SEMPRE-BIO

D6.4 IP Strategy Plan

SEcuring doMestic PRoduction of cost-Effective BIOmethane

inveniam

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DISCLAMER

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Acronym Glossary

***EBIEs**: European Biomethane Innovation Ecosystems*	***KER**: Key Exploitable Result*
***IP**: Intellectual Property*	***IPR**: Intellectual Property Rights*
***CA**: Consortium Agreement*	***GA**: Grant Agreement*
***DoA**: Description of Action*	***HE**: Horizon Europe*

Consortium partners

	Participant organisation name	Acronym
1	CETAQUA	CET
2	AIGUES DE BARCELONA	AB
3	CRYO INOX	CRYO
4	DEUTSCHES BIOMASSEFORSCHUNGSZENTRUM GEMEINNÜTZIGE	DBFZ
5	DANMARKS TEKNISKE UNIVERSITET	DTU
6	INVENIAM GROUP	INV
7	PROPULS	PROPULS
8	SINTEF	SINTEF
9	TERRAWATT	TERRA
10	TRANSPORTS METROPOLITANS DE BARCELONA	TMB
11	UNIVERSITEIT GENT	UGE
12	UNIVERSITAT DE VIC	UVIC
13	BIOGAS-E	BIOGAS-E
14	INNOLAB	INNOLAB
15	NATURGY	NAT
16	NV De Zwanebloem	MASS

1. Introduction

The Intellectual Property (IP) Strategy deliverable is a preliminary plan of the SEMPRE-BIO project, funded under the Horizon Europe (HE) Cluster 5 programme running from November 2022 to April 2026.

This document aims to establish IP strategies that prioritize knowledge accessibility and benefit for the stakeholders. The SEMPRE-BIO consortium recognizes the importance of effective Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regulations and management in achieving project outcomes, and general IPR rules will be followed. In line with the collaborative nature of the project, intellectual property generated by partners will be managed fairly, safeguarded through patents, trade secrets, and other appropriate intellectual property protection tools.

The objective, procedures, activities, and roles to manage IP are foreseen both in Article 16 of the Grant Agreement (GA) number 101084297, in the Annex 5 SEMPRE-BIO Consortium Agreement (CA) and in section 2.2.3 of Annex 1 DoA (part B). The IP strategy complies with the rules put out in GA, the conditions agreed in the CA as well as the rules and recommendations defined in the EU Horizon 2020 framework.

The Plan consists of three main components: (i) A concise overview of IP Management, encompassing definitions and agreements that govern Intellectual Property Rights (IPR); (ii) The IPR Plan and Protection Strategies; and (iii) IP for Key Exploitable Results (KERs), outlining the anticipated IPR protection measures aligned with the General Agreement (GA).

2. Intellectual Property Management

Intellectual Property management is the process of effectively capturing and sharing organizational IP. In SEMPRE-BIO, its objective is to optimize the utilization of the intellectual property created in various work packages within the consortium.

2.1. Legal Frameworks

The SEMPRE-BIO strategy for IP Management within the Consortium and the outside world complies with the rules defined in the GA and the conditions agreed in the CA, including the general rules and recommendations defined for projects of the HE Programme.

2.2. Grant Agreement

The GA is the legal implementation of the project as agreed between the European Commission and the Consortium Parties. The GA number 101084297, Article 16 "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) – BACKGROUND AND RESULTS – ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE" defines the rules for handling IPR, their use, and dissemination. All Consortium partners are signatories to the GA. In specific cases, the GA allows the Consortium to agree on their own rules. The CA includes these specific own rules agreed by the Consortium partners.

2.3. Consortium Agreement

Before the project started, the Consortium Parties entered into a formal CA where roles, responsibilities, and mutual obligations are defined. The SEMPRE-BIO CA is based upon Regulation (EU) No 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027), laying down its rules for participation and dissemination and on the European Commission's General Model Grant Agreement and its Annexes.

The SEMPRE-BIO CA contains specific rules and procedures:

(i) Ownership and joint ownership of Results;
(ii) Transfer of Results;
(iii) Obligations regarding dissemination Results;
(iv) Handling of Background IP;
(v) Handling of Access Rights;
(vi) Additional arrangement regarding IPR to be applied to the partners in compliance with the general arrangement in the GA and;
(vii) The internal organization of the Consortium such as IP management, governance structure, and decision-making processes.

