

Cefic's AMBIT software tool reaching users around the globe

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Cefic's AMBIT software tool has been accessed from 58 different countries since its relaunch last year, according to IT programmer IdeaConsult. Version two of the tool (AMBIT2) will be released next month.

Cefic relaunched AMBIT in May 2016. The free tool was developed by a computational toxicology team at Swiss chemical company Clariant, together with IdeaConsult, under Cefic's Long Range Research Initiative (LRI) programme. Echa provided access to its non-confidential REACH dataset of 14,570 substances, which is integrated into the software.

AMBIT is designed to help companies to comply with chemicals regulation by using read-across. It allows them to search for existing information on chemical safety and to upload their own data securely online.

Companies also have an option to download the entire AMBIT system and install it in their intranet systems to connect with internal databases.

The tool now has 540 registered users from over 300 companies and universities, according to IdeaConsult.

Feedback so far suggests that the tool is "excellent" for identifying data gaps and supporting read-across and category formation, says Bruno Hubesch, LRI programme consultant.

AMBIT2 will contain updated REACH information as well as the European Food Safety Authority (Efsa) OpenFoodTox databases. Output will be available in InChI 6 format to be compatible with REACH 2018.

"The idea is to keep AMBIT up to date by upgrading regularly, including importing new databases and sources," says Dr Hubesch.

Cefic plans to run a training session on AMBIT2 before the autumn.

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