



RESOURCEFULL

What's URBCON concrete?
A first look at results.

Inspiratiecafé circulair beton – Kamp C – 22/06/2022

Your engineering partner for low carbon concrete

- A young and vibrant company strongly motivated to **reduce the ecological footprint** of the construction industry
- Turning inorganic **waste streams** into low carbon concrete solutions
- Integrated in the **network** of large metallurgical companies as well as large construction groups
- 11 team members passionate about **concrete innovation**



Your engineering partner for low carbon concrete



Pre-treatment and analysis

- Chemical analysis
- Mineral analysis
- Crushing/grinding
- Sizing and separation
- Thermal processing



Binder development

- Alkali activation
- Cement replacement
- Acid activation
- Carbonatation
- Mg-cement



Product development

- 3D-printing mortar
- Acid resistant mortar
- Floor screed
- Ready-mix concrete
- UHPC



Performance testing

- Aggregate testing
- Workability
- Strength testing
- Freeze-Thaw
- Carbonatation



Non-technical

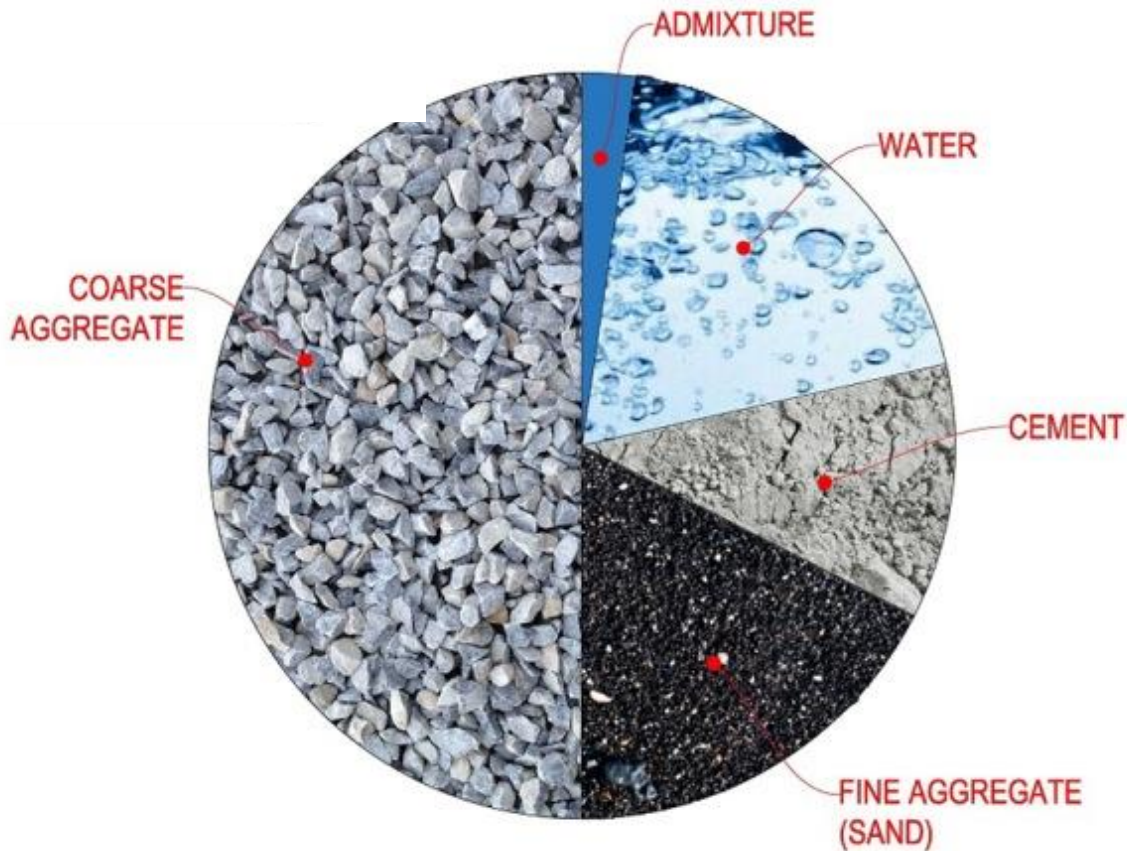
- Industrial implementation
- LCA
- Waste legislation
- Building legislation





What is concrete?

- Cement reacts with water and becomes a strong durable material
- Can be made with cheap and local raw materials
- Compatible with steel reinforcement
- From liquid to hard at room temperature



Most used man made material in the world

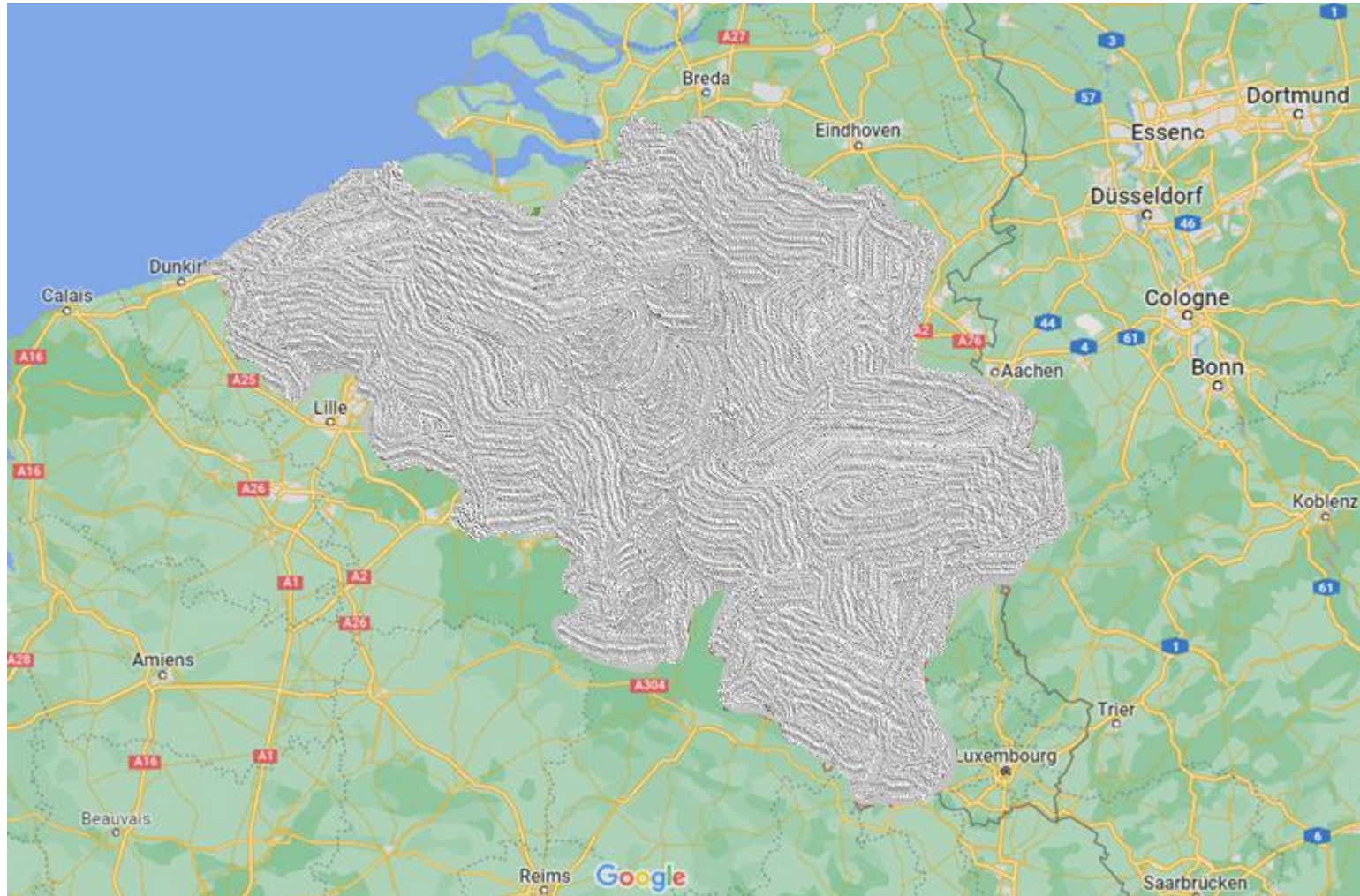
12.500.000.000 m³ per year



12.500.000.000 m³ ?



12.500.000.000 m³ !