2.4. Basic definitions

In the following paragraphs, definitions of terms important for consideration of IPR protection as specified in GA and CA, are summarized:

Background means any data, know-how or information – whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights – that is (a) held by the Parties before they entered into this CA and (b) is needed to implement activities in which they participate under the Project or for the exploitation of the results thereof.

Results means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

Foreground means the results, including information, materials and knowledge, generated in a given project, whether or not they can be protected. It includes Intellectual property rights, similar forms of

protection and unprotected know-how. Thus, foreground includes the tangible and intangible results of the project. Results generated outside a project do not constitute foreground.

Dissemination means the public disclosure of the results by appropriate means, other than resulting from protecting or exploiting the results, including scientific publications, website publications, conferences, fairs, open access, etc.). However, this dissemination should adhere to the conditions specified in the CA and other specific confidentiality agreements. These measures ensure that confidentiality is maintained during and even after the project's completion, as appropriate.

Intellectual Property Rights means patents, patent applications and other statutory rights in inventions; copyrights (including without limitation copyrights in Software); registered design rights, applications for registered design rights, unregistered design rights and other statutory rights in designs; and other similar or equivalent forms of statutory protection, wherever in the world arising or available.

Exploitation or Exploit means the direct or indirect use of Results in i) further research activities other than those covered by the Project, or ii) in developing, creating and/or marketing a product, or process, or iii) in creating and/or providing a service, or iv) in standardization activities.

Access rights means the rights to use results or background.

Fair and Reasonable means "appropriate conditions including possible financial terms taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for Access Rights, for example the actual or potential value of the Results or Background to which Access Rights are requested and/or the scope, duration and characteristics of the Exploitation envisaged"; and shall include the following understanding: to fall within Fair and Reasonable conditions, the conditions must also be non-discriminatory.

Open access means the online access to research outputs provided free of charge to the end-user.

Owner means a party, public or private, holding legal title to Intellectual Property, consistent with national or international laws and regulations.

Beneficiary means the signatories of this Agreement (either directly or through an accession form).

2.5. Results

The SEMPRE-BIO results generated during project are mentioned in the section 4.1 (Table 1). The handling of results is regulated in Annex 5 of the CA with specific roles further detailed in the CA.

2.5.1. Joint ownership

Joint ownership is governed by the GA Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section *Ownership of results* and in the CA, Section 8.2. Regarding the joint ownership, where Results are generated from work carried out jointly by two or more Parties and it is not possible to separate such joint invention, design or work for the purpose of applying for, obtaining and/or maintaining the relevant patent protection or any other intellectual property right, the Parties will have joint ownership of this work.

Each joint owner will have the right to utilize and profit from the jointly owned results and can grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties, subject to Fair and Reasonable Conditions. However, the granting of such licenses must be accompanied by a minimum of 45 calendar days' advance notice to the other joint owners, and sub-licensing rights are not permitted.

2.5.2. Transfer of results

The transfer of ownership of its Results by each Party shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in the GA Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section *Transfer of ownership* and in CA, Section 8.3. Each Party may specify the third parties to whom it intends to transfer the ownership of its Results. By doing so, the other Parties hereby relinquish their right to prior notice and their right to object to such transfers to the listed third parties, as provided in afore mentioned sections.

3. IPR Plan and Protection Strategies

The SEMPRE-BIO Consortium will establish and implement the systems and procedures for handling IP, both background (brought by the partners to the project) and foreground (originating from the project). The key issues related to IP during the project development phase and after the project are described in Figure 1.

The key IP challenges during project implementation in the HE programmes include analysing existing and potential knowledge creation and management tools, discussing methods of IP protection, and ensuring adequate management of IP rights to facilitate future exploitation. Post-project challenges include defining paths for joint exploitation, determining IP ownership arrangements and responsibilities, and exploring options for agreements on the use of project-generated IP. SEMPRE-BIO's IPR management aims to efficiently capture and protect the IP generated in various work packages and facilitate its exploitation.

