



BATRAW

“Recycling of end-of-life battery packs for domestic raw material supply chains and enhanced circular economy”

Miguel Aguilar
12/12/2024

LEITAT Technological Center



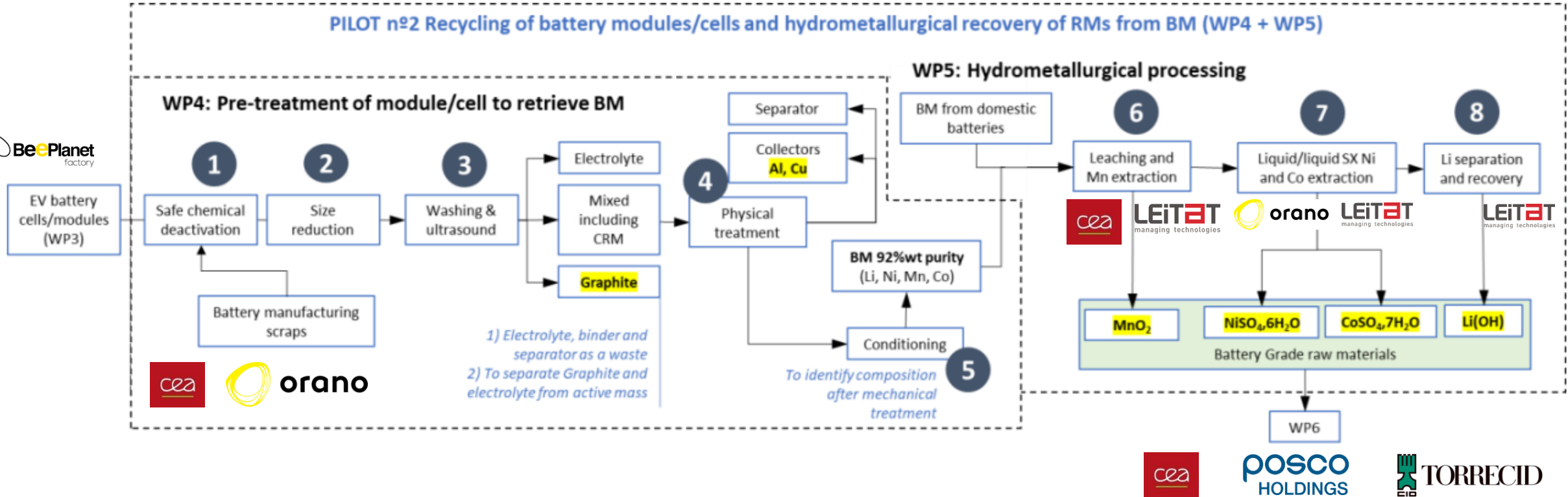
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and Innovation

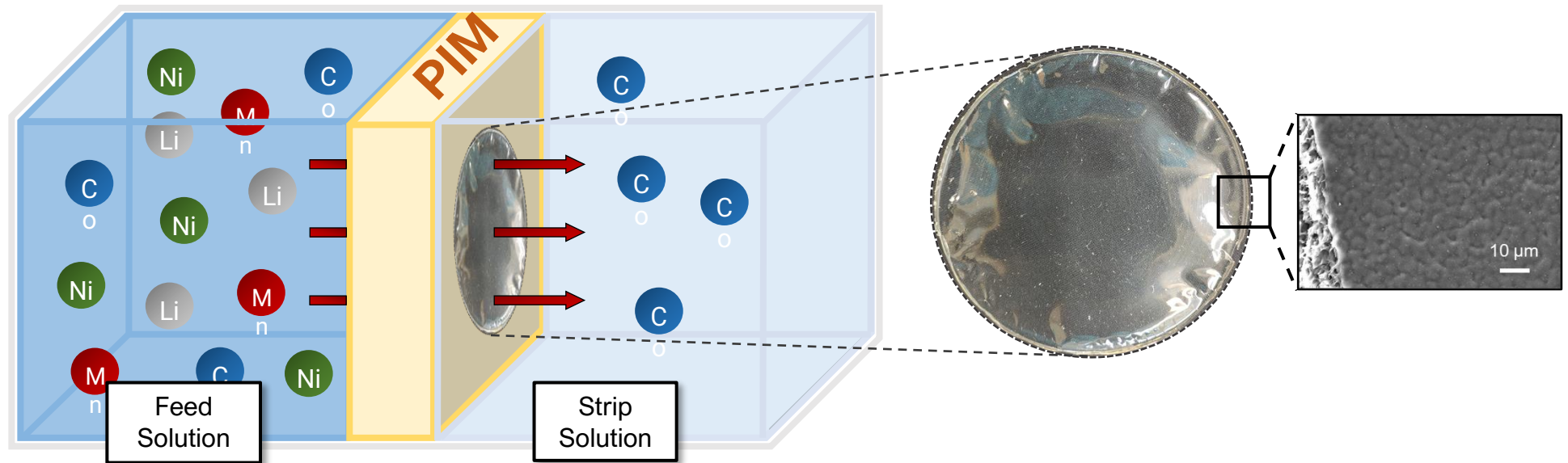
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Pilot 2: Recycling and RM recovery (ORANO, France)