Belgium covered with 40 cm of concrete every year



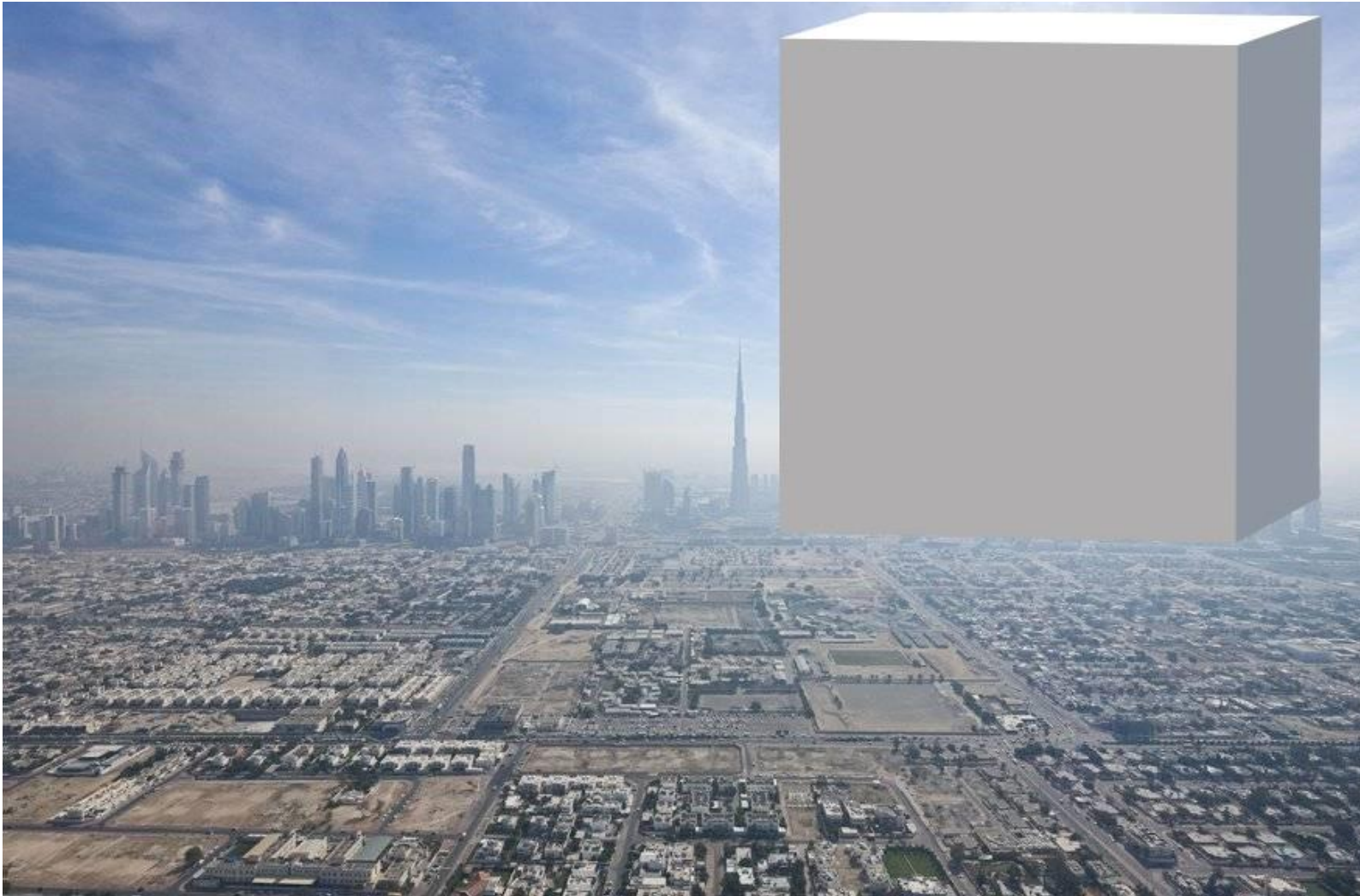
12.500.000.000 m³ ?



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12.500.000.000 m³ ?



Solid concrete block of 2,3 x 2,3 x 2,3 km³



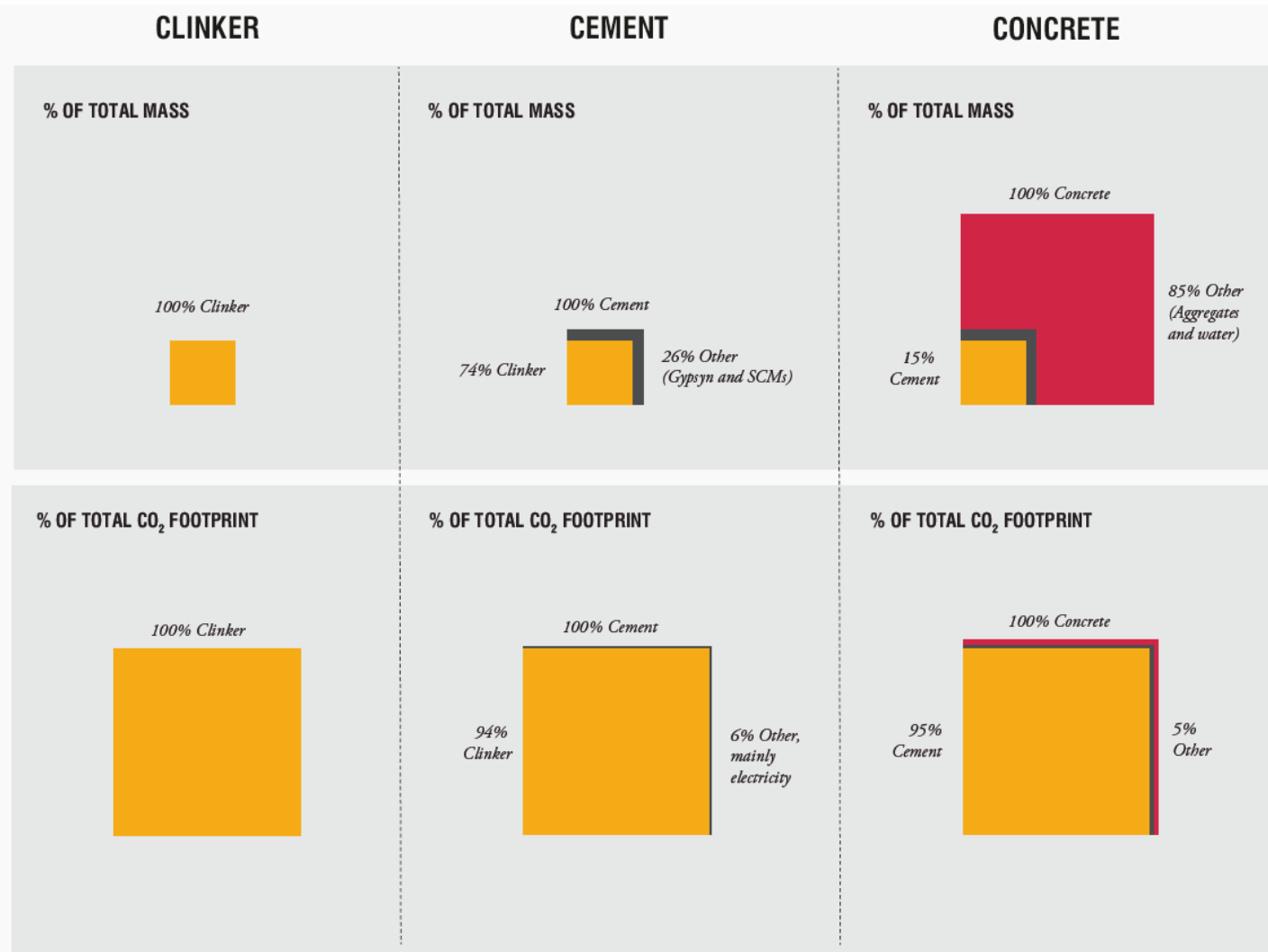
Sustainable concrete: why?



>



Sustainable concrete: why?



