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Jean-Philippe Fusier, owner and ceo of MTB Recycling (France)

Obviously, only one can kick off Recycling International's Top 100. When it comes inspiring others - within and beyond the sector - this entrepreneur has certainly won his spurs.

Fusier is mostly known as a recycling machinery producer operating under the same MTB brand name. But, as with most equipment suppliers, MTB began as a scrap recycler and today manufacture and scrap recycling still go hand in hand. Based in Trept, east of Lyon, Fusier and his dedicated team process some 50 000 tonnes of non-ferrous per year, mainly copper and aluminium cable.

We see Fusier as a visionary and innovative recycler, rather than motivated by making ever more money. What drives him is helping to create a healthy environment for future generations and to secure the future of his company. In recent economic rough years and challenging scrap market conditions, Fusier had the guts to invest EUR 17 million in a new facility to ramp up production and shredding capacity.

The eco-design plant delivers 80% of the required electrical supply thanks to solar panels and a series of batteries. MTB also has a fleet of electric vehicles along with a sports hall, canteen and greenhouses for employees to enjoy some gardening during their lunch hour.

Fusier is patron of the SeaCleaners association, founded in 2016 by French ecological adventurer Yves Bourgnon to eliminate ocean plastic pollution. MTB is a technical partner of the foundation's Manta project. The sailing ship Manta can be best described as a floating plastics recycling facility and research lab. The vessel is due to be deployed in the coastal waters of the Mediterranean in 2022-23.