# Xampla secures $14 million to accelerate plant-based plastic alternatives in packaging revolution



UK startup Xampla, a Cambridge University spinout, has secured $14 million in Series A funding to accelerate the development and scaling of its plant-based alternatives to single-use plastic packaging. This latest round, led by Emerald Technology Ventures, BGF, and Matterwave Ventures, brings the company’s total funding to $17.6 million. Existing investors, including Amadeus Capital Partners and Horizons Ventures, also participated. The fresh capital aims to propel Xampla towards its objective of replacing 10 billion units of single-use plastic packaging by 2030, spanning products like takeaway food boxes, coffee cups, and sachets.

Xampla’s flagship product, Morro, is a range of materials made from regenerative plant proteins sourced from peas, potatoes, rapeseed, sunflower, and agricultural waste streams. These materials are designed to be fully biodegradable and home-compostable, providing a sustainable alternative to both fossil-derived and renewable plastic coatings. Morro coatings deliver strong water and oxygen barrier performance, allowing cardboard packaging to remain recyclable without compromising on protection against grease, moisture, or oxygen. This combination addresses the persistent challenge of plastic contamination in recyclable paper packaging.

Beyond coatings, Xampla produces edible and soluble films, suitable for products such as ramen noodle packets, sweets packaging, and plastic-free laundry pods. The company is also innovating in microcapsule technology to replace microplastics commonly used in homecare, personal care, fragrance, and agrochemical products. These microcapsules release active ingredients without the environmental harm caused by conventional microplastics, aligning with growing regulatory pressure to limit plastic pollution.

The worldwide plastic crisis forms the backdrop for Xampla’s mission. Global plastic production is responsible for 3.4% of carbon emissions and is projected to triple by 2060. Despite the generation of over 430 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, only about 9% is recycled. Single-use plastics, which constitute more than 90% of plastic pollution, persist in the environment for centuries, leaching microplastics into soils and waterways. Policymakers in the UK, US states such as California, and the European Union, which aims to ban all single-use plastics by the decade’s end, are increasingly targeting these materials. Notably, Xampla’s Morro materials are exempt from the EU’s Single-Use Plastic Directive, enhancing their attractiveness as compliant sustainable packaging solutions.

Xampla’s technology, co-developed by founders Tuomas Knowles, Marc Rodriguez Garcia, and Simon Hombersley, is being commercialised through partnerships with companies such as 2M Group, Huhtamaki, and Transcend Packaging. Its plant-based coatings have been trialled in food service packaging by delivery services like Just Eat Takeaway’s German arm, Lieferando, supported by collaborations with Bunzl Catering Supplies. Several restaurant partners in Hamburg, Essen, Munich, and Wiesloch have tested the packaging as part of early trial phases promoting plastic-free alternatives.

The startup’s home-compostable films are entering markets via global FMCG partnerships, while microcapsule innovations are being introduced in the homecare and beauty sectors to replace harmful conventional plastics. Industry investors highlight Morro’s appeal as a “drop-in” replacement compatible with existing manufacturing processes, reducing barriers for adoption and enabling cost-effective transitions from plastic.

Xampla is part of a broader wave of innovation in sustainable packaging, following similar funding successes by companies like London-based Notpla, which has developed seaweed-based packaging, and Germany’s Vytal Global, which offers reusable food packaging technology. These developments underscore a growing momentum within the materials science field, driven both by regulatory shifts and consumer demand for plastic alternatives.