15% of the mass results in
95% of the Carbon Footprint



Cement Production Process

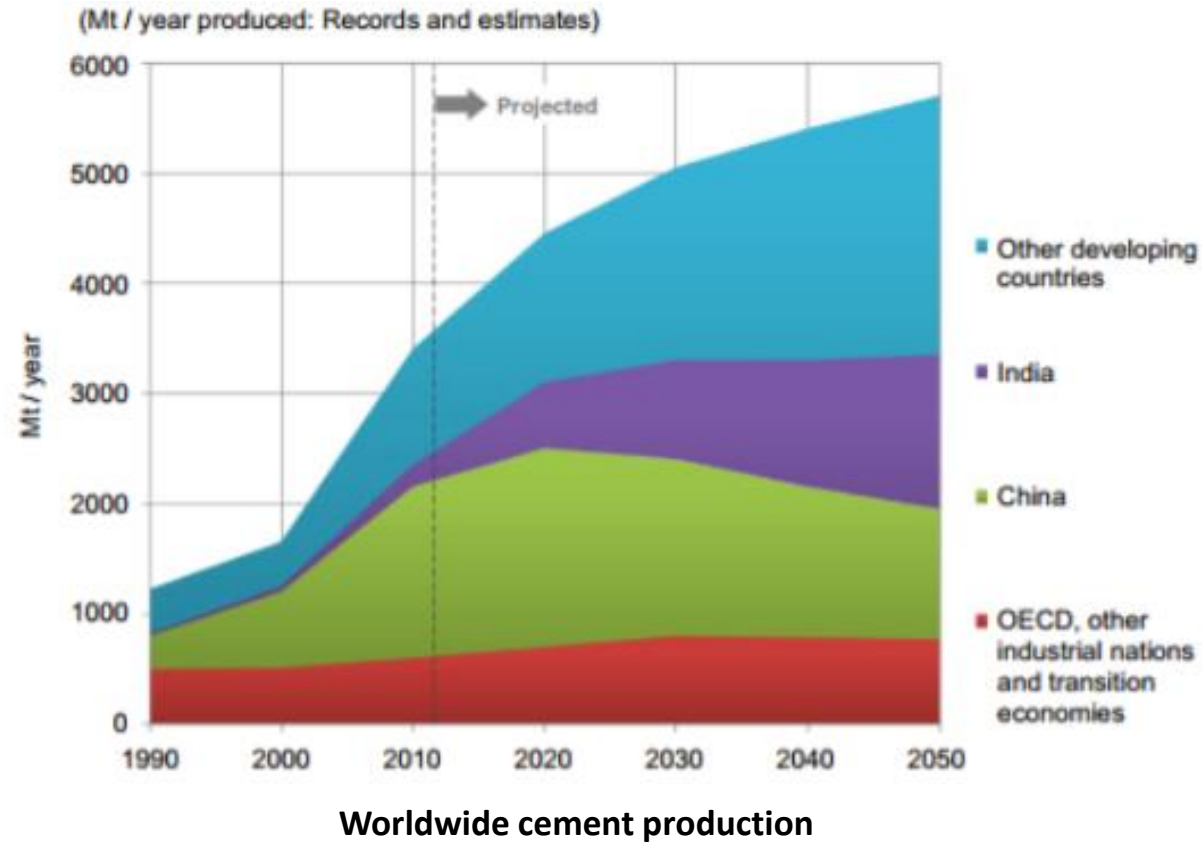


A **highly energy intensive** process, producing roughly 0,85 ton of CO_2 per 1 ton of cement produced (*vs. 2,5 ton of CO_2 per 1 ton of reinforcement steel*)

4.4 billion ton of cement is being produced each year, resulting in a contribution of **8 %** of worldwide **CO_2 emissions**.



Sustainable concrete: why?



Sustainable concrete: how?

Technologies applicable at different levels

1. Clinker level

- Energy efficiency
- Alternative fuels
- Carbon capture & storage



2. Cement level

- Clinker ratio (SCMs)
- Optimal grinding/blending of blended cements
- Non-Portland binders

3. Concrete level

- The right cement for the right application
- 'overdosing'

4. Structural level

- Alternative building solutions to concrete
- 'overdesigning'

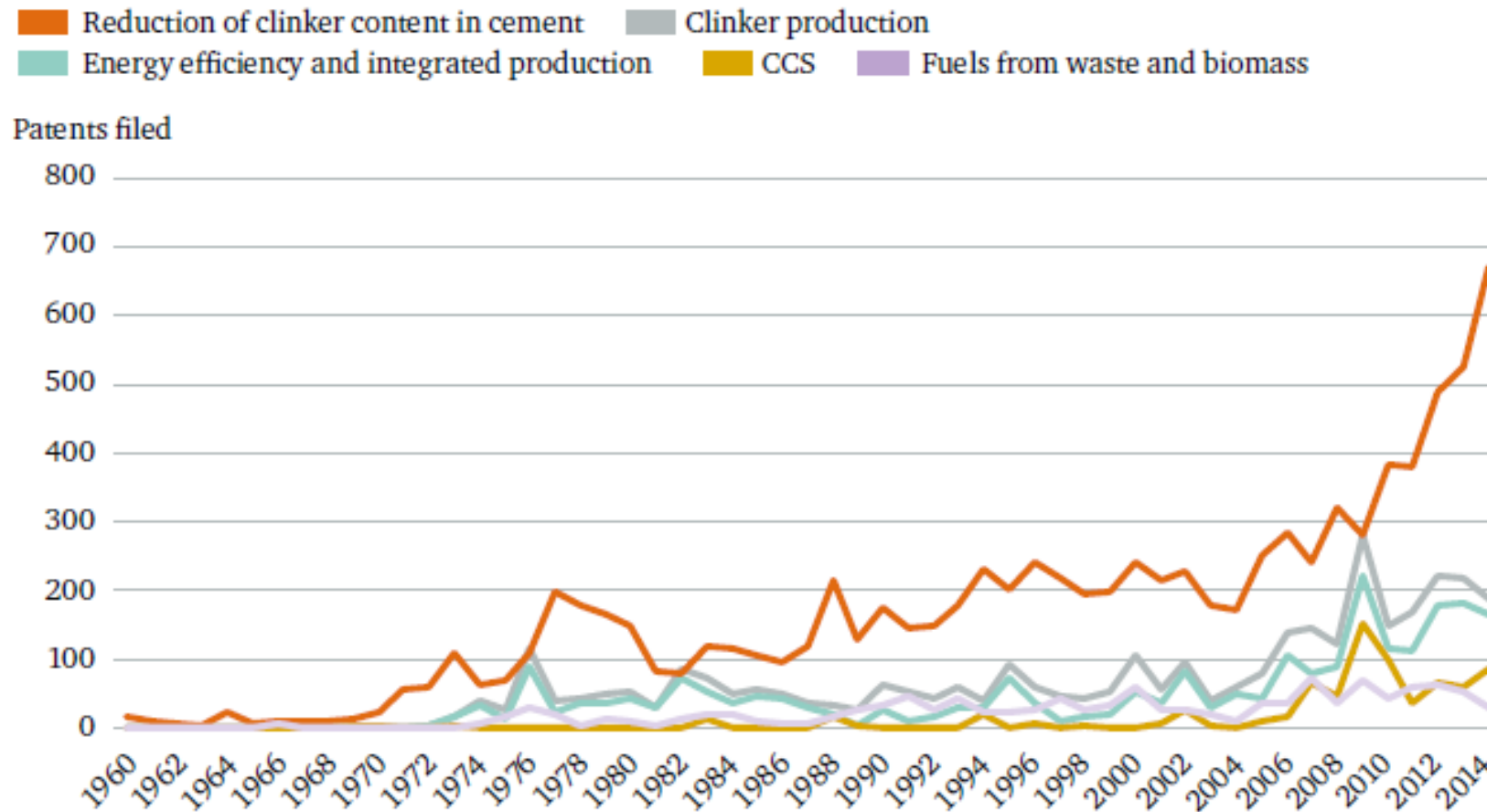
5. Recycling, circular economy

- Recycling concrete
- Recycling cement

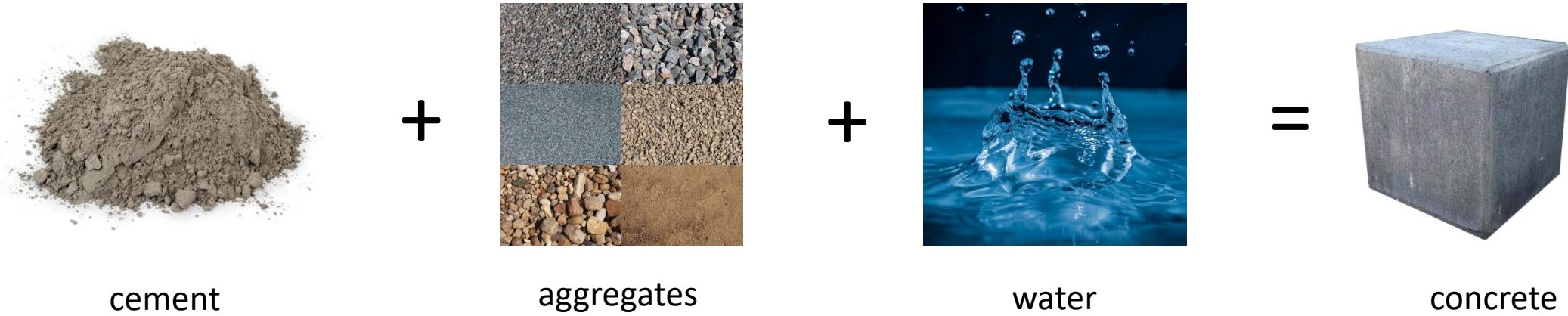


Sustainable concrete: how?

