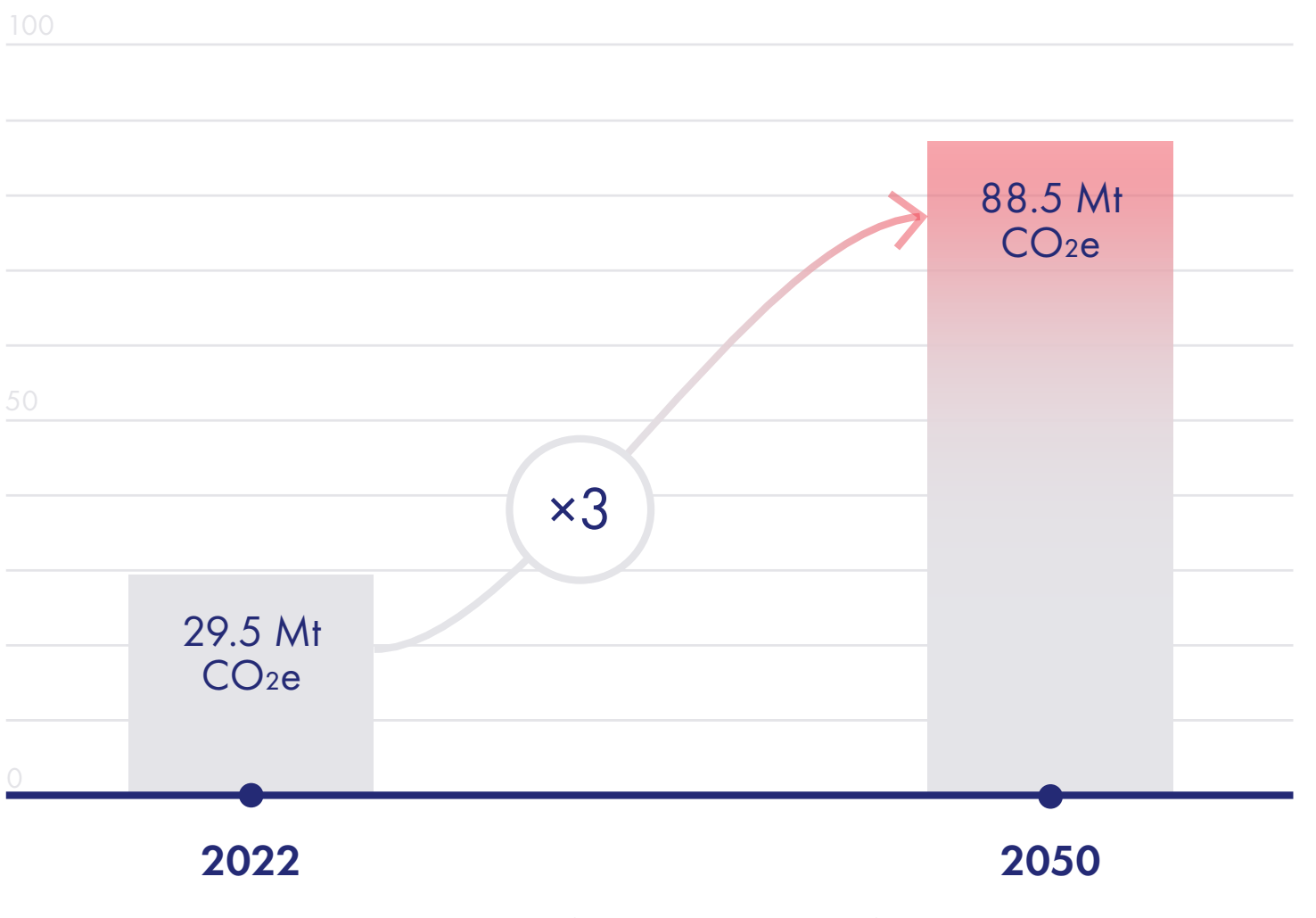
THALES
Building a future we can all trust

Towards a more responsible mobile connectivity

The digital transformation, with its ever-growing number of connections for people and objects, brings enhanced user experiences and advanced data processing through technologies like cloud computing, AI, and data analytics. However, it also poses significant environmental challenges.



