PFA8olve

No “forever” for PFAS.

A European solution initiative for processes that make PFAS contamination measurable, treatable and removable.

Industry is not waiting for the solution.
It is taking responsibility for developing it together.

DETECTION
reliable detection, up to live monitoring

CONCENTRATION
targeted separation and concentration

ELIMINATION
actually destroying C–F bonds

VERIFICATION
robust proof of effectiveness

IMPLEMENTATION
integrate, scale up, operate economically

€100 m
industrial funding target for the first ten-year development period

€12 m
start threshold – payments are only due once it has been firmly committed

Autumn 2027
planned programme start within the acib incubation

From industrial success story to business risk

PFAS are extremely persistent – which is exactly what makes them industrially valuable and, once released, so hard to control. Over decades, widespread contamination of soils, water, facilities and waste has built up. Stopping new emissions does not remove it.

~10,000
individual substances are covered by the European PFAS restriction proposal[1]

51–60%
of monitored river sites exceeded the PFOS environmental quality standard in 2018–2022[2]

~€440 bn
societal costs of continued contamination up to 2050 without additional measures[3]

The time to act is now: regulation is taking effect

12 January 2026
EU requirements for monitoring and limiting PFAS in drinking water apply[4]

August 2026
PFAS limits for food-contact packaging apply

End of 2026
Final ECHA opinion on the universal PFAS restriction under REACH expected

December 2027
Transposition of Directive (EU) 2026/805: incl. 4.4 ng/l in groundwater for the sum of PFOA, PFOS, PFNA and PFHxS[5]

Four business risks – even for companies that have never produced PFAS

Costs & investment
Investigations, water treatment, disposal and remediation tie up funds permanently.

Operations & market
Restrictions and customer requirements force conversions and requalification.

Liability & sanctions
Official orders, damages – up to the personal liability of managers.

Financing & value
Unresolved contamination impairs insurability, financing and valuation.

Health
The International Agency for Research on Cancer classifies PFOA as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1) and PFOS as possibly carcinogenic (Group 2B).[6] However, PFAS are not a uniform risk group – a differentiated assessment is the basis for targeted action.

Polluter-pays principle
In its Water Resilience Strategy, the European Commission calls for the remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites to follow the polluter-pays principle. Public funds are intended for sites where no liable party can be identified.[7]

Sources: 1 ECHA · 2 EEA, PFAS pollution in European waters (2024) · 3 European Commission (2026), cost study · 4 European Commission, PFAS in drinking water · 5 Directive (EU) 2026/805 of 30 March 2026 · 6 IARC (2023) · 7 COM(2025) 280. All figures as stated in the PFAS-SOLVE white paper v1.1.1.

EXPOSURE AND SOLUTION GAP

No company can solve this alone. And none has to.

PFAS connect players who otherwise have little in common economically: the semiconductor manufacturer securing its production, the water utility, the ski resort, the farmer. In total, points of contact have been identified in 45 sectors and operator groups, including:

(Fluoro)chemicals
Plastics & fluoropolymer processing
Electroplating & surface technology
Semiconductors & circuit boards
Automotive & suppliers
Aerospace
Machinery & plant engineering
Battery manufacturing & recycling
Hydrogen & fuel cells
Pharma & industrial biotechnology
Medical technology
Textiles & outdoor
Paper & packaging
Food & beverages
Fire services & fire protection
Airports
Refineries, tank farms, chemical parks
Drinking water supply
Wastewater treatment
Landfills & leachate
Waste & recycling operations
Site remediation
Ski resorts & winter sports
Agriculture
Real estate & business parks
Banks, insurers, investors
Analytical labs & engineering firms

> **“Where does PFAS affect our business, what costs and obligations can arise – and what robust options for action do we have?”**
>
> The real question for management is not just: “Have we ever produced PFAS?”

The gap between research and application

PFAS research is intensive. Yet activated carbon, ion exchangers and membranes initially only **shift** PFAS into loaded materials and concentrates. In some cases, destruction processes still have to prove their efficiency and completeness; scale-up, energy demand, by-products and costs often remain decisive hurdles.

Published is not yet implemented: what is missing is firmly organised development work with clear responsibility through to application.

The same tasks – across sectors

Applications differ, but the core technical tasks recur:

- PFAS in complex material flows: reliably **detect**
- PFAS: selectively **separate**
- Concentrates: **treat**
- Actual destruction: **prove**

Anyone who tackles this alone bears the full development costs and the entire risk.

Our focus: PFAS legacy contamination, residues and pollution

PFAS-SOLVE develops processes for soils, waters, sites, facilities and waste that are already contaminated. Developing PFAS-free substitutes and new products is a different task. **Shaping a PFAS-free future does not remove the contamination of the past.**

An end-to-end solution chain – from measurement to operation

The mission of PFAS-SOLVE is to make PFAS contamination technically controllable and to remove it permanently. The goal is not a universal process but a coordinated system – technology-open, building on existing knowledge, with clear performance requirements for every building block.