Figure 10: Patenting trends for five low-carbon technology areas in the cement sector



Sustainable concrete: how?

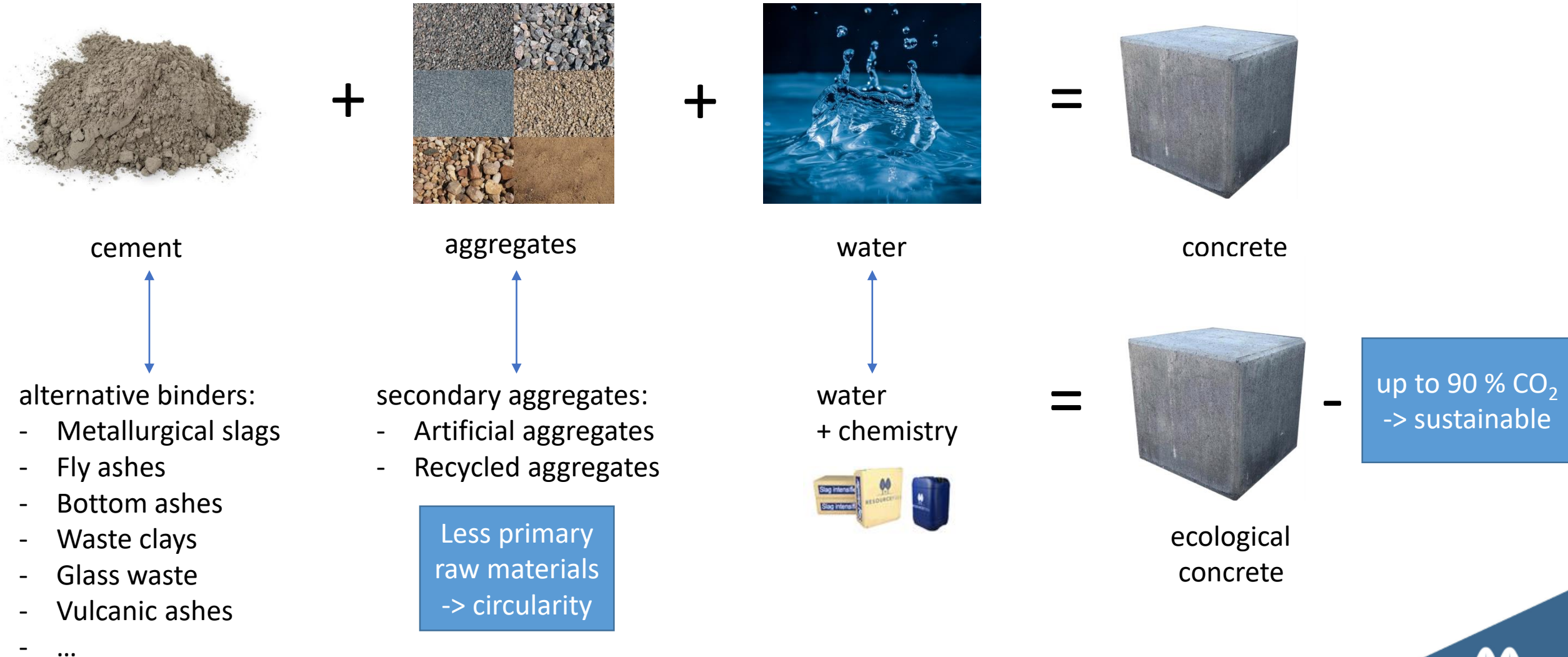


alternative binders:










- Metallurgical slags
- Fly ashes
- Bottom ashes
- Waste clays
- Glass waste
- Volcanic ashes
- ...



Sustainable concrete: how?



Cement vs. Cars

					
	CONVENTIONAL	HYBRID	PLUG-IN HYBRID	ALL-ELECTRIC	
EMISSIONS				 NO EMISSION	
	Traditional Concrete (CEM I)	Concrete with GGBFS (CEM III/B)	Hybrid alkali-activated concrete	Alkali-activated concrete	

Source: after ABT- Studio beton 15/04/21 – Theo van Wolfswinkel



ResourceFull finds use for these by-products and transforms them into minerals suitable for the production of a **new generation of concrete.**



Metal and mining industry
Huge waste piles with low value
or non-existing applications



Concrete industry
OPC dependency

Eco-friendly alternative: up to
90% CO₂ reduction



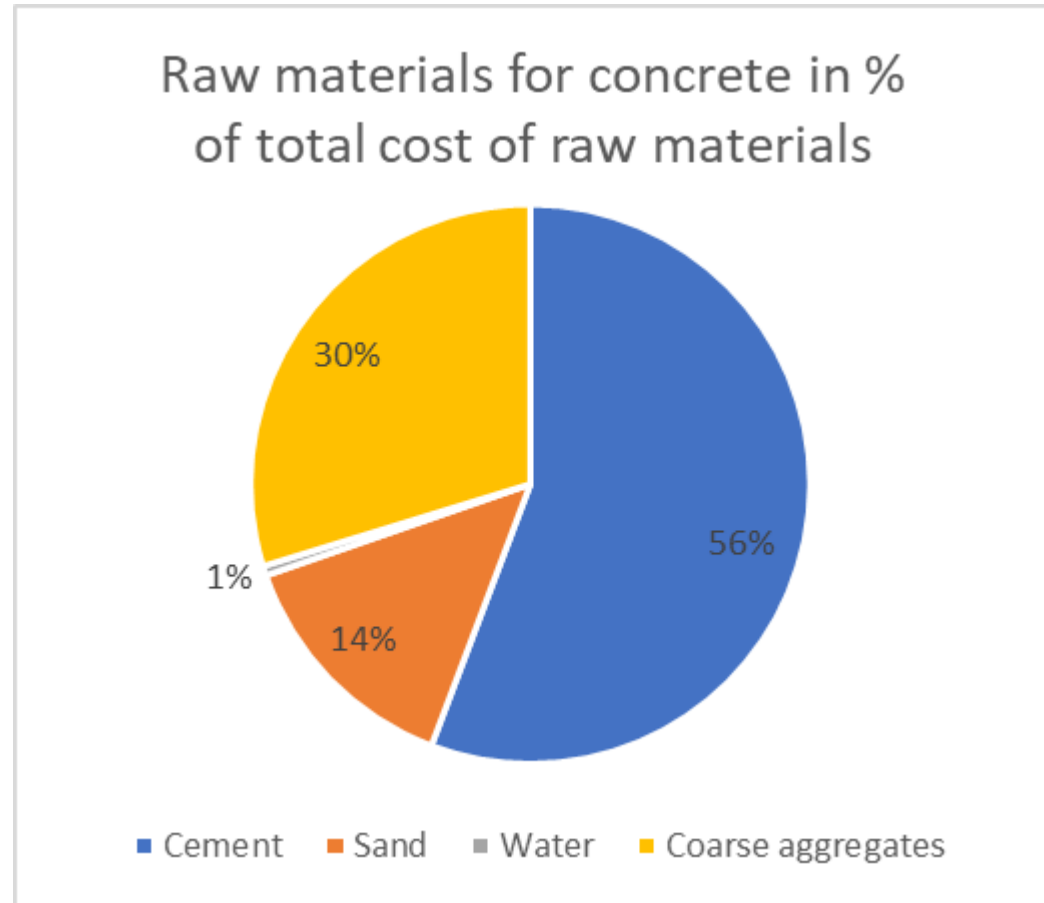
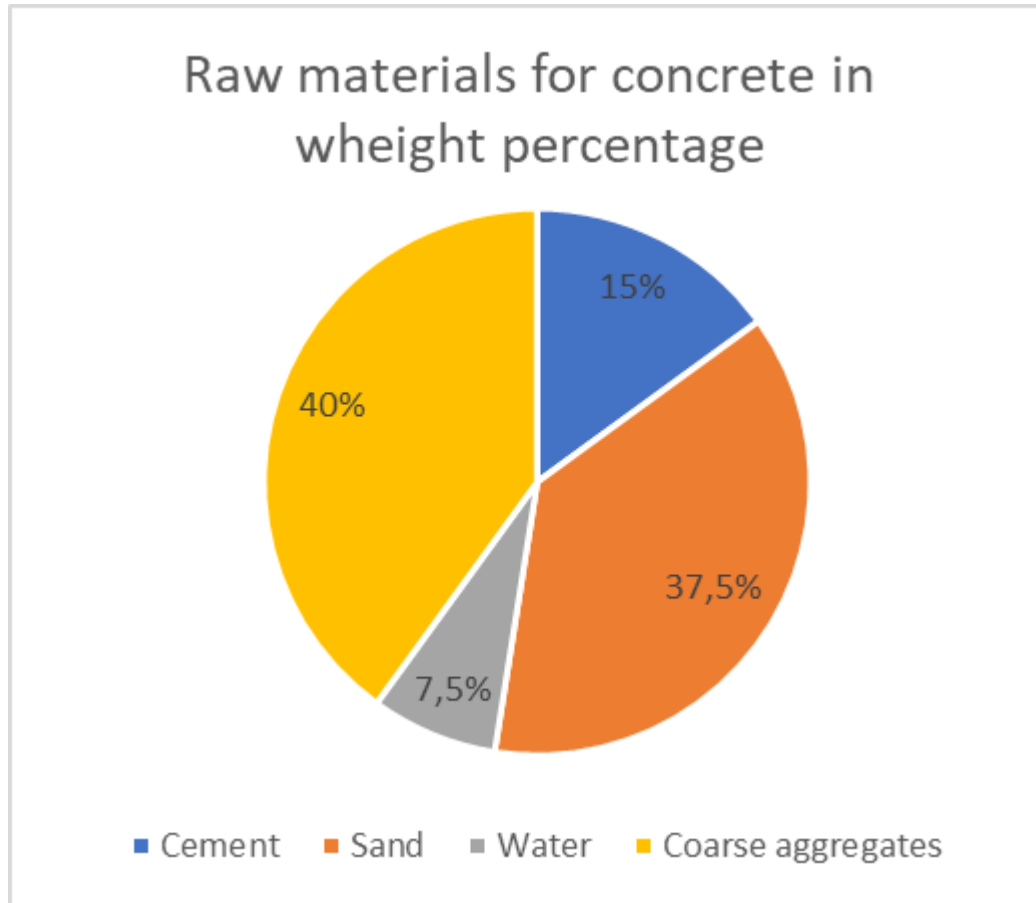
Europe & world
Dependency on primary raw
materials