Projection of the evolution of the environmental impact of digital technology in France

The telecom industry is committed to sustainability

GSMA defined ESG objectives based on the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the ambitious objective of achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

70 mobile network operators (MNOs)

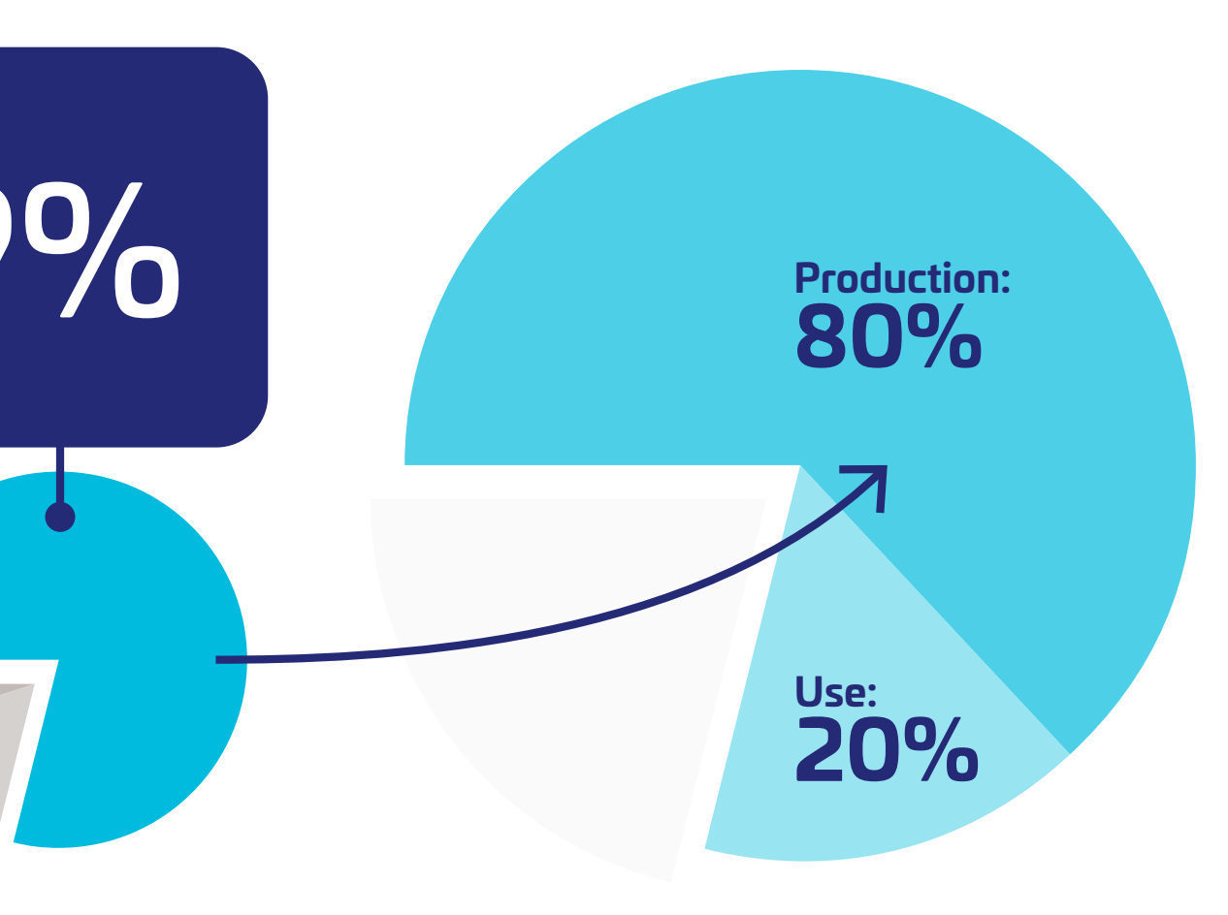
more than 50% of mobile connections worldwide