During the project implementation, challenges such as analysing existing and potential knowledge creation and management tools, discussing the methods of IP protection, and correctly managing IP rights will have to be addressed. Upon project completion, the avenues for joint exploitation, ownership and agreements, and approaches for using the IP generated while working on the project must be established. SEMPRE-BIO's IPR management should be designed to guarantee the efficient capture and protection of all IP generated during different work packages and facilitate its exploitation.

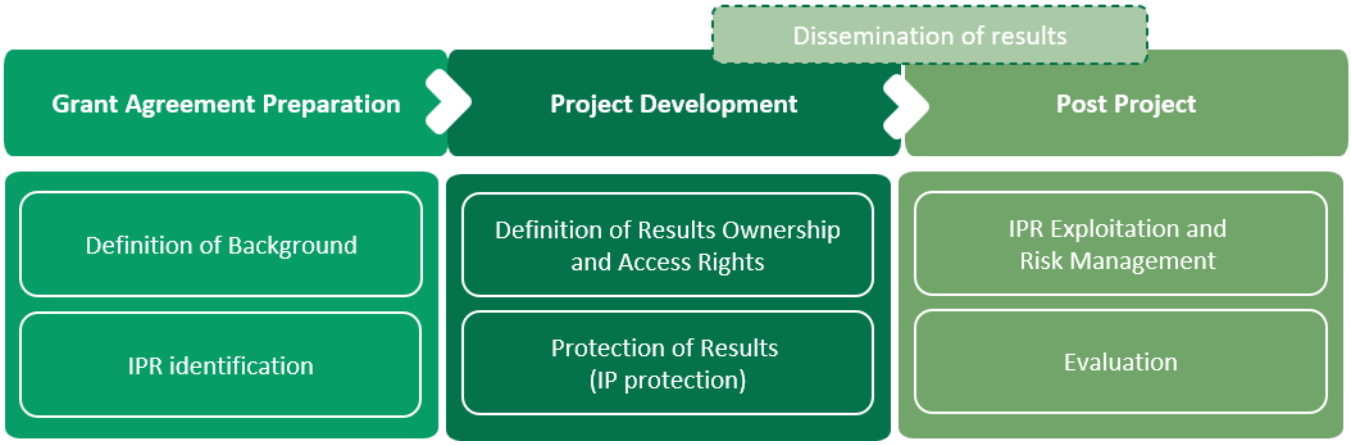

Figure 1. SEMPRE-BIO IPR Overview.

Each one of the phases is detailed below.

3.1. Grant Agreement preparation phase

During this phase, SEMPRE-BIO background know how was identified at the beginning of the project. In addition, the SEMPRE-BIO Consortium extensively deliberated on key aspects of IP and innovation management to establish a shared understanding. These aspects encompassed background, foreground, ownership, knowledge transfer, dissemination, and access rights throughout and beyond the project, for both research and commercial purposes.

The resulting decisions were incorporated into the SEMPRE-BIO Consortium proposal, and a CA, following the HE DESCA model, was formulated. The CA elucidates the access rights granted by the consortium's IP owners to other entities (project participants) concerning background or foreground IP, while outlining a comprehensive procedure for managing partners' rights during the dissemination process. Furthermore, it provides clarity on access rights to the IP following the project's conclusion.

3.2. Project Development phase

The development phase of the SEMPRE-BIO IPR plan will follow the following steps (Figure 2):

