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Prof. Rafael Luque (Ph.D 2005 from Universidad de Cordoba, Spain) has a significant experience on biomass and waste valorisation practises to materials, fuels and chemicals over the past 10 years after spending a 3-year postdoctoral placement in the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence at the University of York with Prof. James Clark. He has also extensively published in the areas of (nano)materials science, heterogeneous (nano)catalysis, microwave and flow chemistry, biofuels and green chemical methods in synthetic organic chemistry. From 2009, he has been Ramon y Cajal Fellow at UCO in Spain and spend sabbatical periods at the EPA at Cincinnati (with Dr. Rajender Varma), at the Max Planck in Berlin (with Prof. Markus Antonietti) and City University of Hong Kong (with Prof. Carol Lin).

He has published over 170 research articles, filed 3 patent applications and edited 5 books as well as numerous contributions to book chapters and invited, guest and keynote lectures worldwide. He is also heavily involved in Chemical Education and promoting Science in Developing Countries. Prof. Luque is also member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the prestigious journals Chemical Society Reviews (RSC), Catalysis Communications (Elsevier), Current Organic Synthesis (Bentham Publishers) and Current Green Chemistry (Bentham Publishers) and was recently awarded the Marie Curie Prize from Instituto Andaluz de Quimica Fina in Spain (2011), the Green Talents award from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in Germany (2011), the TR35 Spain (2012) from Technology Review and MIT as one of the top 10 young entrepreneurs in Spain and very recently the RSC Environment, Sustainability and Energy Early Career Award 2013 from the Royal Society of Chemistry. Prof. Luque has also been recently honoured as Distinguished Engineering Fellow 2013 from HKUST in Hong Kong.

Prof. Luque combines his academic duties with his activities as young entrepreneur after co-founding the spin-off companies Starbon® Technologies at York, UK (2011, <http://www.starbon-technologies.com/>) which markets novel biomass derived carbonaceous materials and Green Applied Solutions S.L. (GAS, <http://greenappliedsolutions.com/>) in Cordoba, Spain (2012) as a R&D and consultancy on waste valorization to marketable products.