have adopted an SBTi-certified strategy

SCIENCE BASED TARGETS
DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

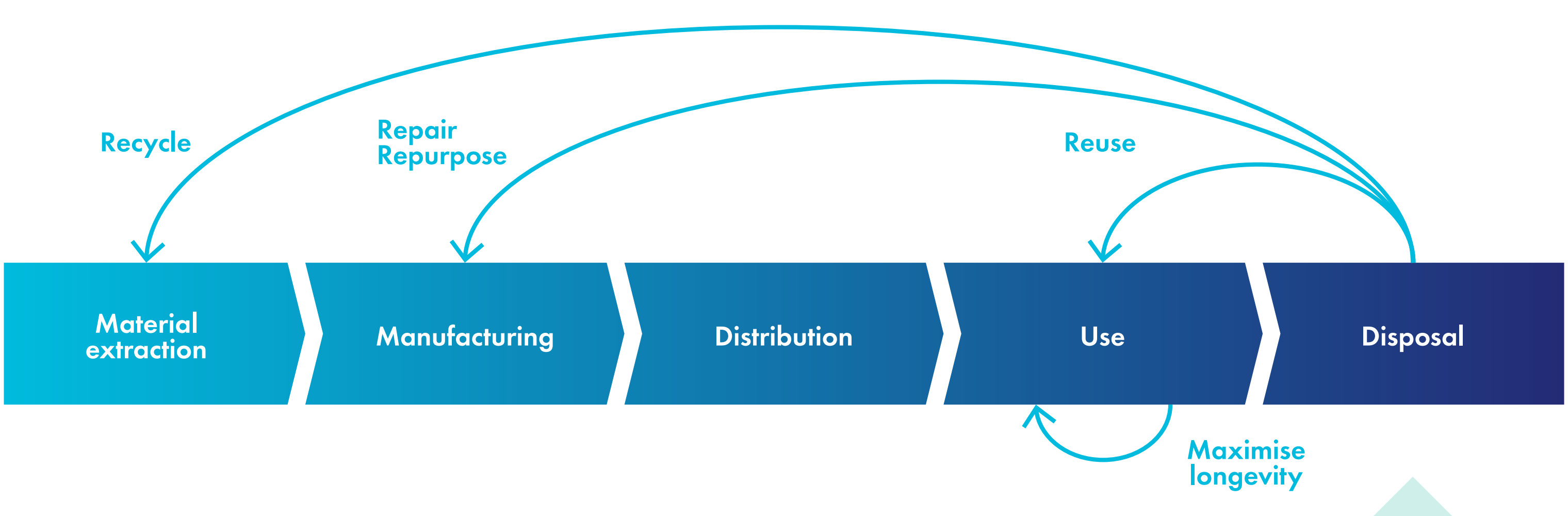
79%

A joint ADEME-Arcep study shows that mobile devices account for 79% of the telecom industry's carbon footprint, compared to around 16% for datacentres and 5% for networks.



80% of the environmental impact of mobile devices comes from their production.

GSMA supports MNOs in transitioning from a linear economy to a circular one, i.e., maximising equipment longevity and reducing waste by reusing, reselling and recycling network assets.



