Session	Start-ups/SMEs looking for Finance: Pre-seed/Angel/Seed
Title	Turning Mixed Waste into Renewable Chemicals
Company	17Cicada Ltd
Speaker	Peter Knight
TRL	TRL 4 - 7
Keywords feedstock (max 2)	Unrecyclable waste
Keywords technology (max 2)	Microbial biomanufacturing
Keywords End-Product (max 2)	Specialty chemicals

Abstract:

17Cicada converts mixed, unrecyclable waste into renewable chemical building blocks for high-performance plastics, coatings and adhesives. Our first product is FDCA, a renewable aromatic monomer for materials used in sectors including aerospace and automotive that are under growing pressure to decarbonise and replace fossil-derived materials. We are targeting a £3bn global opportunity in high-performance plastics and CASE (coatings, adhesives, sealants and elastomers). Unlike conventional FDCA routes that depend on refined sugars and other costly feedstocks, our patented microbial platform uses abundant, low-cost waste that would otherwise be landfilled or incinerated, creating a structural feedstock advantage as we scale. Our modular hub-and-spoke model separates local waste conversion from controlled product manufacture, supporting capital-efficient deployment. We have demonstrated waste-to-biomass conversion at 100 L scale and continuous FDCA fermentation. 17Cicada is a University of Nottingham spin-out with an exclusive licence to the core technology; the UK patent is granted and international protection is progressing through the PCT process. Four companies have already requested 1 kg FDCA samples. We are now raising £2m for a 24-month programme to supply those first samples, scale production to 100 kg, move five customers into 20 kg early commercial trials, complete the regulatory work needed for commercial sales and establish the basis for recurring FDCA supply.