Polymer inclusion membrane

- Polymer inclusion membranes (PIMs) are **dense and hydrophobic**.
- The extractant (ionic liquid) is **embedded within the polymer structure**.
- The extractant forms a **complex with the target metal** present in the feed solution.
- Through **diffusion**, the metal is transferred across the membrane to a stripping solution (in an acidic or basic medium).
- This process can theoretically continue until **all the target metal is extracted**, as long as the initial conditions are maintained.



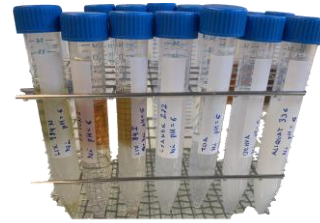
Liquid-liquid extraction

Extractant
Evaluation

PIM development and
characterization

PIM evaluation

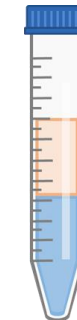
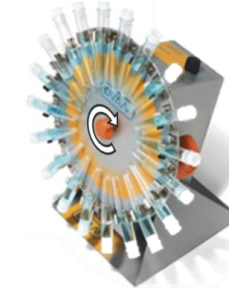
METAL EXTRACTION



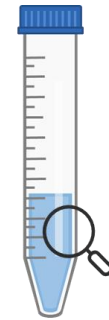
5 mL Extractant
(Organic phase)
+
5 mL Metal
solution 100 ppm
(Aqueous phase)



1.5 h Agitation

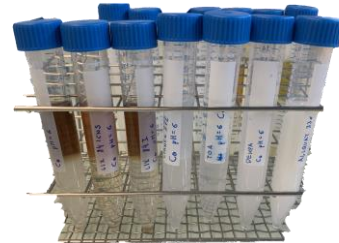


Separate Organic
phase

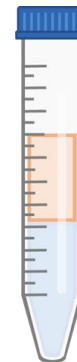


ICP-MS Analysis of the
Aqueous phase

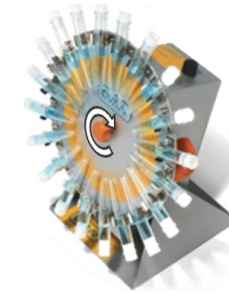
METAL STRIPPING



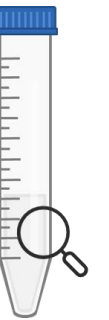
5 mL Extractant
(Organic phase + Metal)
+
5 mL Stripping solution
(Acid/Basic phase)



1.5 h Agitation



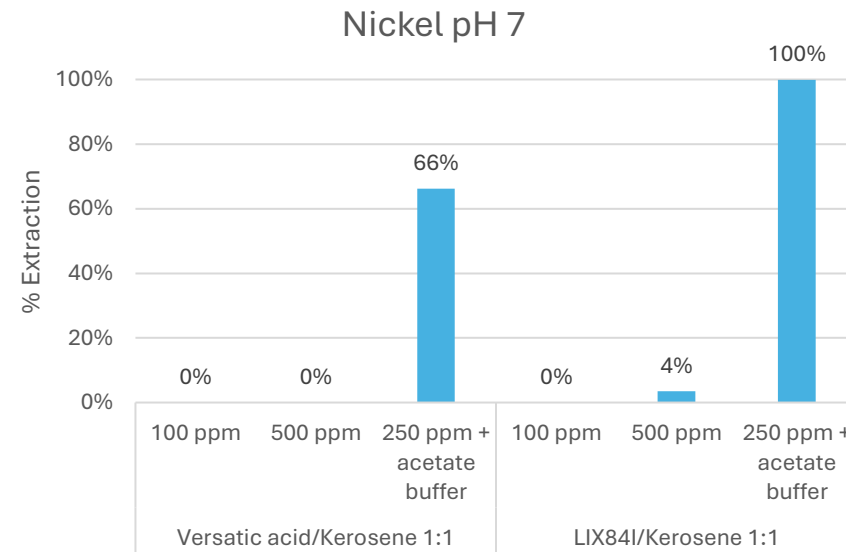
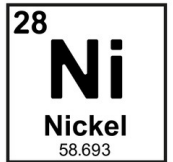
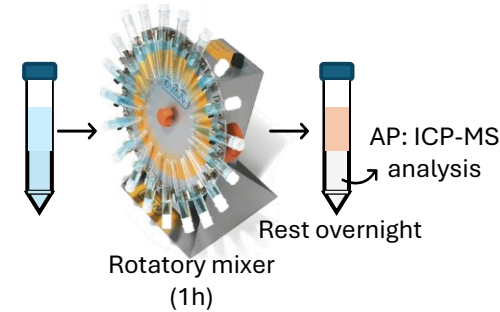
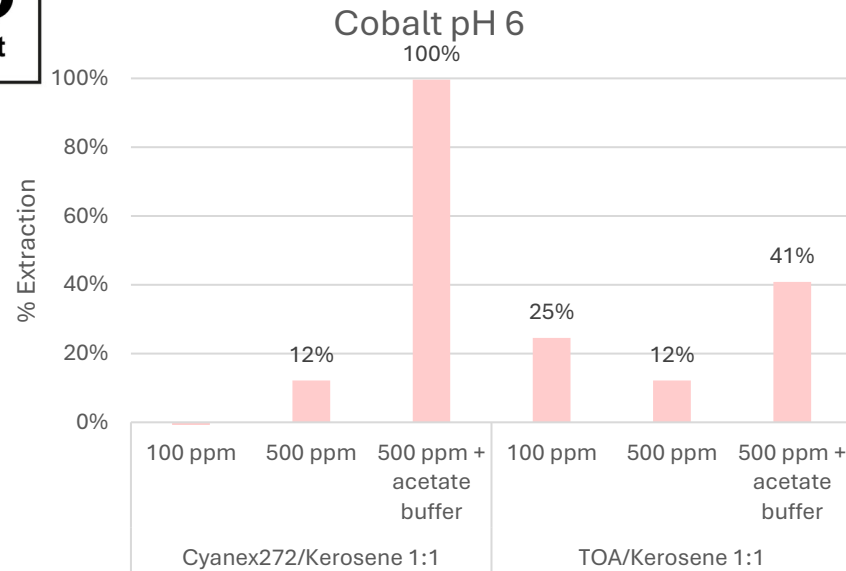
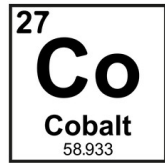
Separate Organic
phase