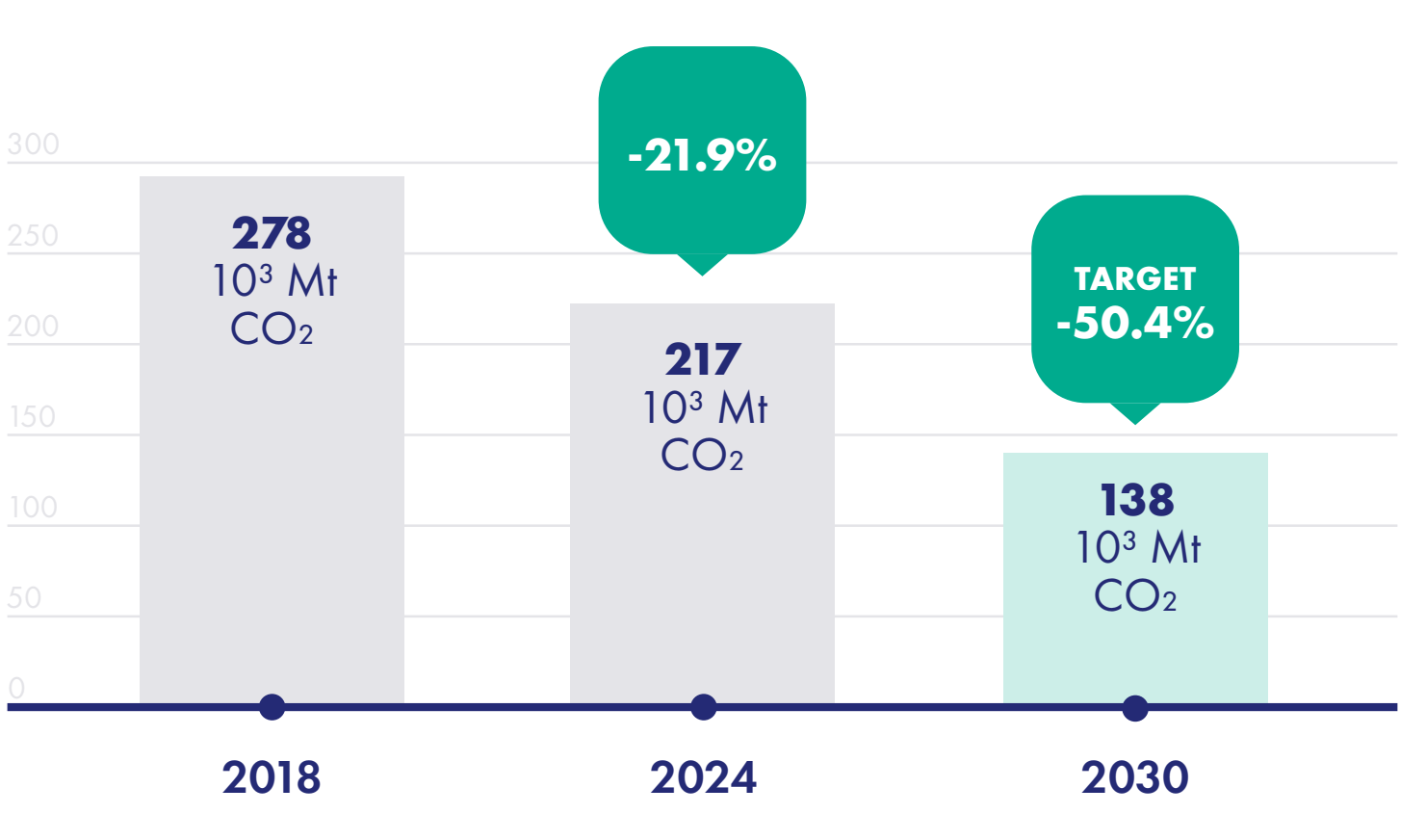
Thales corporate responsibility

The Thales group has set SBTi-validated quantified objectives to its greenhouse gas emissions reduction for 2030.

