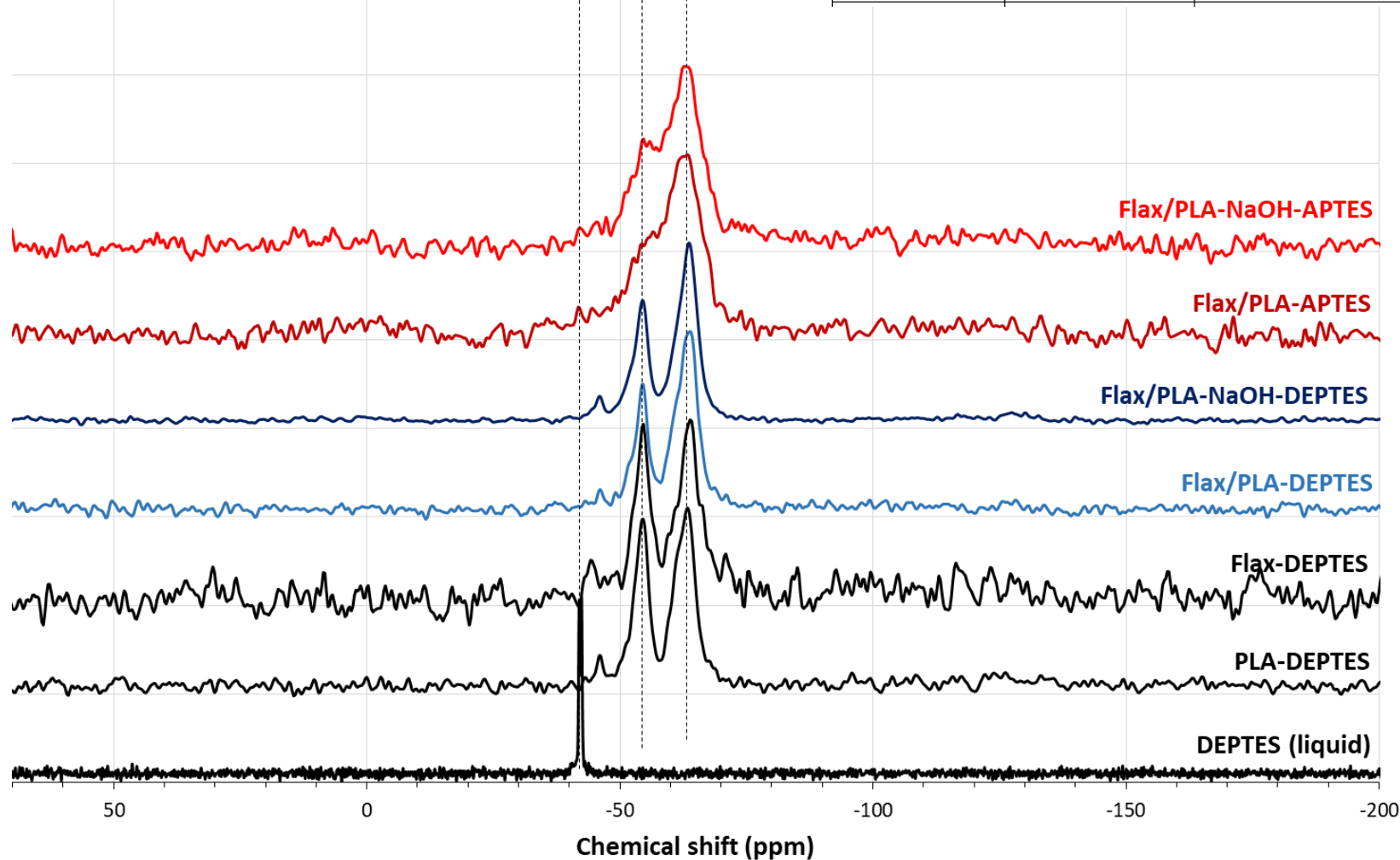
+NaOH





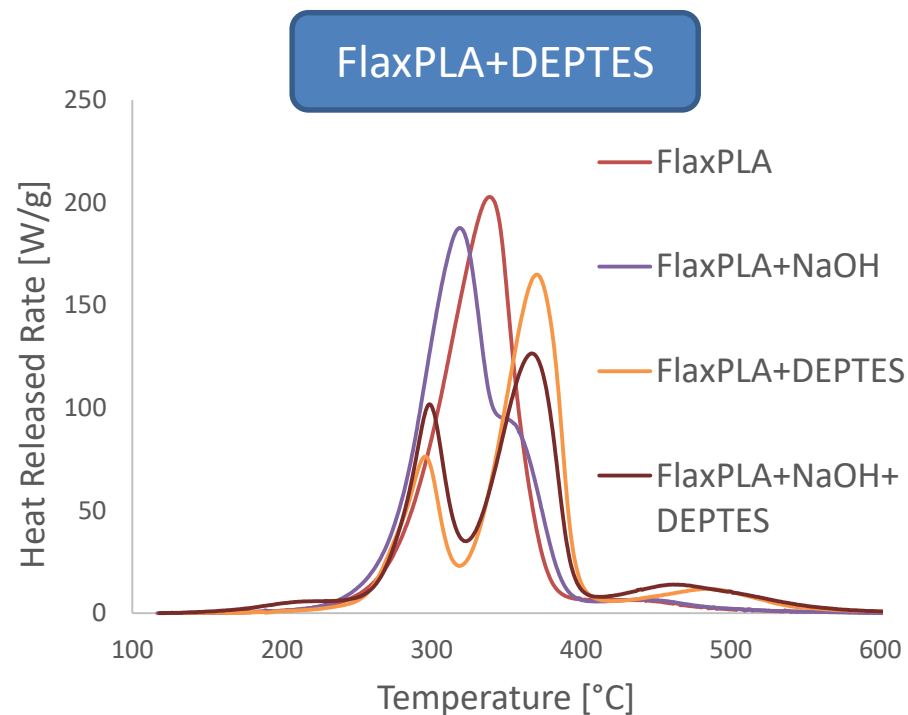
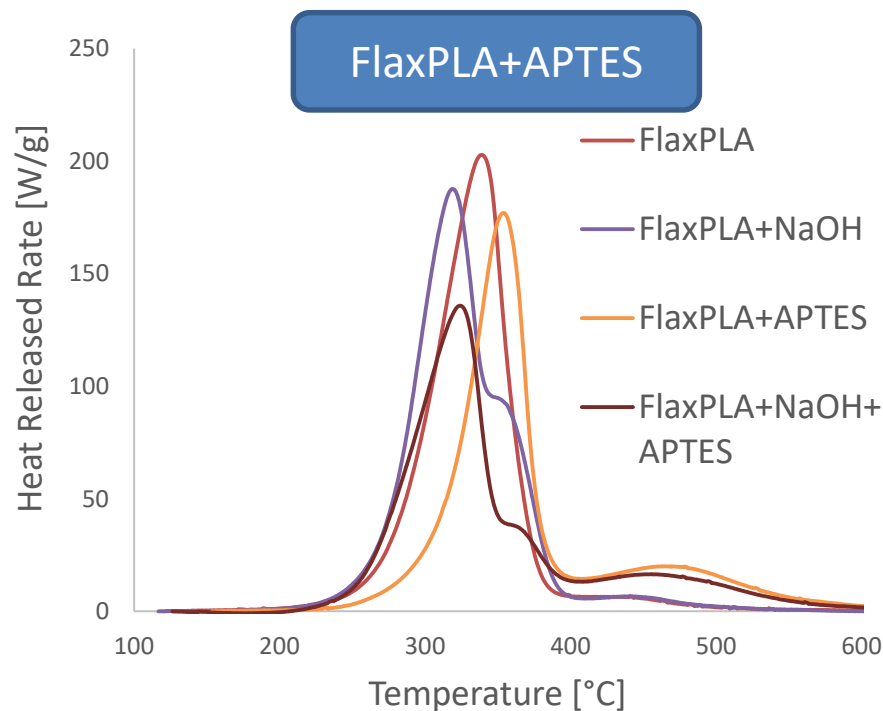
## Characterization of treated PLA/flax fabric

<sup>29</sup> Si (ppm)	Assignment	Formula
-55	T2	R-Si(OH)(OSi-) <sub>2</sub>
-62	T3	R-Si(OSi-) <sub>3</sub>
-65	T3	R-Si(OSi-) <sub>3</sub>





## Fire retardant performance of FR fabrics



- ↪ APTES/DEPTES can be deposited on the surface of the fibres
- ↪ NaOH pre-treatment leads to higher add-on
- ↪ Promising effect of the treatment on the fire behaviour

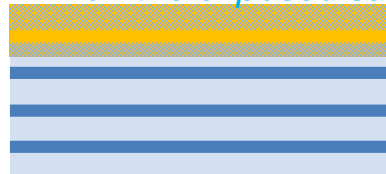
## Conclusions and Future work

### Three different approaches tested

**First approach:** Partial modification of the resin with FR on the exposed surface



**Second approach:** Partial modification of the resin + fibres with FR on the exposed surface



**Third approach:** Partial modification fibres with Si-N or Si-P on the exposed surface



- Good flame retardancy performances obtained with both entirely and partially modified composites
- Protection of the fibres thanks to MAP
- Interaction of the fibres and the MAP during the degradation (phosphoric acid reacts with cellulosic part of the fibres to lead to char and water)

- Pre-treatment + treatment with R'-SiO-R realized on comingled fabrics
- Deposit / grafting on the Flax fibres but erosion of the PLA fibres with condensation of the silane
- Improvement of the fire behavior

Same approach with thermoset resins

Test the behavior in cone calorimeter/  
other silane or combinations

# FLAME RETARDANCY OF BIO-BASED FLAX COMPOSITES : SOL-GEL AND REACTIVE APPROACHES



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