01 DETECTION
Detect

Fast, decentralised, automatable detection methods close to the process – at discharge points, water intakes, treatment plants and groundwater monitoring wells.

Focus areas: biosensors · multiplex-capable systems · expansion to a measurement panel for up to 20 priority PFAS · photometric on-site tests · stationary live monitoring with AI-assisted evaluation and dispersion models

02 CONCENTRATION
Separate

Transfer PFAS from water, soil, sludge, waste and process streams into controllable fractions – so that destruction can target the smallest possible volumes.

Focus areas: adsorption · ion exchange · membrane processes · foam fractionation · functionalised materials · regeneration and residue pathways

03 ELIMINATION
Destroy

Selectively cleave carbon–fluorine bonds instead of shifting contamination into other material flows – including reactor, materials and energy concepts for continuous operation.

Focus areas: chemical, electrochemical, thermal and photochemical processes · enzymatic and microbial approaches through to defluorination · hybrid treatment trains

04 VERIFICATION
Prove

A common evidence base for all development paths. The disappearance of a single measured compound is not yet proof that the contamination has been removed.

Focus areas: target and precursor analysis · mass and fluorine balances as closed as possible · intermediates and by-products · residual toxicity · confirmation under real conditions

05 IMPLEMENTATION
Apply

Turn an effective technology into a deployable solution – together with operators, plant engineers and implementation partners.

Focus areas: integration into existing plants · operation, maintenance and permitting · investment and operating costs · scale-up · licensing and market launch

Usable building blocks go into application step by step as soon as they are technically robust and economically viable for their purpose – such as new detection and monitoring systems while separation and destruction are still being developed.

Clear performance requirements

Detection provides a reliable basis for decisions, separation stages capture PFAS effectively, and achieved destruction is proven. Operational safety, energy demand, permittability and costs also count for the chain.

Contributing more than money

Companies and operators can also contribute real material flows, facilities, data, development staff, pilot sites and concrete requirements. Pooled together, this creates a development capacity that a single company could hardly provide.

ORGANISATION

One organisation. One mission. Clear leadership.

PFAS-SOLVE is not a funding programme and not a collection of individual projects, but an alliance of companies and research groups along the process chain. Companies jointly fund a dedicated research and development organisation that takes solutions through to application.

An integrated trans-European centre

The **PFAS Initiative** brings together its own scientists and specialists – at the operational centre and embedded in teams at European universities, research institutions and technology companies. Location does not determine affiliation: leadership, standards and responsibility for results remain with PFAS-SOLVE.

Existing laboratories, equipment and pilot plants are used wherever available; dedicated infrastructure is added where needed.

Independent – and therefore effective

- No dependence on funding calls, jury decisions or shifting programme priorities
- Reinforce promising approaches, stop unsuitable paths in time – without a new call
- Move suitable processes into piloting and demonstration without another proposal competition
- Partners are involved for their contribution to the solution, not to meet consortium requirements
- Privately funded and politically independent

Industrial practice at work-package level

Expert teams with specialists from the members specify requirements, discuss results and prepare next steps – at least quarterly, more often if needed.
A **Scientific** and an **Industrial Advisory Board** oversee the overall development.

A proven model

PFAS-SOLVE adopts the organisational principle of **acib GmbH** (Austrian Centre of Industrial Biotechnology, since 2002, a COMET K2 centre since 2010): its own staff at several research sites, joint leadership and digital, location-independent administration.

€50,000
→ €10 m

The leverage of joint funding: once fully scaled up, a Core Member contributing €50,000 a year gains access to the findings of a programme worth around ten million euros a year.
The ratio describes the jointly funded development capacity, not a guaranteed individual return. The yardstick is proven benefit in application, not the number of projects or publications.

MEMBERSHIP AND ROLES

Equal rights, graded responsibility

All full members have the same information rights. The tiers differ in contribution, commitment period, voting weight, role in governance and participation obligations.

What all full members receive

- Access to all scientific and technical findings – at the same time, to the same extent
- Bring in their own PFAS challenges as use cases
- Voting rights in the Program Council (strategy and decision-making body) on guidelines and priorities
- Participation of their own specialists in the expert teams
- A knowledge advantage over non-participating competitors

TIER	ANNUAL FEE	TERM	VOTES	PARTICIPATION AND OBLIGATIONS
Founding Member	**from €250,000**	5 years, up to 10 years possible	**4**	Program Council, election of the Industrial Advisory Board, protection of the core provisions of the statutes, fixed contribution in the first period; specialists for at least two expert teams. **Only available until the end of the founding phase (autumn 2028).**
Strategic Member	**from €100,000**	5 years	**3**	Program Council, nominations for the Industrial Advisory Board; specialists for at least two expert teams; test environment, where available
Core Member	**€50,000**	3 years, longer possible	**2**	Program Council
Associate Member	**€10,000–25,000**	3 years	**1**	Program Council

Taking part without full membership: programme partners

Programme partners work on the basis of their own contracts within the PFAS Initiative and can be admitted as extraordinary members (no fee, no voting rights).