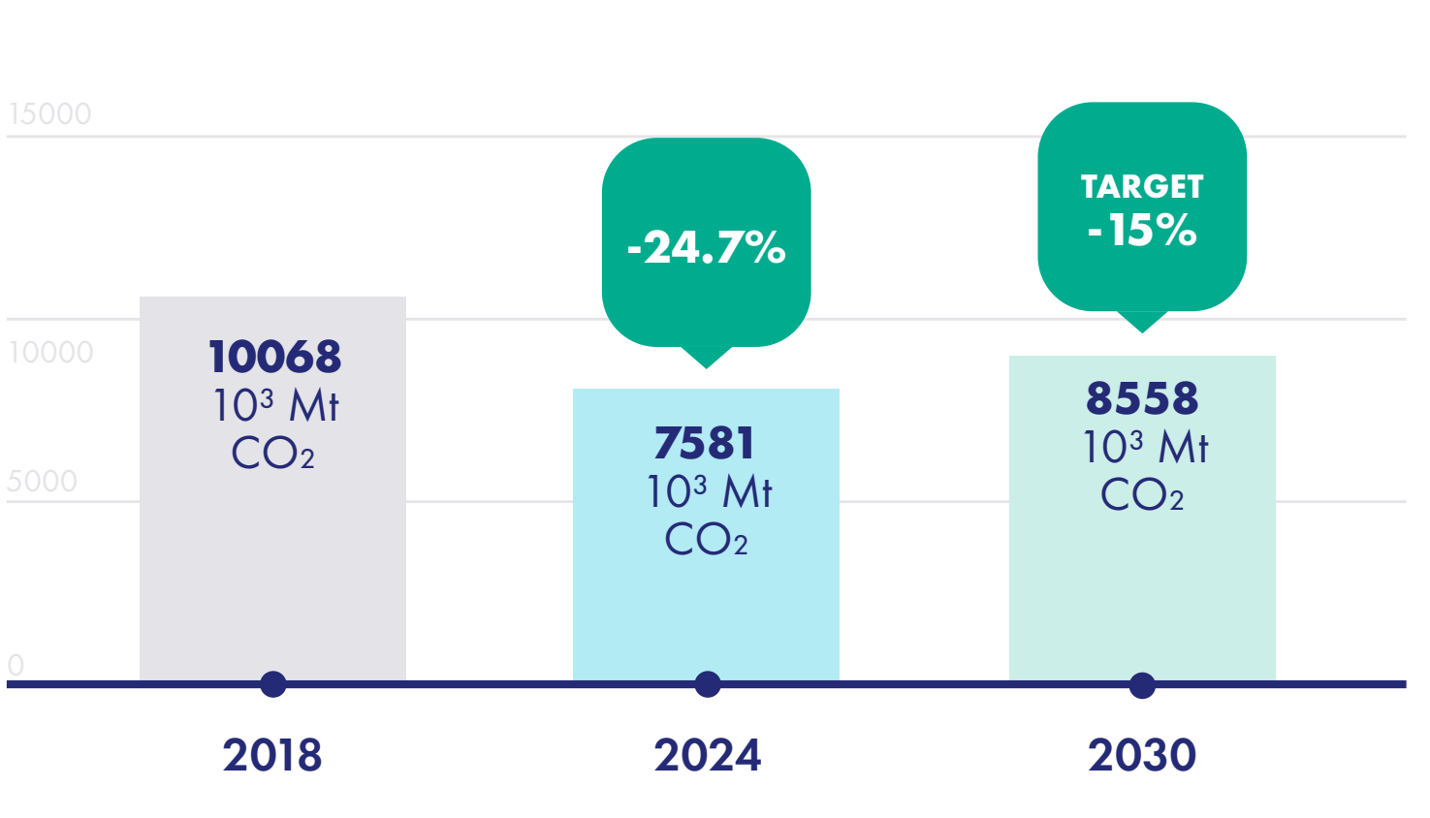
Among numerous initiatives to extend product lifetime and reduce electronic waste, Thales is working with EU partners as part of the EECONE project to repurpose smartphones into home routers.

EECONE

Operational direct emissions
(scopes 1 and 2, location based)



Indirect emissions
(scope 3)



WE REQUIRE OUR SUPPLIERS TO

SIGN
the Thales responsibility charter

100% of new suppliers

UNDERTAKE AN EVALUATION
of their environmental, social, and ethical purchasing

ecovadis

250 targeted suppliers by 2024

CONDUCT A CARBON ASSESSMENT
and implement a strategy and action plan

More than **100** suppliers

We aim to establish ourselves as a leading and reliable partner in sustainability for mobile connectivity solutions.

Thales joined the CDP Climate A-List as an endorsement of its environmental transparency and actions to fight climate change.