ICP-MS Analysis of the
Aqueous phase

Results

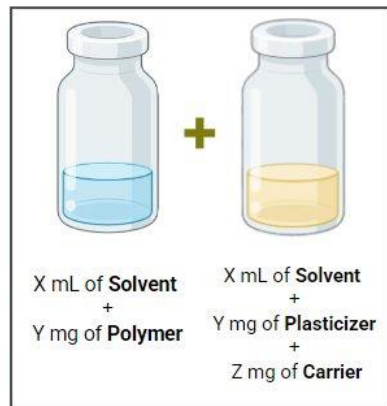
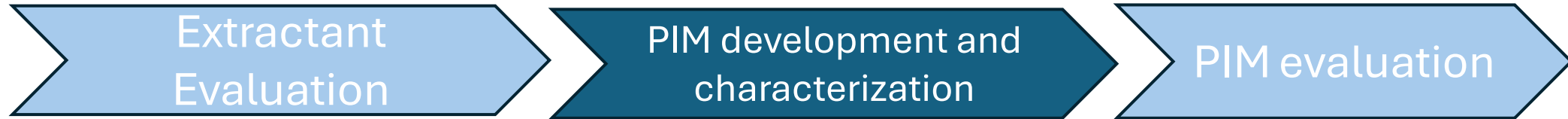
Liquid-liquid extraction: extractant selection



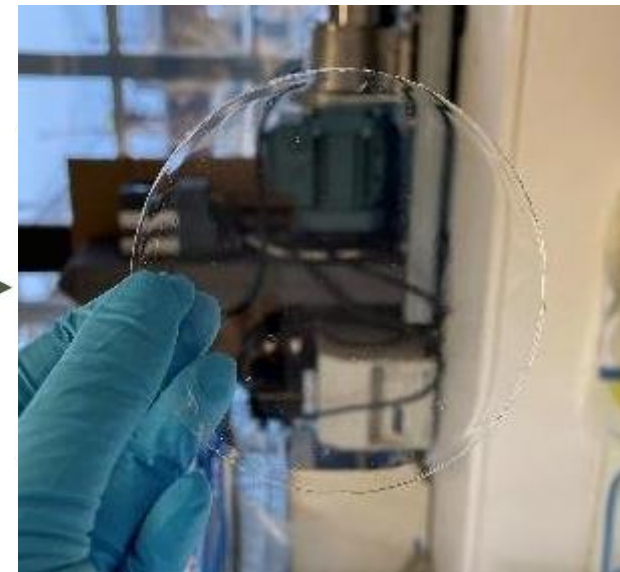
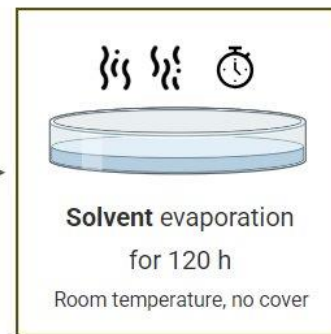
- 100 % extraction has been achieved for Co (Cyanex 272/kerosene 1:1) and Ni (LIX84I/kerosene 1:1)
- All the studied extractants evaluated by L-L extraction had enhanced extraction capacity in the presence of acetic acid/acetate buffer.

