



# SITOLUB

*SIMULATION TOOLS FOR  
THE DESIGN OF SAFE AND  
SUSTAINABLE LUBRICANTS*

## Press release

### March 2026

# SiToLub Strengthens International Collaboration During Expert Exchange at Punjab Engineering College, India

Chandigarh, India – 18 February 2026



The Horizon Europe project SiToLub continues to expand its international outreach and scientific exchange. Representatives of the consortium recently travelled to India to present ongoing research activities at Punjab Engineering College (PEC), Chandigarh, as part of the DST PURSE Expert Talk Series.

The visit reflected both scientific cooperation and long-standing academic ties. A particularly meaningful aspect of the event was a historic academic connection: the former Head

of PEC had supervised the PhD of one of the contributing SiToLub partners from the University of Birmingham – illustrating how research networks transcend borders and generations.

## Advancing Safe and Sustainable Lubricants

During the expert session, SiToLub partners from Fraunhofer Italia, GreenDelta, and Motorex presented complementary perspectives on the development of Safe and Sustainable by Design (SSbD) lubricants.

Davide Don (Fraunhofer Italia) introduced the concept of leveraging product regulation as a driver for improved product design, presenting the SiToLub “policy playground” approach. His contribution highlighted how European regulatory frameworks can actively stimulate innovation rather than merely impose constraints.

Dr. Jonas Hoffmann (GreenDelta) demonstrated how Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) serves as a key methodological pillar of SSbD. Using the open-source software openLCA, he illustrated the importance of modelling the full life cycle of lubricants – particularly the use and end-of-life phases – to support robust sustainability decision-making.

Dr. Parvin Zare (Motorex) provided an industry perspective with insights into “Metalworking Fluids: Today’s Solutions, Tomorrow’s Responsibility”. His presentation addressed current regulatory challenges facing the lubricant sector and outlined potential technical as well as policy-related pathways to meet future sustainability requirements.

## Dialogue Across Regulatory and Cultural Contexts

The presentations were followed by in-depth discussions on the global dimension of sustainable product development. A central topic was how European sustainability principles and regulatory approaches can be meaningfully adapted and integrated into the Indian industrial and policy context.

Beyond the formal programme, participants were given a guided tour of PEC's research infrastructure, showcasing recently funded equipment and laboratories. Informal exchanges during the visit further strengthened mutual understanding between academia and industry representatives from Europe and India.



The trip also offered opportunities to celebrate personal and cultural connections within the consortium – including meeting an Indian SiToLub collaborator during a special personal milestone – reinforcing the human dimension of international research collaboration.

In a symbolic and creative gesture on the final day before returning to Europe, consortium members recreated the SiToLub logo using

LEGO bricks, reflecting both team spirit and the project's commitment to innovation.

### Strengthening Global Partnerships

The SiToLub consortium expresses its sincere gratitude to Punjab Engineering College for the warm hospitality, excellent organisation, and inspiring academic exchange. The visit marks another important step in strengthening international cooperation in the field of safe and sustainable lubricants.

Through continued dialogue across continents, SiToLub contributes to shaping future-oriented solutions that align industrial innovation with environmental responsibility.

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For more information about the SiToLub project, please contact: [info@sitolub.eu](mailto:info@sitolub.eu)