CO₂ reduction of construction
industry



What about cost?

You can produce 1 m³ of traditional concrete for roughly 100€.



Ecology can not be the only driver

Driver	Property
Ecological	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Less CO₂- Less primary raw materials- Less landfill
Economical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cost competitive- CO₂ taxation- Green push policy makers
Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Chemical resistance- Acid resistance- Fireproof (>1000 °C)- Strength(development)- Bonding to traditional cement/concrete- Bonding to ceramics, glass, metal- Low permeability- Low sensitivity degradation ASR

The use of industrial by-products and/or waste (= low value products) opens opportunities.

But have to factor in:

- Pre-treatment: washing, drying, milling...
- Cost of “activation”
- Transport



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Cement will become more expensive

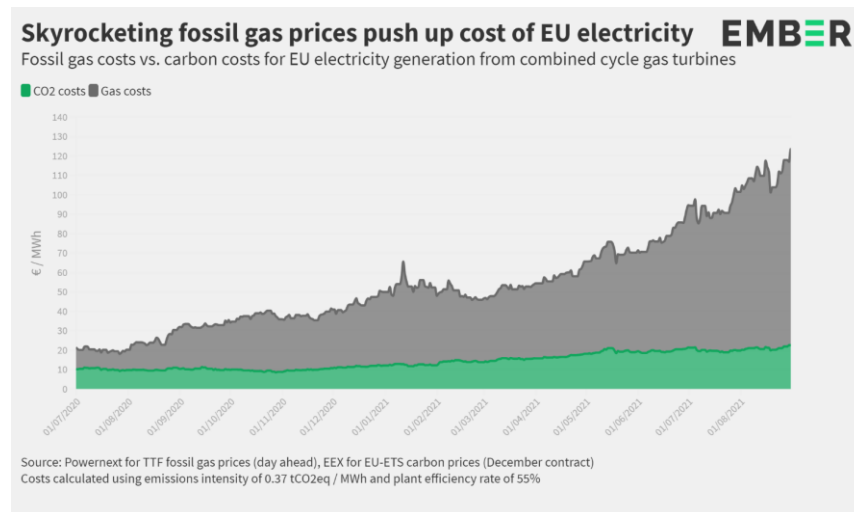
Lack of primary resources

+ Increasing cost of transport

→ Average increase of 3-6% materials costs in the construction sector

Gas prices went through the roof in 2021

→ Energy-intensive building materials (e.g. cement) are undoubtedly going to rise.



Ecology can not be the only driver

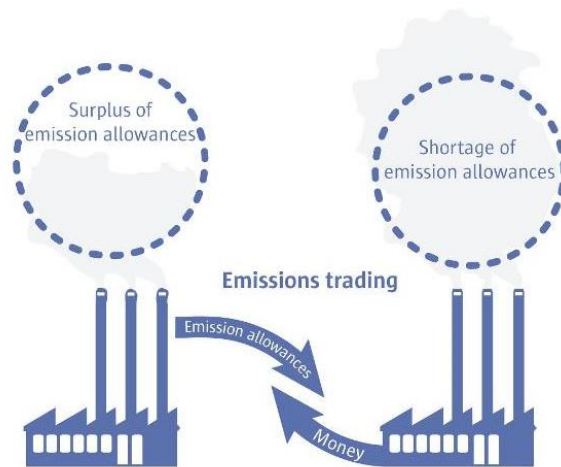
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Cement will become more expensive

Europe's Emissions Trading System (ETS) has been the centerpiece of the EU's climate policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from EU's industrial and power sector.

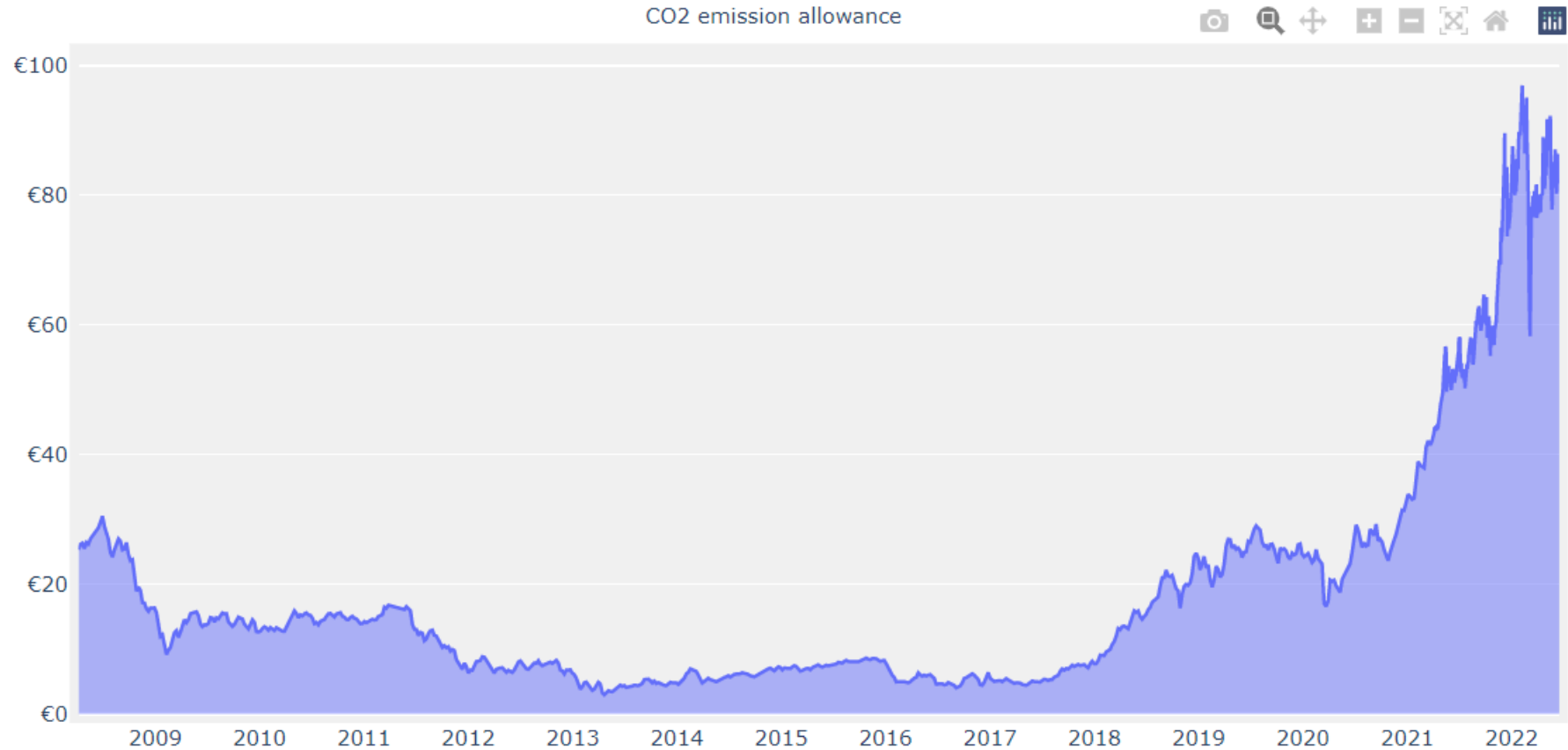
Until today, CO₂ allowances have been received for free by sectors such as steel and cement.

