



PreScouter is helping clients identify safe alternatives for harmful forever chemicals



Problem:

In 2020, manufacturers of food contact substances containing short-chain PFAS with 6:2 fluorotelomer alcohol (6:2 FTOH) committed to a 3-year voluntary market phase-out of their sales of these substances with the FDA to begin in 2021.

The Client was making paper-based fiber products, to which an additive containing fluorinated compounds (PFAS) was added in order to impart oil and grease resistance. Their aim was to move away from fluorinated compounds entirely. They came to PreScouter for help in identifying suitable alternatives that they could start prototyping as soon as possible.

Our Approach:

PreScouter performed secondary research of publicly disclosed potential solutions, landscaping **23 potential PFAS alternatives** (chemical and physical). The team then anonymously contacted **17 technology** providers to confirm their oil and grease resistance capabilities.

Additionally, PreScouter interviewed three Subject Matter Experts to gain insights into PFAS alternatives applicable to the Client's use case.

Solution & Outcome:

PreScouter recommended 3 promising technologies in the later stages of development offering drop-in solutions that the Client was not previously aware of, including one top-recommended technology in the patent application process, which the Client went on to pilot test.

PreScouter also identified two additional potential partners in the earlier stages of technology development for possible co-development of a solution.



How else can PreScouter's Research Support Service answer your questions and bring new solutions to light faster?

- What alternative additives can provide oil and grease resistance without imparting the harmful effects of PFAS?
- Are there safer chemicals that can be used as alternatives to PFAS additives to impart other properties, such as stain resistance, non-sticking, or surface tension reduction (i.e., surfactants)?
- Beyond chemical solutions, what other technologies are available that can perform the actions of PFAS?
- What new technologies are in development to replace PFAS?

