Session	Start-ups/SMEs looking for Finance: Pre-seed/Angel/Seed
Title	HyprChar: a fungal fire-retardant additive for engineered wood
Company	Hyphera
Speaker	James Ferrier
TRL	3
Keywords feedstock (max 2)	fungi; wood fibre
Keywords technology (max 2)	fermentation; industrial biotechnology
Keywords End-Product (max 2)	fire-retardant additive; engineered-wood ingredients

Abstract:

Hyphera is a materials company developing ingredients from fungi for engineered wood. Our first product, HyprChar, is a fire-retardant additive being developed for wood-panel manufacturers and their resin suppliers.

Conventional fire-retardant additives can interfere with bonding, requiring more resin to maintain board strength. This increases material costs and can make low-emission targets harder to meet. HyprChar is being developed to avoid that trade-off. It is designed to work in existing manufacturing processes, alongside the resins manufacturers already use.

We are starting with fire retardancy, with plans to develop other additives and binders that could replace more of the USD28B petrochemical ingredients markets in engineered wood products. The technology is at proof-of-concept, at TRL 3-4. Hyphera is seeking pre-seed investment to fund further development and move from POC into a MVP customers can trial in commercial settings.