Scientific Partner

Scientific expertise and research environments; host institution for embedded staff

Technology Partner

Processes, materials, sensors, digital systems, engineering or production expertise

Application & Demonstration Partner

Samples, material flows, operating data, facilities and test sites

Project & Scale-up Partner

Fund or enable defined pilot, demonstration and scale-up projects

Supporting members – such as foundations, associations or companies – support the mission without programme participation and without voting rights. Public institutions can take part as programme partners, extraordinary or supporting members.

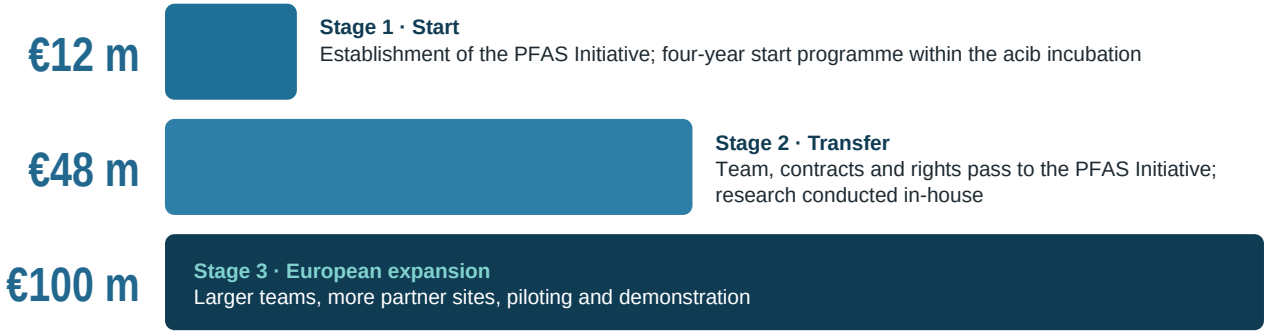
100 million euros for ten years of independent development

The industrial funding target is at least €100 million for the first ten-year development period from autumn 2027 – an average of ten million euros a year. The amount is a target, not a secured commitment.

200 companies × €50,000 a year × 10 years = €100 m

Founding and Strategic Members shorten the path considerably: **20 Founding Members contribute as much as 100 Core Members.**

Built in stages – each stage with its own funding threshold



The thresholds are cumulative, not additional amounts. In addition, depending on the future legal form, the Austrian research premium (14% of eligible research expenditure) can be claimed – with an annual budget of €10 million and subject to the requirements, around €1 million a year; it is not part of the funding model.

Target timeline

by mid-2027

Win Founding Members, conditional commitments for at least €12 million, draw up start programme

Summer 2027

Establishment of the PFAS Initiative

Autumn 2027

Programme start within the acib incubation

Autumn 2028

End of the founding phase – last chance for Founding status

Early 2029

Planned transfer to the PFAS Initiative (from €48 million)

Commit firmly – pay only once start funding is secured

Companies make a legally binding, conditional contribution commitment. The obligation to pay only arises once a total of **at least €12 million** has been firmly committed for the four-year start programme and the PFAS Initiative has been established. If the start conditions are not met by the agreed deadline, the commitment lapses without any obligation to pay. There is no obligation to make additional contributions.

STRUCTURE AND NEXT STEP

Privately funded, clearly led – let's start together

Members
Companies with multi-year contribution commitments; Program Council as general assembly

↓ Contributions

PFAS Initiative
Non-profit; pools the funds and ties them to the mission

↓ Funds

Research and development
Own staff at the centre and at European partner sites; research, development, transfer

Clear responsibilities

The **Program Council** decides on guidelines, priorities and the fee schedule. The **Supervisory Board** approves budget and financial planning. A **three-member Executive Board** manages the PFAS Initiative.

Limits on influence

- From twelve participating corporate groups: no more than 10% of votes per group
- Publicly controlled members: together less than 20% of votes, less than one third of contributions, no Supervisory Board seats
- No claims to repayment, distributions or ownership – not even upon dissolution
- Exploitation revenues remain within the PFAS Initiative and can lower future contributions

The invitation

PFAS-SOLVE is aimed at companies that are affected by PFAS or offer solutions: industry and chemicals, site and plant operators, water and wastewater management, waste management, laboratories, plant engineering and technology providers. Those who join early help shape the direction and bring their challenges into the start programme.

1
Confidential discussion on relevant applications and expected benefits

2
Choose role and tier, clarify data, samples, sites and expertise

3
Agree contribution, term and payment plan; review statutes

4
Submit a conditional membership commitment and help shape start programme priorities

Forever does not end by itself.

It ends when we start working together to end it technically.

DI Dr. Mathias Drexler
CEO acib GmbH

mathias.drexler@acib.at
pfas-solve@acib.at

www.pfas-solve.eu
An initiative of acib GmbH