Xampla CEO Alexandra French emphasises the transformational potential of their technology, stating their ambition to make Morro the “world’s go-to plastic replacement,” a goal supported by investor confidence and high-profile partnerships. With the ongoing surge in capital investment and collaborative efforts, Xampla is positioning itself at the forefront of the green packaging revolution, aiming to significantly reduce the environmental impact of single-use plastics on a global scale.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[2]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[5]](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[4]](https://xampla.com/xampla-secures-7m-funding-to-advance-plastic-elimination/), [[6]](https://www.uktech.news/climate-tech/xampla-plastic-5-5m-20240130)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[4]](https://xampla.com/xampla-secures-7m-funding-to-advance-plastic-elimination/), [[6]](https://www.uktech.news/climate-tech/xampla-plastic-5-5m-20240130)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-68166414), [[5]](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[5]](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[5]](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[5]](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html), [[7]](https://www.finsmes.com/2024/01/xampla-raises-7m-in-funding.html)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-68166414), [[5]](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/xampla-morro-materials-plant-based-plastic-sustainable-packaging-funding/> - Xampla, a UK-based startup, has secured $14 million in Series A funding to scale up its plant-based alternative to single-use plastic packaging. The funding round was led by Emerald Technology Ventures, BGF, and Matterwave Ventures, bringing the company's total raised to $17.6 million. The capital will enable Xampla to replace 10 billion units of single-use plastic with its Morro materials by the end of the decade, including in takeaway food boxes, coffee cups, and sachets. Xampla's Morro materials are made from regenerative plant proteins and are fully biodegradable and home-compostable. The company is working with global partners to expand its plastic-free packaging solutions.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-68166414> - Cambridge-based startup Xampla has secured £5.5 million in funding to advance its mission of eliminating plastic. The company, a spin-off from the University of Cambridge, specialises in plant-based coatings and aims to replace plastic-based coatings in takeaway packaging, sachets, and cups. The funding will support the development of Xampla's consumer brand, Morro, which is plant-based, fully compostable, and biodegradable. Companies such as Britvic and Gousto are already using Xampla's products. ([bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-68166414?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://xampla.com/xampla-secures-7m-funding-to-advance-plastic-elimination/> - Xampla, a UK-based natural materials company, has raised $7 million in funding to advance the production of its biodegradable, plant-based materials. The funding round was co-led by Cambridge Enterprise and global technology investor Amadeus Capital Partners, with participation from Sky Ocean Ventures and the University of Cambridge Enterprise Fund VI. The capital will enable Xampla to develop its prototype material into products, targeting the $12 billion microencapsulation market. Xampla's plant protein-based materials aim to replace microplastics in everyday items, offering a sustainable solution to plastic pollution. ([enterprise.cam.ac.uk](https://www.enterprise.cam.ac.uk/news/xampla-breakthrough-plant-protein-solution-for-hidden-plastics-receives-funding-boost/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html> - Xampla, a UK materials innovation company, has secured $14 million in private capital to replace single-use plastics with plant-based alternatives. The funding will enable Xampla's Morro materials to substitute more than ten billion units of single-use plastics by 2030, including takeaway box linings, coffee cups, and sachets. The investment was led by Emerald Technology Ventures, with contributions from BGF and Matterwave Ventures, and additional support from existing investors Amadeus Capital Partners and Horizons Ventures. Xampla's Morro materials are made from regenerative plant proteins and are fully biodegradable and home-compostable. ([globenewswire.com](https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2025/09/03/3143329/0/en/TEN-BILLION-items-of-single-use-plastic-to-be-replaced-following-14m-investment-in-Xampla.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.uktech.news/climate-tech/xampla-plastic-5-5m-20240130> - Cambridge-based cleantech company Xampla has raised $7 million (£5.5 million) in funding to advance its plant-based, biodegradable material that aims to replace plastic. The startup's mission is to eliminate the need for plastic by replacing it with 'Morro', a proprietary material that can break down quickly and fully without releasing any harmful pollutants. The funding round featured participation from CIECH Ventures and previous backers Amadeus Capital Partners, Horizon Ventures, Cambridge Angels, Cambridge Enterprise, and Martlet Capital. ([uktech.news](https://www.uktech.news/climate-tech/xampla-plastic-5-5m-20240130?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.finsmes.com/2024/01/xampla-raises-7m-in-funding.html> - Xampla, a Cambridge, UK-based natural materials company, has raised $7 million in funding. The round, which brought the total amount to $17.6 million, saw participation from Amadeus Capital Partners, Horizon Ventures, Cambridge Angels, Cambridge Enterprise, Martlet Capital, and CIECH Ventures. The company intends to use the funds to expand the applications of its consumer brand, Morro, into new markets, and to advance production of biodegradable, plant-based materials, supporting big brands to move away from single-use plastic. ([finsmes.com](https://www.finsmes.com/2024/01/xampla-raises-7m-in-funding.html?utm_source=openai))