Polymer inclusion membrane developing

Membrane fabrication



Ultrasound bath for 2 min



□ More than 150 PIMs with several compositions were developed

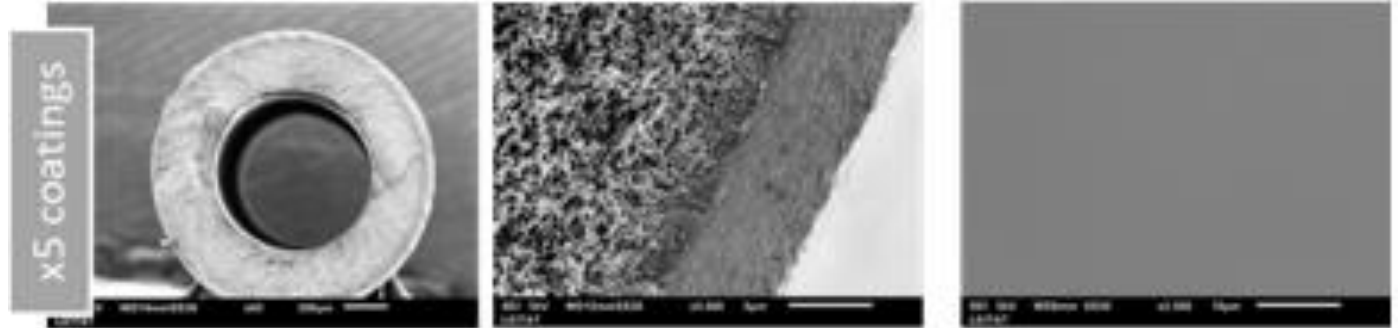
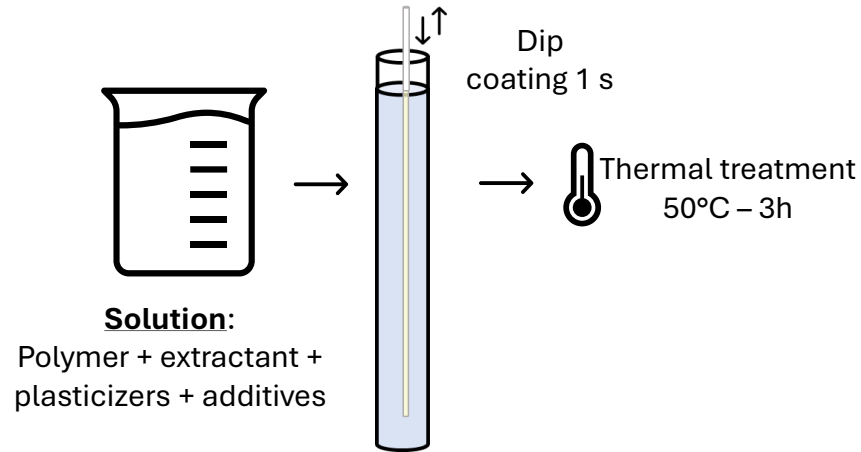
Polymer inclusion membrane developing

Membrane fabrication

Extractant
Evaluation

PIM development and
characterization

PIM evaluation



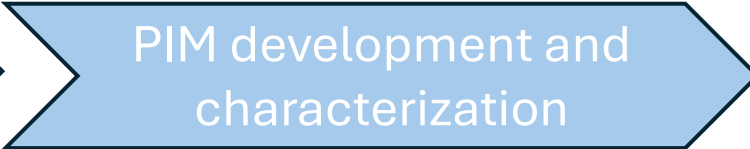
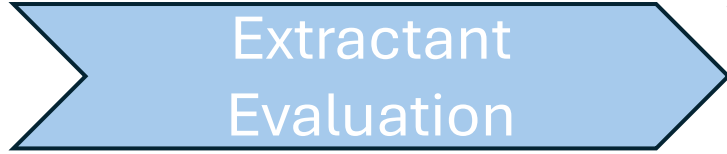
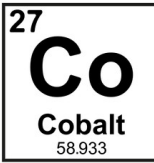
Module
fabrication



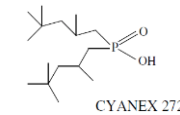
Area = 27.8 cm²



Polymer inclusion membrane developing



Membrane	Composition	Thickness (µm)	% Co(II) Extraction / 30h
PIM-4.5a-10mL	25.6% CTA + 29.3% Cyanex 272 + 39.9% 2NPOE + 5.2% TBP	52 ± 7	55
PIM-4.5-a.1-10mL	↑Cyanex 272	41 ± 8	74
PIM-4.5-a.1-20mL	25.5% CTA + 35% Cyanex 272 + 34.2% 2NPOE + 5.3%TBP	71 ± 12	45
PIM-4.5-a.2-10mL	↑TBP	37 ± 7	61
PIM-4.5-a.2-20mL	25.5% CTA + 29.3% Cyanex 272 + 35.2% 2NPOE + 10% TBP	85 ± 12	64



Experimental conditions

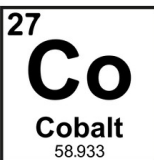
Feed: 0.0085 M Co
pH 6 (acetic acid/acetate buffer)
Strip: H₂SO₄ 1.5 M
Flow: 152 mL/min



Feed and strip solutions after experiment with blue precipitation.

