

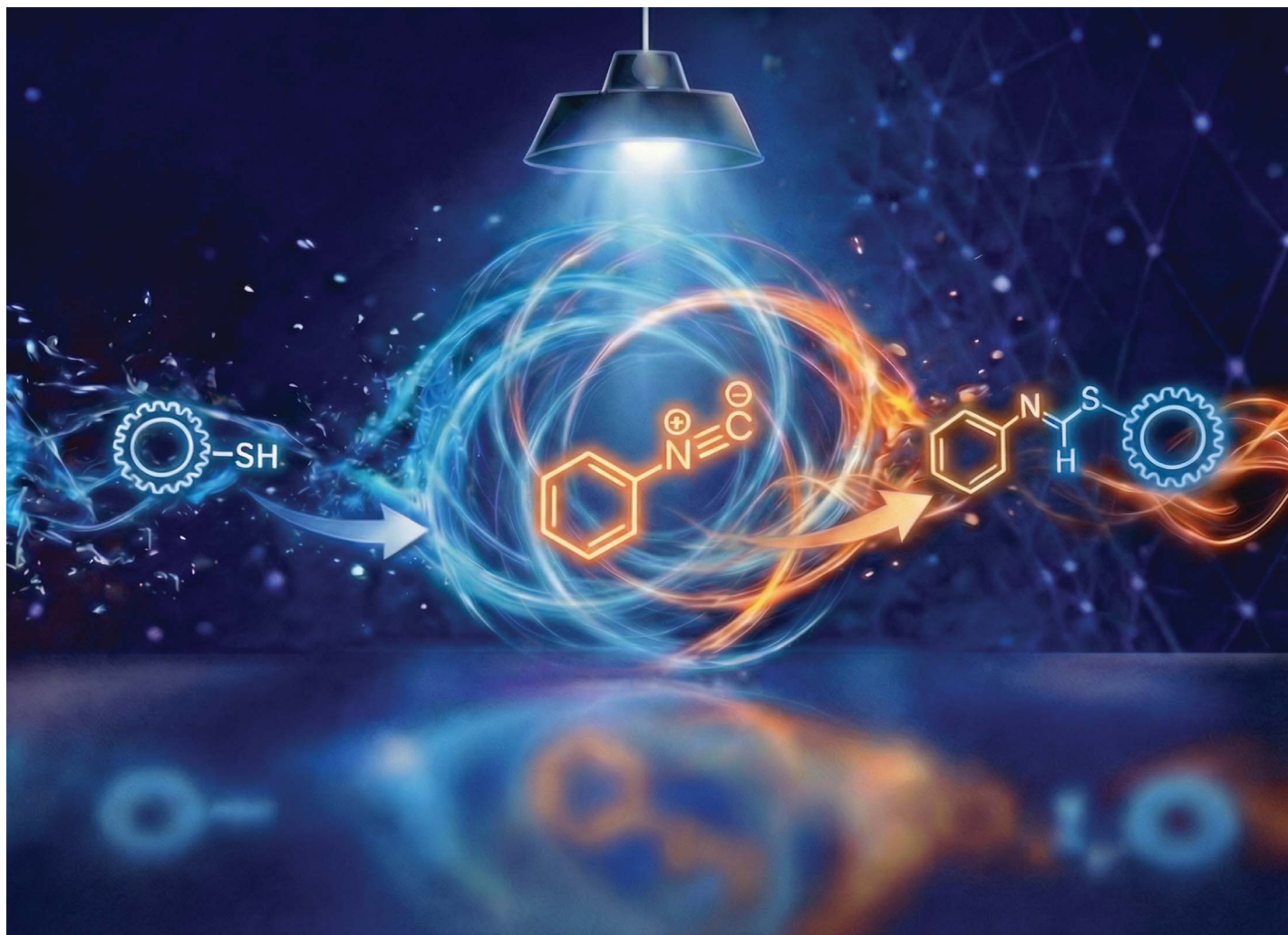
# RSC Applied Polymers

The application of polymers,  
both natural and synthetic

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Fundamental questions  
Elemental answers



Showcasing research from the Biobased Organic Chemistry group, Aachen-Maastricht Institute for Biobased Materials, The Netherlands and the Department of Pharmacy, University of Naples Federico II, Napoli, Italy.

Non-innocent behaviour of aromatic isocyanides under visible light: a pathway to thioformimidates and dehydroalanine

We disclose a mild, additive-free, visible-light method for the synthesis of thioformimidates. The study shows that aromatic isocyanides can generate thiyl radicals upon irradiation, enabling radical initiation under simple conditions. Beyond small-molecule synthesis, the approach allows selective activation of cysteine thiols in dipeptides, followed by conversion to dehydroalanine. This creates a practical entry to late-stage peptide modification and expands the toolbox for site-selective transformations in complex biomolecules.

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As featured in:



See Mariateresa Giustiniano, Romano Orru, Prabhat Ranjan *et al.*, *Chem. Sci.*, 2026, **17**, 5387.