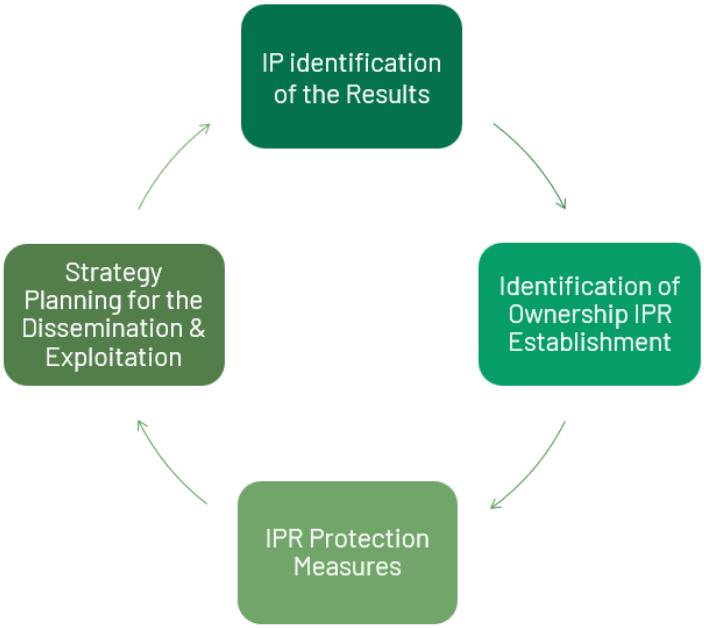

Figure 2. Project Development phase of SEMPRE-BIO.

- **IP Identification of the Results:** The partners will determine the specific Results to be generated throughout the project's implementation, as specified in the project's initial expected results provided in the Annex 1 DoA (part B). Every exploitable IP linked to the Results shall be recognized and documented. These IP assets may be derived from one or more SEMPRE-BIO processes or technologies.
- **Identification of Ownership and IPR Establishment**: Ownership identification is a crucial step in the IP management process, which involves determining the rightful owners of each IP asset within the organization. This assessment helps establish clear rights and responsibilities regarding the management and protection of intellectual property.
- **IPR Protection Measures:** Evaluate different forms of IP protection available for the project assets. This may include patents for inventions, trademarks for branding, copyrights for creative works, and trade secrets for confidential information. Determine the most appropriate forms of protection for each asset.
- **Strategy Planning for the Dissemination and Exploitation**: The SEMPRE-BIO consortium will plan possible IPR protection strategies for dissemination and exploitation, such as open access, patent fillings and commercialisation of the KERs. To this end, different protection actions will be carried out, such as scientific publications in open access journals (as mentioned in D6.1 Draft Plan for Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation, M5).

3.3. Post Project phase

The main steps for IPR Management at post project are detailed in Figure 3 and described in detail hereunder.

- **IP Assessment**: A detailed business plan will be developed within WP6 and delivered in M42. The exploitation of SEMPRE-BIO results addresses a value chain from technological innovations (upstream) to product and by-product innovations (downstream) that foster sustainability and circular economy, through better risk management, decision making and overall business assessment.

The overall business strategy of this project is to develop a set of innovative technologies capable of producing cost-effective and sustainable biomethane through three EBIEs, based in Baix Llobregat (ES), Bourges (FR) and Adinkerke (BE), which are representative of the different starting situations for biomethane production in Europe. In addition, potential markets (project target markets) will be explored in depth, analysing these sectors and how the technological solutions developed in the framework of the project can be applied to them and commercialised by each of the project partners.

- **Risk Management**: To mitigate risks and facilitate the commercialization of SEMPRE-BIO IP, proactive identification, assessment, and management of IP-related risks is crucial. This involves analysing the likelihood and potential impact of risks such as ownership disputes and IP infringement by third parties. Based on the assessment results, suitable risk management measures, such as insurance coverage or contractual clause revisions, should be implemented or at least considered. This approach ensures a proactive approach to safeguarding intellectual property rights and minimizing potential adverse consequences.
- **IP Commercialization and Exploitation**: To successfully bring the protected IP generated by SEMPRE-BIO to the market, there are several commonly adopted practices that partners can consider, including patent filing, licensing, establishing spin-off companies, or opting for open access (as further detailed in Section 4). These approaches enable effective commercialization and exploitation of the IP assets derived from the project.
- **IP enforcement**: In case of infringement on the IP associated with a successfully branded new service or product, the partners are responsible for protecting their IP through appropriate legal means available within the legal system. These may include actions such as sending a letter of demand, notifying customs authorities, utilizing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, or resorting to court proceedings. These enforcement measures aim to safeguard the efforts invested in developing intangible assets and protect the investments made in their commercialization. It is important to note that IP enforcement can be both time-consuming and costly, and it is not always possible, especially if it is not possible to demonstrate in court clear proof of infringement by a third parties.
- **Evaluation**: Evaluation of the IPR protection measures, dissemination efforts, and exploitation activities would be the final step in the process.