- Increasing Cyanex 272 content in the PIM, increases the Co extraction from 55 % to 74 %, but also increase the precipitation of [Co-Cyanex272]_n.

Polymer inclusion membrane developing

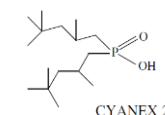


Extractant Evaluation

PIM development and characterization

PIM evaluation

Membrane	Composition	Thickness (μm)	% Extraction Co(II) / 30h	Initial flux J_0 (mol/m ² ·h)
PVC-4.5-A-10mL-2	42.5% PVC + 48.7% Cyanex 272 + 8.8% TBP	16 ± 3	27	0.036
PVC-4.5-E-10mL-2	26% PVC + 29% Cyanex 272 + 5% TBP + 40% DOA	25 ± 3	48	0.051
PVC-4.5-G-10mL-1	26% PVC + 29% Cyanex 272 + 5% TBP + 40% BTS	38 ± 7	82	0.102
PVC-4.5-A-30mL-2	42.5% PVC + 48.7% Cyanex 272 + 8.8% TBP	54 ± 16	22	0.020
PVC-4.5-B-30mL-1	26% PVC + 29% Cyanex 272 + 5% TBP + 40% 2NPOE	63 ± 15	84	0.036
PVC-4.5-G-30mL-1	26% PVC + 29% Cyanex 272 + 5% TBP + 40% BTS	80 ± 7	74	0.051



Experimental conditions

Feed: 0.0085 M Co
pH 6 (acetic acid/acetate buffer)
Strip: H₂SO₄ 1.5 M
Flow: 152 mL/min

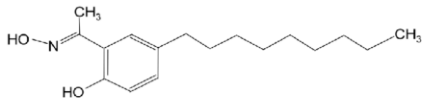
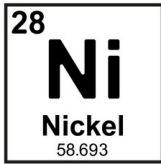
Feed and strip solutions after experiment with less blue precipitation.

- Changing the CTA base polymer for PVC, we are able to maintain the extractant inside the polymer structure avoiding the formation of blue precipitate and also increasing Co recovery from **74% to 82%**.

Extractant Evaluation

PIM development and characterization

PIM evaluation



Feed and strip solutions after experiment, there was no color change

Membrane	Composition	Thickness (µm)	% Extraction Co(II) / 30h	Initial flux J_0 (mol/m ² ·h)
PIM-10.1-A-10mL	30 % CTA + 40 % LIX-84I + 30 % TBP	40 ± 4	60	0.026
PIM-10.1-B-10mL	30 % CTA + 40 % LIX-84I + 30 % 2NPOE	60 ± 14	0.5	0.001
PIM-10.1-C-10mL	30 % CTA + 40 % LIX-84I + 30 % TBEP	33 ± 7	0.2	0.005
PIM-10.1-D-10mL	30 % CTA + 40 % LIX-84I + 30 % DOA	33 ± 4	0.1	0.005

Experimental conditions

Feed: 0.0085 M Ni
pH 6 (acetic acid/acetate buffer)
Strip: H₂SO₄ 1.5 M
Flow: 152 mL/min