Under the 2030 Climate Target Plan, the EU has agreed to accelerate the pace: reforming the ETS by phasing out free allowances.



Ecology can not be the only driver

EUA Futures
20/06/2022
€82.12
[Source](#)



<https://sandbag.be/index.php/carbon-price-viewer/>



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Cement will become more expensive

Major cement players have announced the price rise for cement over 2021: **30 (!) %**

Since it is uniform, switching supplier is out of the question and the price rise is basically non-negotiable.

—————> **Opportunities for low carbon binders and technologies**



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Policy makers favoring green products

NL: Environmental Cost Indicator (MKI-score)

Impact categorie	Unit	Weighting Factor (€/unit)
Global Warming	kg CO ₂ -eq	0,05 €
Ozon depletion	kg CFC-11-EQ	30,00 €
Acidification of soil and water	kg SO ₂ -eq	4,00 €
Eutrophication	kg PO ₄ ³⁻ -eq	9,00 €
Depletion of Abiotic Resource Elements	kg SB-eq	0,15 €
Depletion of abiotic resources – fossil fuels	kg SB-eq	0,15 €
Human Toxicity	kg 1,4 DB-eq	0,09 €
Freshwater ecotoxicity	kg 1,4 DB-eq	0,03 €
Marine water ecotoxicity	kg 1,4 DB-eq	0,0001 €
Terrestrial ecotoxicity	1,4 DB-eq	0,06 €
Photochemical oxidant creation (Smog)	kg C ₂ H ₄	2,00 €



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So what's holding us back?

- **Need for standardisation on different levels**
 - The development and introduction of such documents is a gradual process at best
- **The unanswered questions about the durability of AAM concrete**
 - Structural concrete must last several decades
 - Data on such time scales is simply not available for a newly developed material

But, we're working on it:

- **RILEM Technical Committees: C224-AAM; 247DTA; 281-CCC; 283-CAM; MPA**
 - Global technical committees with the aim of promoting scientific knowledge regarding building materials, systems and structures and stimulating market uptake.
- **Collaboration with multiple research institutes across EU**
 - European collaborations with large-scale research into sustainability
 - H2020, Horizon Europe, EIT Raw Materials, VLAIO ...
 - Putting it to the test: selecting the right applications
- **In Belgium (2022): WGAAM in the commission E-104**
 - Workgroup with purpose of constructing a norm for alternative binders in collaboration with BE-CERT



Alternative cements/binders: new?

a UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,
 HANS KÜHL, OF BLANKENESE, NEAR HAMBURG, GERMANY, ASSIGNOR, BY MESSE ASSIGNMENTS, TO THE ATLAS PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y., A CORPORATION OF PENNSYLVANIA.
SLAG CEMENT AND PROCESS OF MAKING THE SAME.
 No. 600,939. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 13, 1908.
 Application filed July 3, 1907. Serial No. 381,980.

b THE ACTION OF ALKALIS ON BLAST-FURNACE SLAG
 By A. O. PURDON
 Although slag may be considered to be a cement in itself, hydration proceeds with such extreme slowness that it cannot be used alone as such. The reactions are usually accelerated by incorporation with the slag of lime, Portland cement clinker, or anhydrite. The resulting cements, compared with Portland, are characteristically slow-hardening but attain great strength with time. A relatively small quantity of an alkali is a much more efficient accelerator. The resulting cement has greater strength, both initial and final, than Portland. The optimum quantity of caustic soda is 5-8% of the mixing water. The same effect is produced by incorporation of lime plus a sodium salt in such quantities as to produce a like quantity of caustic soda. Cements made in this way, apart from their characteristically high early strength, have the following advantages over Portland: (a) Heat of hydration is extremely low. (b) Concrete is practically water-tight. (c) Low solubility in pure or aggressive waters.



First patent in 1908



Lower in Ca
 Higher in alkalis, Si en Al



>3M m³ in 80-90's
 in Soviet Union



Parking 58 in 50's
 in Brussels by
 'Le Purdociment'

Alternative cements/binders: new?



Landing strip in Brisbane, Australia
40 000 m³ (2014)



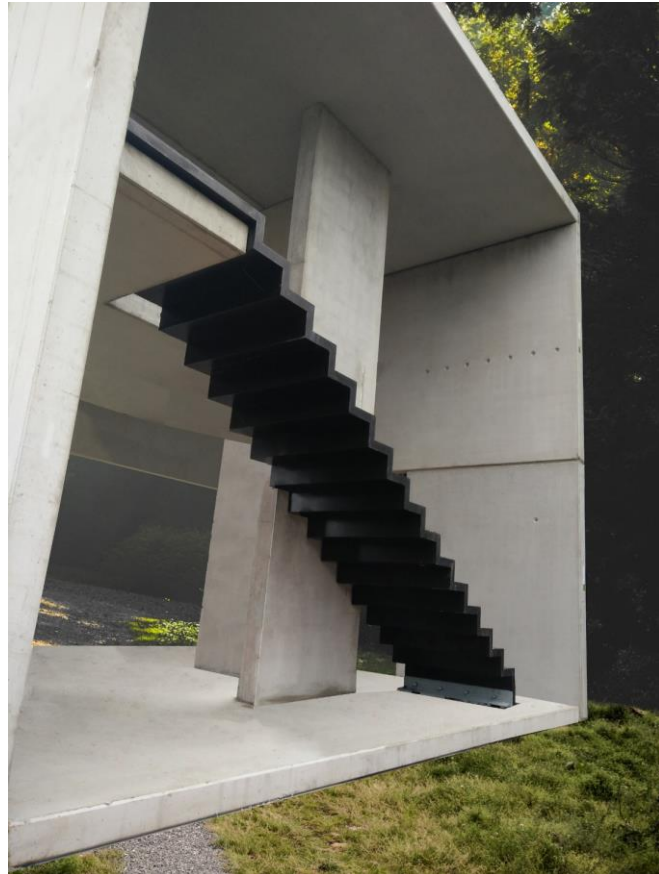
Geopolymer bicycle lane
Zeewolde, NL (2016)



Geopolymer roundabout
Enschede, NL (2017)



Completed by ResourceFull



UHPC staircase,
Lier, BE (2017)



Public infrastructure 22m³
Leuven, BE (2020)



61 m³ of foundations
Kamp C, Westerlo BE (2021)



Public infrastructure
Gent, BE (2021)



The story of the foundations



Interreg North-West Europe URBCON

EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional Development Fund



<https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/urbcon-by-products-for-sustainable-concrete-in-the-urban-environment/>



URBCON demonstrators



Stairs in school building
+ public infrastructure



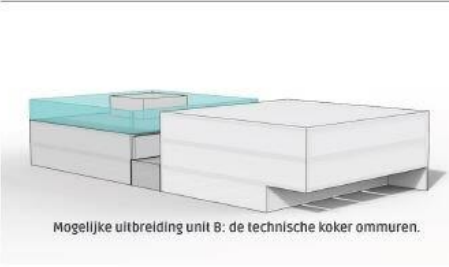
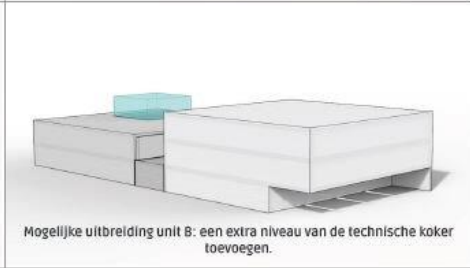
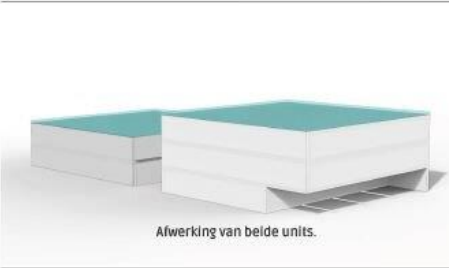
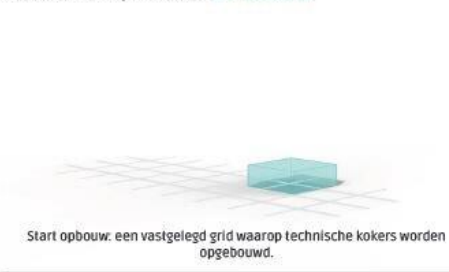
Two pedestrian bridges