Figure 3. Post Project phase of SEMPRE-BIO.

4. Intellectual Property for SEMPRE-BIO project

The following section is a description of the IPRs considered for the SEMPRE-BIO project. These IPR ensure that the project's innovations are legally protected, granting rights to the project stakeholders and fostering an appropriate environment for research, development, and commercialization.

4.1. Intellectual Property for Key Exploitable Results

During the writing of the proposal, the Consortium Partners defined which partner(s) will own the IPR associated with each KER (normally the lead contributor) and which partners will have the right to continue accessing/using the IPR/KERs after the project ends (Table 1). Each of the KERs was undertaken by different Consortium Members, therefore, the Ownership includes several parties. For multi-ownership cases, it is recommended to sign a Joint Ownership Agreement, which will indicate the contribution of each partner.

Table 1. Results Ownership of SEMPRE-BIO KERs

KER	Results owner
KER1. Biomethanation of biogas from WasteWater Treatment Plant (WWTP) sludge anaerobic digestion **Leader**: CET **Other contributors:** DTU	Joint ownership, already discussed before the start of the project. In case of exploitation/patenting/ licensing of the reactor configuration and project results by CET, DTU will have to be compensated for the manhours dedicated to WP1 (design of reactor)/WP2 (data analysis). DTU is not interested in exploiting/ patenting/licensing, only in research.
KER1.2. Production of electrolyser-level high purity demineralized water from regenerated water **Leader**: CET **Other contributors**: CET	CET ownership
KER2. Proton exchange membrane (PEM) Electrolysis with hydraulic compression **Leader**: PROPULS **Other contributors:** None	ProPuls
KER3. Pyrolysis and cleaning to produce syngas from woody biomass **Leader**: TERRA **Other contributors**: None	TERRA
KER4. Biomethanation of syngas **Leader**: TERRA **Other contributors**: DTU	Joint ownership TERRA/DTU and agreements
KER5. Cryogenic cleaning & separation of biogas into liquified biomethane and liquified CO_2 **Leader**: CRYO **Other contributors**: UGE, INNOLAB, small contribution by Biogas-E	CRYOINOX ownership. UGE, INNOLAB and Biogas-E have no commercial interests, however, their involvement should be outlined.
KER6. Cost-efficient conversion of CO2 value added products **Leader**: UVIC	Discussion in progress.

Other contributors: UGE, DTU, INNOLAB	UGE, DTU and INNOLAB have no commercial interests, however, its involvement should be clearly stated in published materials.
KER7. Proving lower associated costs of production of biomethane by benchmarking **Leader**: DBFZ **Other contributors**: All SEMPRE-BIO partners	Joint ownership by all contributors.

In parallel, different IPR protection strategies have been suggested by the partners, such as patent, open access, spin off or licensing Table 2, as follows:

*Table 2. Initial IPR Protection Proposals for KERs. ** The squares in red correspond to the protection of the IPR, to be confirmed as the project develops based on the available results.*

		Patent	Open access	Spin off	Licensing
KER1	Biomethanation of biogas from WWTP sludge anaerobic digestion				
KER2	PEM Electrolysis with hydraulic compression				
KER3	Pyrolysis and cleaning to produce syngas from woody biomass				
KER4	Bio-methanation of syngas				
KER5	Cryogenic cleaning & separation of biogas into liquified biomethane and liquified CO_2				
KER6	Cost-efficient conversion of CO_2 value added product				
KER7	Proving lower associated costs of production of biomethane by benchmarking				
KER1.2	Production of electrolyser-level high purity demineralized water from regenerated water.				

The result of this activity should enable post-project exploitation with a clear order of priority and usage rights for the KERs, which reduces the risk of any conflict between partners. These aspects will normally be formalized through a written Joint Ownership Agreement and/or Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) between the partners for KERs involving more than one partner. This MoU will include the relevant information for the design of a joint exploitation strategy.

4.1.1. Patent protection

A **patent** is a legal title that allows the patent holder to prevent his/her invention from any third-party exploitation, even if it is generated independently.