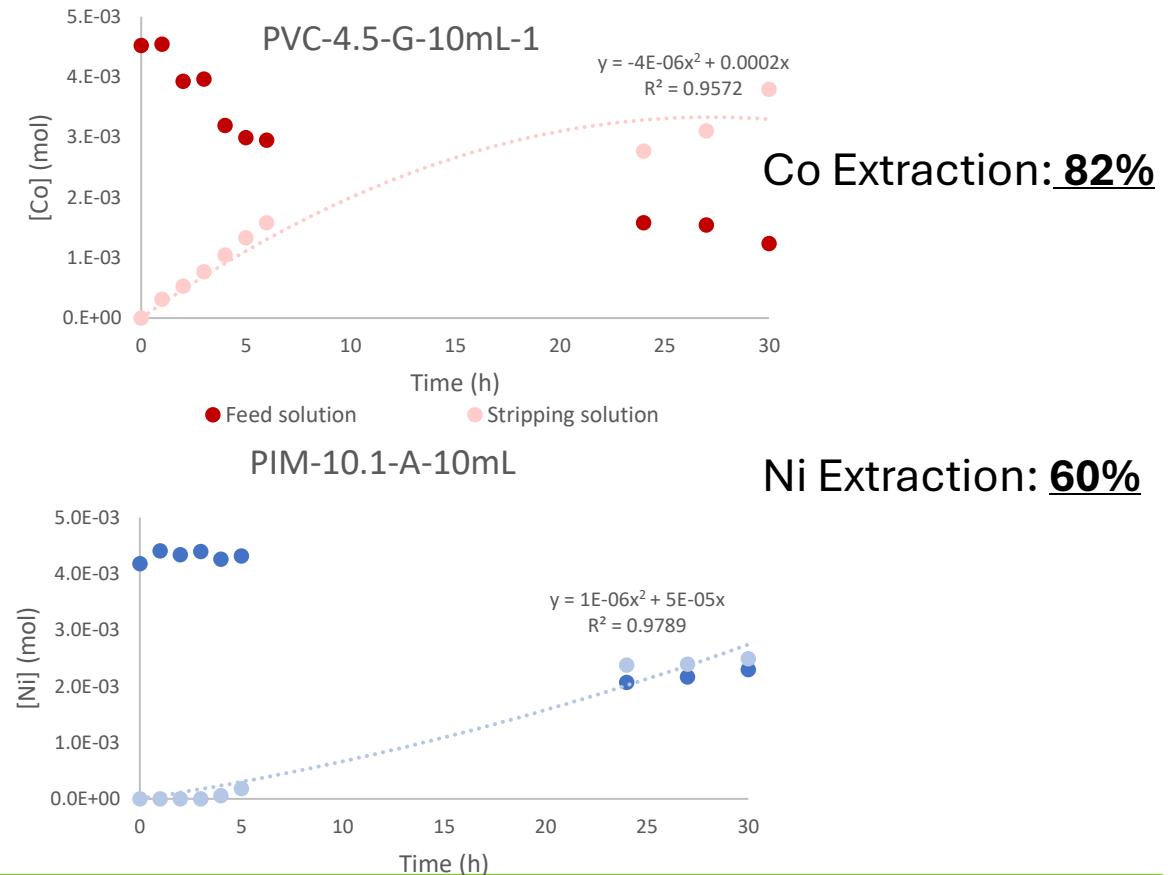
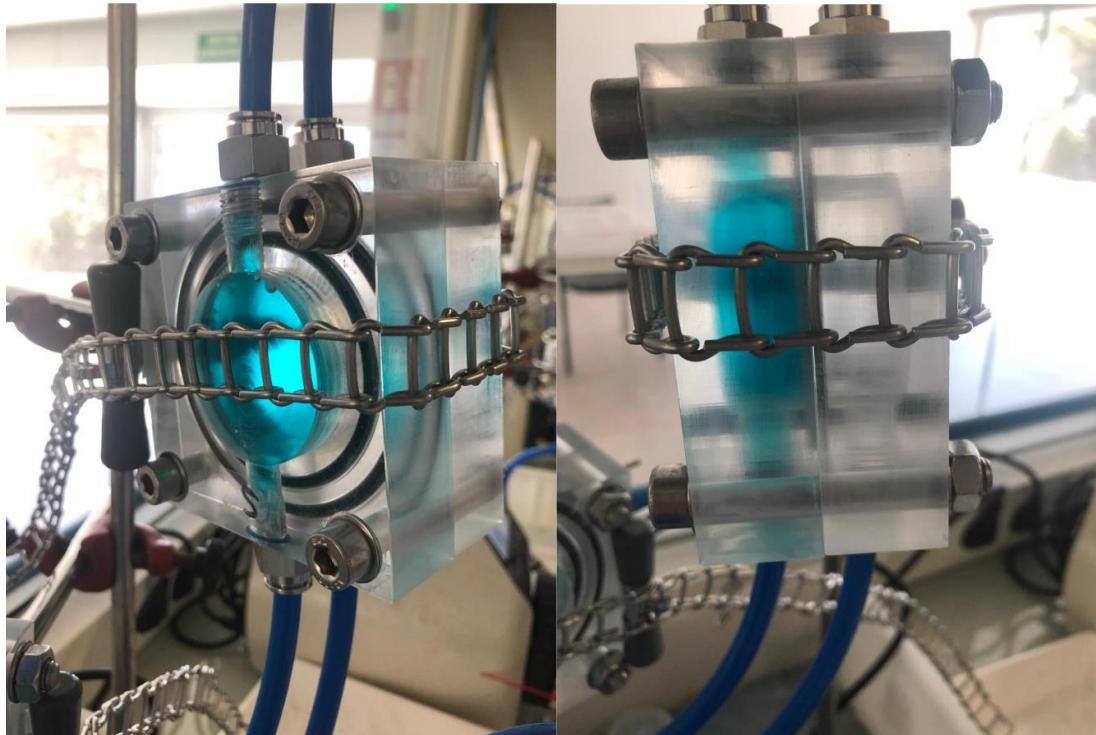
- Versatic acid PIM did not exhibit nickel, extraction ability at pH 7 without the addition of the acetic acid/acetate buffer.
- Different test with LIX-84I + Several plasticizers (2NPOE, TBEP, DOA and TBP)
- The membrane PIM-10-A with LIX84-I and TBP presents good recovery rates for Ni

