Design of ionic polymer catalysts for the synthesis of carbonates from $\rm CO_2$ and epoxides

<u>F. D. Bobbink¹</u>, A. P. Van Muyden¹, P. J. Dyson¹*

¹EPF Lausanne

The synthesis of cyclic carbonates from epoxides and CO_2 (CCE reaction) is an atom-efficient, scalable reaction of industrial importance. It is an important example of a catalytic reaction highlighting the utilization of CO_2 as a building block. Numerous catalysts (both metallic and metal-free)[1] have been proposed for this reaction, and in particular, ionic liquids and ionic polymers have emerged as a class of potent catalysts in this transformation. In our group, we have prepared imidazolium-based polymers (Fig. 1) incorporating functional groups that are potent catalysts for the CCE reaction.[2-4]



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[2] S. Ghazali-Esfahani, H. Song, E. Păunescu, F. D. Bobbink, H. Liu, Z. Fei, G. Laurenczy, M. Bagherzadeh, N. Yan and P. J. Dyson, *Green Chem.*, 2013, **15**, 1584
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[4] F. D. Bobbink, A. P. Van Muyden, A. Gopakumar, Z. Fei and P. J. Dyson, *ChemPlusChem*, 2017, **82**, 144-151.