4.1.2. Spin-off or licensing

Spin off is the creation of a new, independent company or organization that is separated from its parent company. In addition, its generally an efficient solution for universities and research institutions who may not be fully capable of commercialization of their own IP assets. Since spin-offs operate as a bridge

between the research environment and industries, bringing research findings to the commercial market with a marketable product, they are a crucial technology transfer method.

Licensing is a legal arrangement where the owner of intellectual property grants permission to another party to use or distribute their creative work or IPR under specified conditions.

The rules and policies for Licensing are given in the GA Article 16. No transfer or licensing may take place in the following cases: (i) Pending the granting authority decision, within the period set out above; (ii) if the granting authority objects; (iii) until the conditions are complied with, if the granting authority objection comes with conditions.

During the development of the project, SEMPRE-BIO will evaluate different possibilities for the exploitation of **KERs** such as the creation of a spin-off or licensing the technology to a third party. The final outcome will be based on the results obtained in the different stages of the road map defined: i) Design, construction and operation of the technologies, ii) Patentability study and iii) Market study.

4.1.3. Open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications

The beneficiaries must promote the action and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Partners who publish Results through peer-reviewed scientific publications will strive to achieve **open access**. The actions taken by the Consortium to facilitate open access are detailed in Section 1.2.7 and Section 1.2.8 of Annex 1 DoA (part B) of the GA, which pertains to Open Access and Data Management Plan (DMP). Additionally, the ongoing deliverables related to the DMP also contribute to the implementation of open access measures.

SEMPRE-BIO partners support open data/source/coding approaches by providing enriching knowledge, involving relevant networks, and giving open access to the final techno-economic assessment of SEMPRE-BIO technologies. Furthermore, following the HE Programme Guide, SEMPRE-BIO will establish a commitment of the partners, through the CA, to fully adopt the HE open access / open research data policy by providing online access to free and reusable scientific information for end-users, following the FAIR principles (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable data). Scientific information refers to peer-reviewed scientific research articles.

Open dissemination strategies have been chosen to optimize a large use of the results of SEMPRE-BIO in all addressed communities. Concerning publications, the consortium will choose Open Access self-archiving (Green Access) or Open Access publishing (Gold open access) for all partners. All academic partners have endorsed Open Access and they will publish relevant research outputs on the Open Research Europe (ORE) platform to guarantee early and widely dissemination. Articles will be submitted via the single-page submission system provided by ORE. Prepublication checks will be scanned to ensure that all policies and ethical guidelines are adhered to. Once the article has passed the prepublication checks, the preprint version will be published, enabling immediate viewing and citation. All versions of each article will be linked and independently citable. Articles that pass peer review are sent to major indexing databases and repositories and made available in the project website. ORE articles will be published under a Creative Commons "BY" licenses, with unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, and leaves the copyright of the article with the current copyright holder. In SEMPRE-BIO, data associated with ORE articles will be available under the terms of a Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication for the sake of replicability.

4.2. Intellectual Property Consortium Strategy

The Intellectual Property Consortium Strategy focuses on leveraging shared resources and knowledge to enhance the protection and commercialization of intellectual property assets, thereby maximizing their value and impact.

CET IP strategy

CET belongs to the AGBAR group, that has a legal department fully dedicated to the patentability of new technologies for all entities part of the business holding. In fact, the company files several new patents every year. The IPR Legal Department will take the leading role in all matters related to patent the **power-to-gas biomethanation process and reactor design:**

- Preparation and revision of IPR contracts, State-of-the-Art Literature and Patent Documentation Search.
- Preparation and coordination of an Innovation proposal in collaboration with the technical team.
- Patent Clearance: Internal and external study report to check for the patentability of the proposed solution.
- Drafting of the patent application.
- Patent infringement issues: external report to check for Freedom To Operate in the chosen Market.
- Oppositions to third party patent rights and Patent licensing.

Also, CET has a department of Technology Transfer to ensure that scientific and technological developments are transferred to the department within the AGBAR Group, and so they can further exploit the technology.