Polymer inclusion membrane developing

Extractant
Evaluation

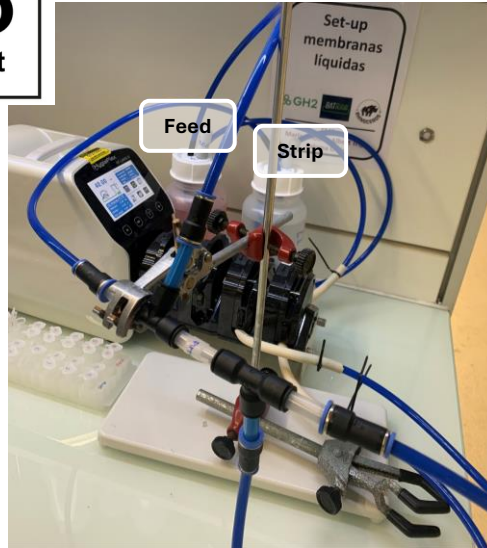
PIM development and
characterization

PIM evaluation



Liquid membrane evaluation: Hollow fiber PIMs

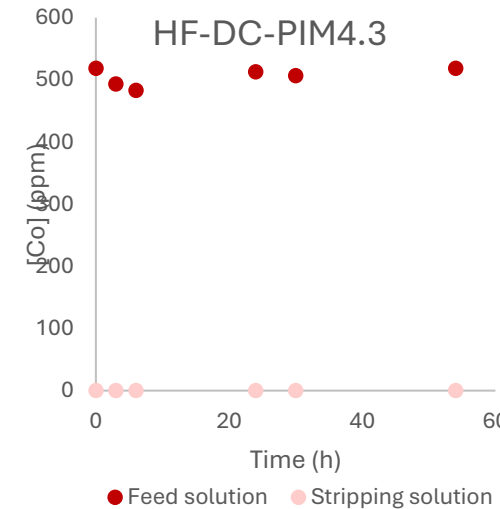
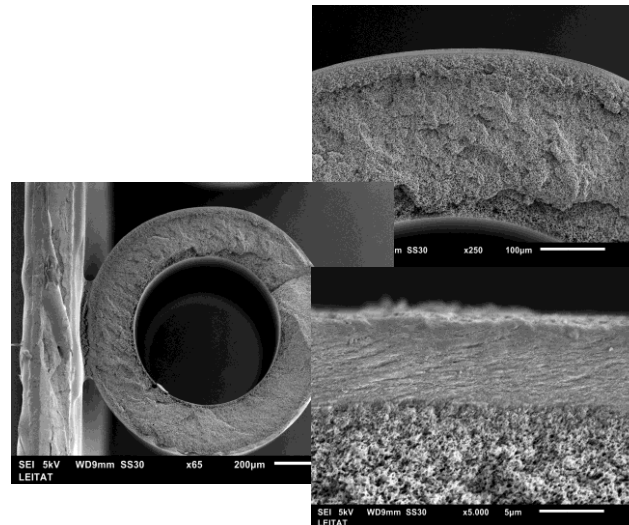
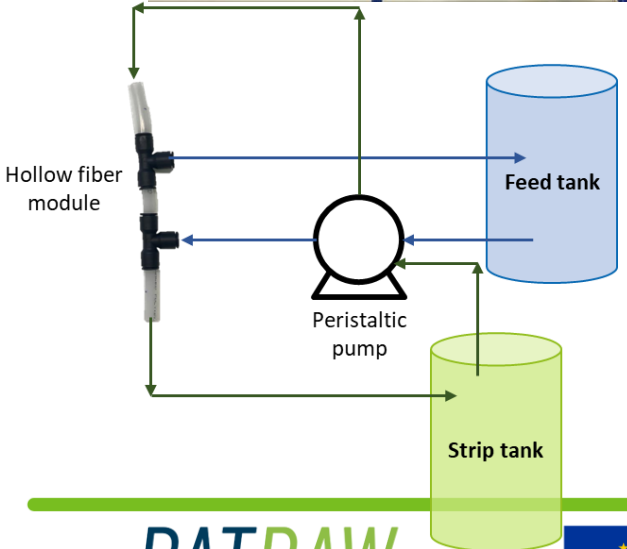
²⁷Co
Cobalt
58.933



Experimental conditions

Feed: 0.0085 M Co pH6 (acetic/acetate buffer)
Strip: H₂SO₄ 1.5 M
Flow: 152 mL/min

Membrane	Extractant	Plasticizer	Supporting membrane	Coating thickness (µm)	Active area (cm ²)	Co(II) %Extraction after 30h
HF-DC-PIM-4.3	Cyanex 272	2NPOE + TBP	PVDF	6 (3 coatings)	27.8	0
HF-DC-PIM-4.4	Cyanex 272	2NPOE	PVDF	8 (7 coatings)	23.7	0
HF-DC-PIM-4.5a	Cyanex 272	2NPOE + TBP	PVDF	4 (10 coatings)	22.9	0
HF-DC-PIM4.5e	Cyanex 272	TBEP + TBP	PVDF	8 (10 coatings)	24.5	0



- All manufactured modules showed no extraction ability.
- PIM-4.5a solution presented good extraction abilities, but the contact between stripping phase and the PIM coating needs to be improved.