Foundation for 't Centrum

't Centrum – Kamp C

Consortium Kamp Circulair | OPBOUW



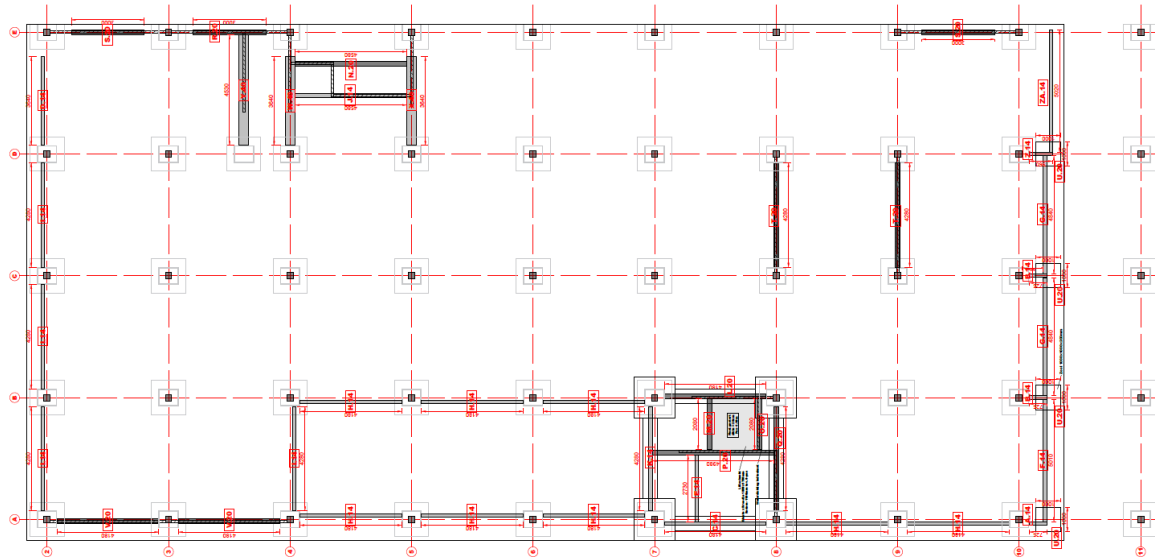
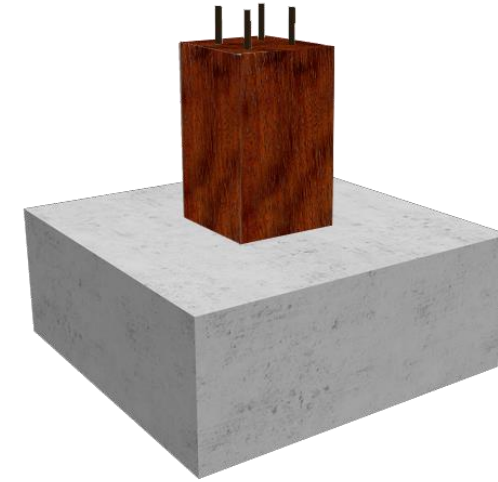
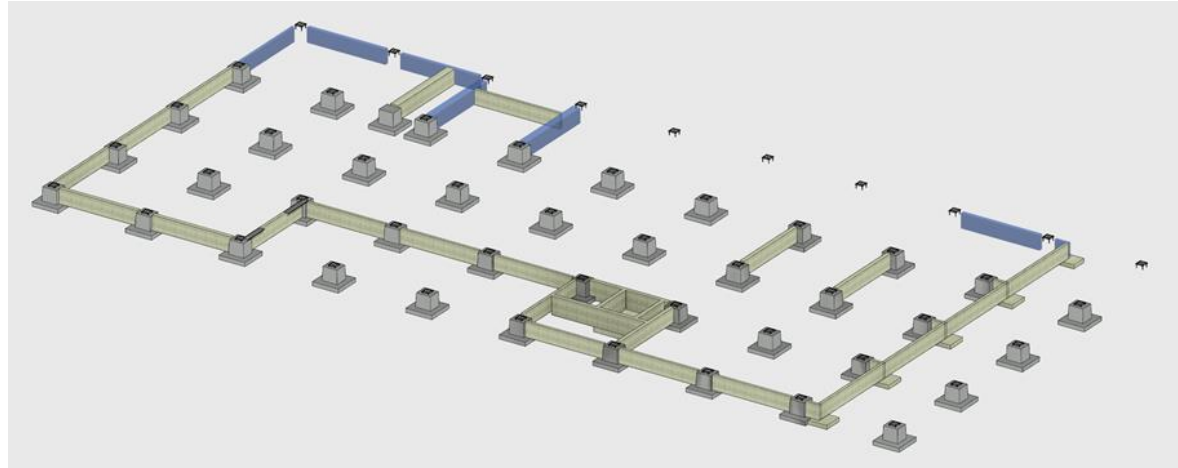
Design based on open plan structure with a symmetrical grid.



't Centrum – Kamp C



't Centrum – Kamp C



- 40 foundation blocks (36 m³)
 - C20/25 EE2 S5 (60 min stability)
- 37 beams (20 m³)
 - C30/37 EE3 SCC (60 min stability)