PROPULS IP strategy

PROPULS has a patent for a new stack concept for galvanic cell (fuel cells, batteries, and especially high-pressure electrolysers) based on the concept of a hydraulic cell compression (Table 3). These patents allow a flexible use of the stack concept for different use cases and performance classes. Patents are already granted in many European countries, U.S., Canada, and different Asian countries.

The PROPULS IP strategy is based on two complementary lines:

- Protecting the patents and innovations based on hydraulic cell compression by developing and sale of its own products and services such as stacks and test systems for galvanic cells (fuel cells, batteries, and especially high-pressure electrolysers).
- Licensing of patents and applications to suitable partners.

Supported by INV during WP6 T6.4, PROPULS will regularly evaluate their innovations from the beginning of the development. Thus, during and after the project PROPULS expects to submit at least one new patent application regarding innovations in stack design and applications.

TERRA IP strategy

TERRA has **a patented commercial biological methanation solution** for the market as part of a complete waste-to-biomethane solution with PyroGasification. TERRA has two patents accepted for the key innovative processes (Table 3). TERRA, supported by INV during WP6 T6.4 will regularly evaluate the patentability of their innovations from the beginning of the development, thus, during and after the project **TERRA expects to submit at least 2 new applications**. These applications will be related to the following deliverables:

- One patent will describe and protect the internal BioMethanation unit architecture.
- The second patent will describe and protect the internal gas cleaning system architecture.

TERRA's innovations are patent granted in all the European countries and the company patent strategy includes new patent submissions. TERRA's team has extensive knowledge of the market and will conduct international commercial activities by attending global exhibitions and events where competitors also exhibit, and patent infringement could be detected.

CRYO IP strategy

CRYO, supported by INV during WP6 T6.4, will regularly evaluate the patentability of their innovations from the beginning of the development (Table 3).

Table 3. Intellectual Property from industrial partners to be used in the SEMPRE-BIO project.

Existing Background IP	Status	Partner	Intended use in the SEMPRE-BIO project
WO2017158024, EU, 2017	Patent accepted and active	TERRA, licensed from Yannco, Yann Mercier's company	Demonstrator in Bourges (FR)
WO2018210960, EU, 2018	Patent accepted and active	TERRA, licensed from Yannco, Yann Mercier's company	Demonstrator in Bourges (FR)
EP3543591A1, EU, 2019	Patent accepted and active	CRYO	Demonstrator in Adinkerke (BE)
P6195EP00_20221228, EU, 2022 P6206EP00_20221228, EU, 2022 P6207EP00_20221228, EU, 2022	Patent filed/presented	CRYO	Demonstrator in Adinkerke (BE)
WO 2011/069625A1 WO 2014/040746A1 WO 2018/001543A1	Patents accepted and active (EU, US, PCR etc.)	PROPULS	Demonstrator in Baix Llobregat (ES)

4.3. Access Rights to Results

Each beneficiary must examine the possibility of protecting its results and must adequately protect them for an appropriate period and with appropriate territorial coverage if (i) the results can reasonably be expected to be commercially or industrially exploited and (ii) protecting them is possible, reasonable, and justified (given the circumstances). When deciding on protection, the beneficiary must consider its own legitimate interests and the legitimate interests (especially commercial) of the other beneficiaries.

More details regarding the protection of Results can be found in the GA, Article 16.

4.4. Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Agreement

Participants of the SEMPRE-BIO consortium has the option to enter into a confidentiality agreement or sign non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in order to facilitate the exchange of confidential information, especially if it is not yet protected by patents.

These agreements will establish the obligations regarding confidentiality and outline the conditions under which access is granted between two partnering entities. Additionally, the agreements will define the specific time frame during which the confidentiality obligations are in effect.

5. Conclusions

This deliverable outlines the systematic approach adopted by the SEMPRE-BIO Consortium in handling IP-related issues, including the implementation of best practices and planned measures. It provides a comprehensive overview of the strategies and actions designed to effectively manage intellectual property within the project. The establishment of this IPR management strategy as a best practice supports the project goals, while dissemination and exploitation policies and intended foreground schemes are outlined. The processes and mechanisms outlined in this document aim to strike a balance between accessibility and openness within the constraints of the CA.