Selectivity results using ORANO PLS

Liquor	ORANO PLS			ORANO Mn Raffinate			ORANO Co Raffinate		
pH	6.58	6.60	6.56	2.78	2.77	2.79	6.67	6.70	6.70
	6,6			2,8			6,7		
Liquor Code	Li (g/L)	Na (g/L)	K (g/L)	Co (g/L)	Mn (g/L)	Ni (g/L)	Al (g/L)	Cu (g/L)	Fe (g/L)
ORANO_PLS_1	5.3	30.6	0.3	8.6	10.4	19.2	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
ORANO_PLS_2	4.6	27.3	0.2	7.5	9.4	18.9	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
ORANO_PLS_3	5.0	29.7	0.2	8.4	10.0	18.8	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
Mn_Raffinate_1	4.2	37.2	0.1	6.8	<0.001	19.4	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
Mn_Raffinate_2	5.5	39.8	0.2	7.3	<0.001	18.8	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
Mn_Raffinate_3	4.6	41.3	0.2	7.3	<0.001	19.1	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
Co_Raffinate_1	4.7	50.2	0.2	<0.001	<0.001	18.5	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
Co_Raffinate_2	5.4	56.3	0.3	<0.001	<0.001	21.6	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001
Co_Raffinate_3	4.7	48.9	0.3	<0.001	<0.001	18.8	<0.01	<0.001	<0.001

- Cobalt in Mn_Raffinate
- Nickel in Co_Raffinate

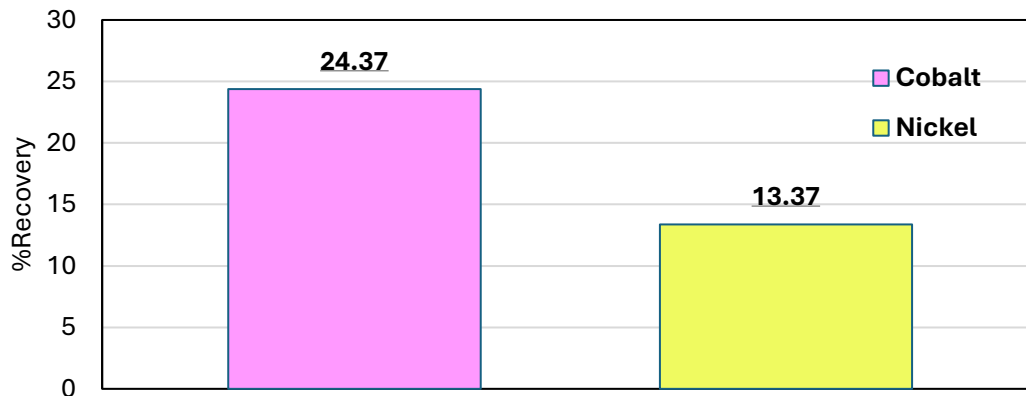
•Membrane selection:

- Mn_Raffinate*: PVC-4.5-G-10ml-1 membrane, efficient for Co recovery and selective against Ni.
- Co_Raffinate*: PIM-10.1-A-10ml membrane, specific for Ni recovery.

Selectivity results using ORANO LEACHEATES**•Mn_Raffinate Evaluation:**

- 24% Co recovery with PVC-4.5-G-10ml-1 after 24h.
- The pinkish color in the stripping stream indicated the presence of Co^{2+} ions.
- Recovery dropped from 84% (synthetic) to 24% (liquor) due to Cyanex-272 acidifying the pH from 6 to 1.5, halting Co transport.

Synthetic solutions used an acetate buffer for pH stability, which is impractical for larger-scale systems with higher volumes.

**•Co_Raffinate Evaluation:**

- 13% Ni recovery with PIM-10.1-A-10ml after 24h.
- Recovery was lower (60% vs. 13%) between synthetic and liquor streams due to the absence of a buffer in the liquor, leading to less pH stability and reduced metal transport efficiency.

RESULTS

- 1,74 g of Cobalt y 2,8 g of Nickel transferred in 24h.
- **37 g/m²·h Co and 60 g/m²·h Ni**



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***Thank you
for your attention!***

Special acknowledgements to Maria Uriburu



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