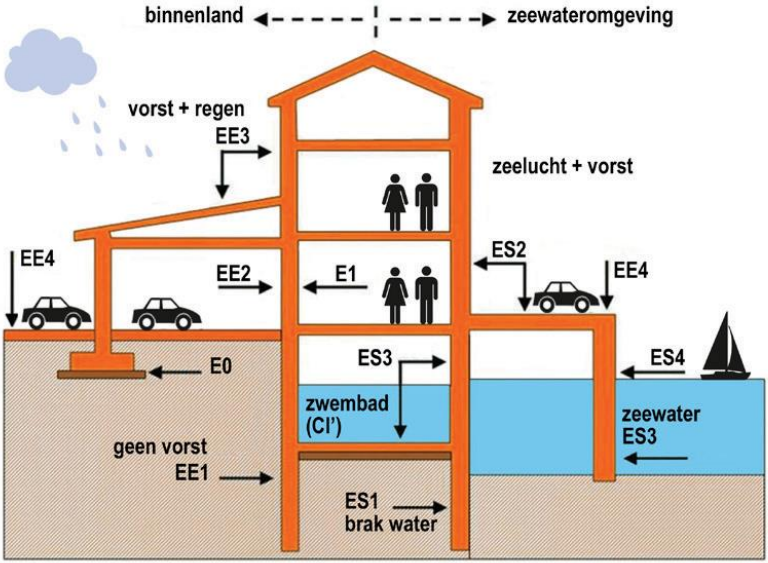
Intermezzo: concrete notation

C20/25 EE2 S5

Strength class

Environmental Exposure class

Slump Flow Class

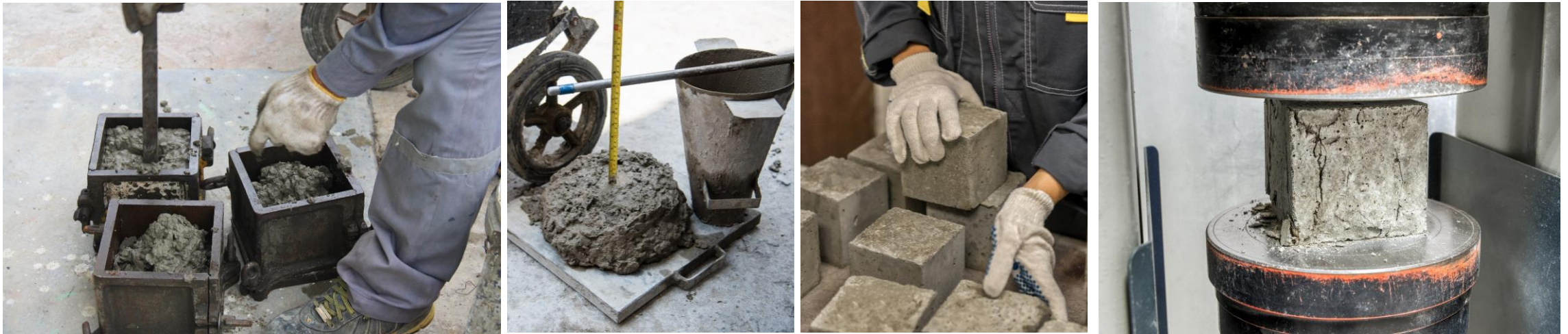


The stages in bringing technology to market

Binder development



Concrete development



The stages in bringing technology to market

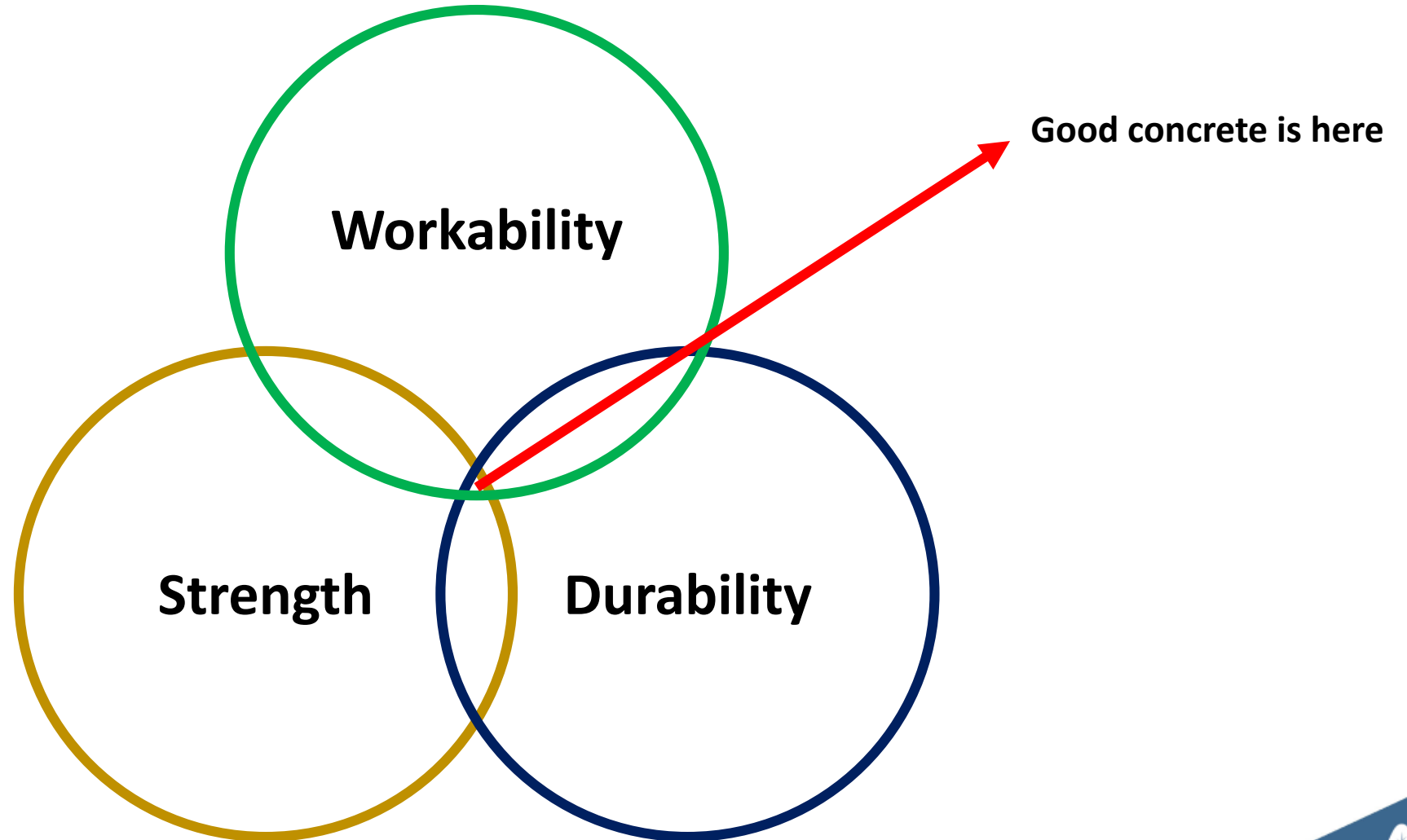
Durability testing



Large scale testing
and monitoring



Holy trinity of concrete theology



...and now for real.



Production partners for the pilot



Willy Naessens

Construct

Bedrijvenpark de Coupure 15
9700 Oudenaarde



J. Janssens & ZN
BOUWMATERIALEN
& BETON



Production of the precast elements

Two different kind of concrete were developed with respectively 0 and 95kg CEM I per m³ of concrete. The foundations were produced during 4 production days and quality control measures were used every two pours.

- Cubes to measure strength
- Water/cement analysis

In the standard recipe, the granular skeleton was completely preserved and only the binder was replaced.







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Production of the ready-mix concrete









URBCON demonstrators



Stairs in school building
+ public infrastructure



Two pedestrian bridges

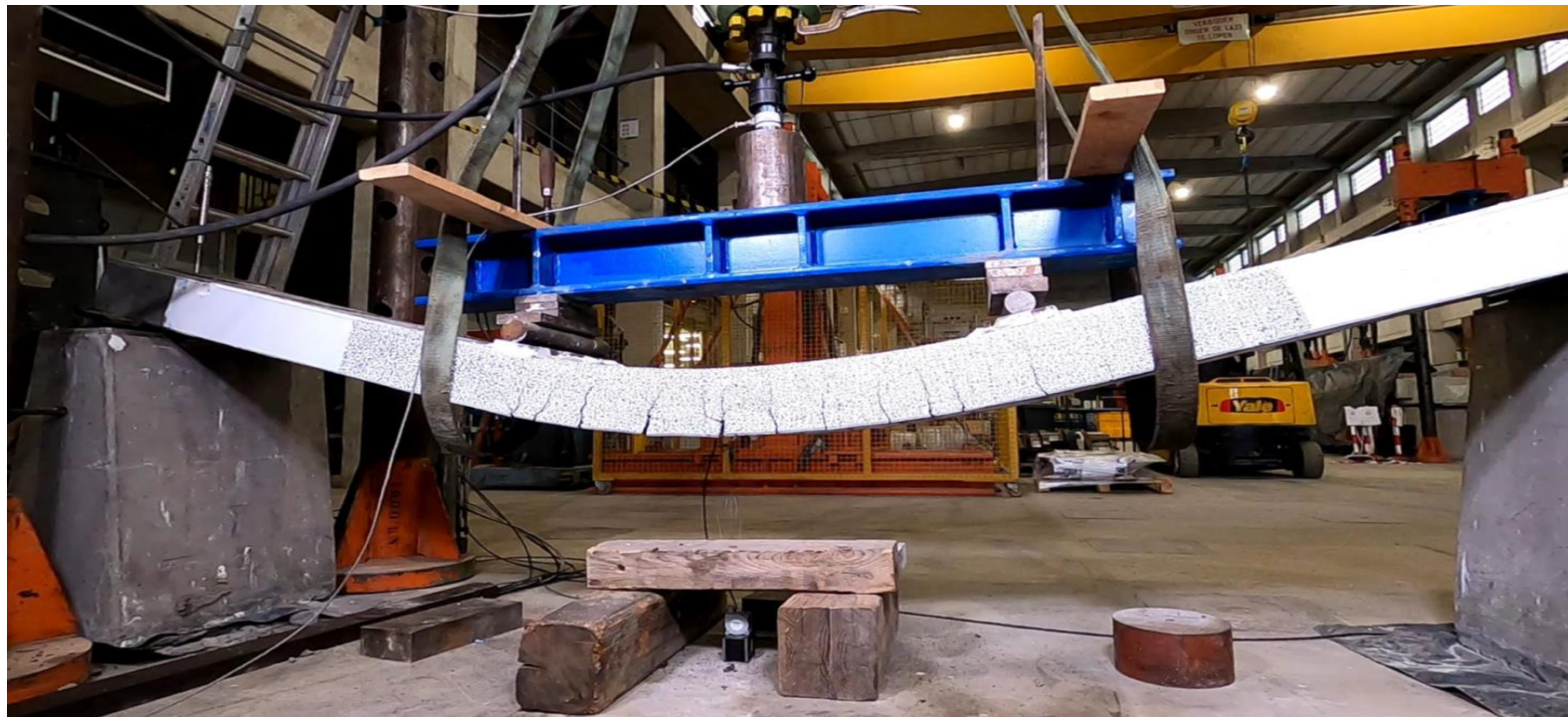


Foundation for 't Centrum



Test	standard	
Slump stability	EN 12350-2	Fresh properties
Fresh density	EN 12350-6	
Air content	EN 12350-7	
Compressive strength	EN 12390-3	Mechanical properties
Flexural strength	EN 12390-5	
Splitting tensile strength	EN 12390-6	
Elastic modulus	EN 12390-13	
Chloride Migration	NT Build 492	Durability properties
Carbonation	EN 12390-12	
Water absorption		
Freeze and thaw - salt	EN 12390-9	
Reinforcement corrosion		
Creep and shrinkage	EN 12390-17	Structural Properties
Pull out (steel rebars)	EN 10080	
Flexural strength - slab		
Shear capacity - slab		







RESOURCEFULL

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Building a greener future, together