



**CIRCULAR
ECONOMY**

ACETIC ACID FURFURAL

Caima mill from Altri group aims to establish itself as one of the few companies that can recover acetic acid and furfural from its evaporation condensates, a side stream that can be found in its dissolving pulp production process. It will be the first of a kind plant while using *Eucalyptus globulus* wood as raw material. This project aims to diversify Caima products, to reach new markets and to increase its sources of revenue. Using its side-streams has several advantages: (i) the economic use of these compounds in the chemical industry and (ii) the reduction of the organic load for effluent treatment, replacing a cost by the high value of these compounds in international markets.

Portugal and the European Union (EU) itself are significant importers of acetic acid and furfural, so the project will promote a more efficient response to the high demand for these products. The acetic acid market is projected to grow 5.2% year-by-year to exceed USD 14 billion in 2025, driven by a growing demand for vinyl acetate and increased use of esters in the paints and coatings industry. In parallel, the furfural market is expected to reach USD 2.5 billion in 2026, driven by a growing demand for sustainable chemicals and renewable alternatives to replace fossil resources, in addition to the increase in demand from the pharmaceutical sector.

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