Climate
CDP
A List
2024

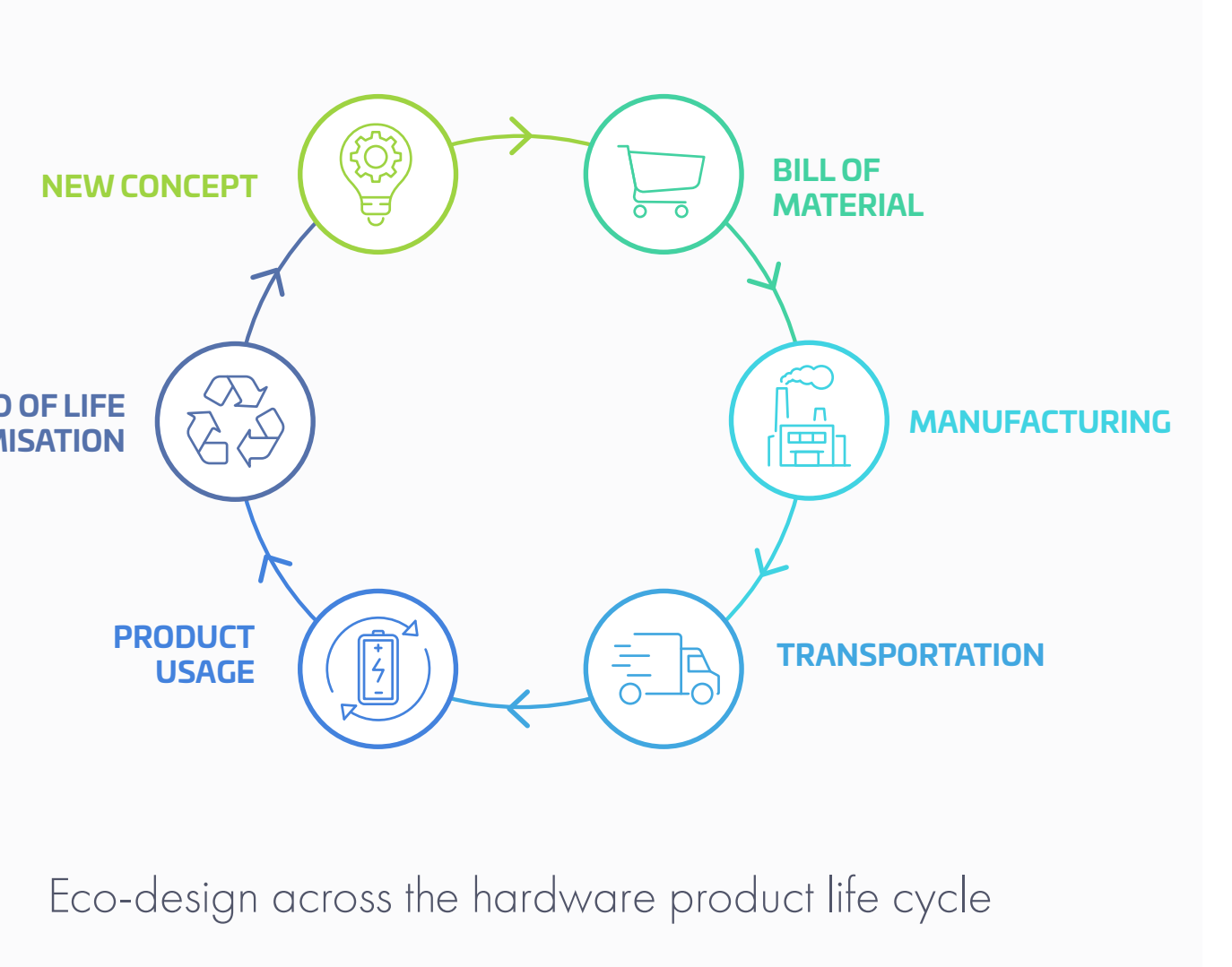
The Ecovadis assessment places Thales among the top 1% of best-performing companies, and recognised this achievement with the award of a Platinum medal.

PLATINUM Top 1%
2023
ecovadis
Sustainability Rating

Implementing eco-design

We embarked on our EcoJourney in 2020 with the EcoSIM, aiming to align telecom innovation with sustainable practices and the 2030 Paris goals.

Eco-design begins with measuring environmental impacts through Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) processes. These assessments, adhering to ISO standards, help identify key factors for reducing the environmental impact of both physical products and digital services throughout their life cycle. This enables us to implement effective reduction strategies. Bureau Veritas, a leading certification company, has validated the quality, reliability, and integrity of the LCA methodology used for Thales's EcoSIM cards and eSIM Management platform through critical reviews.



Eco-design across the hardware product life cycle

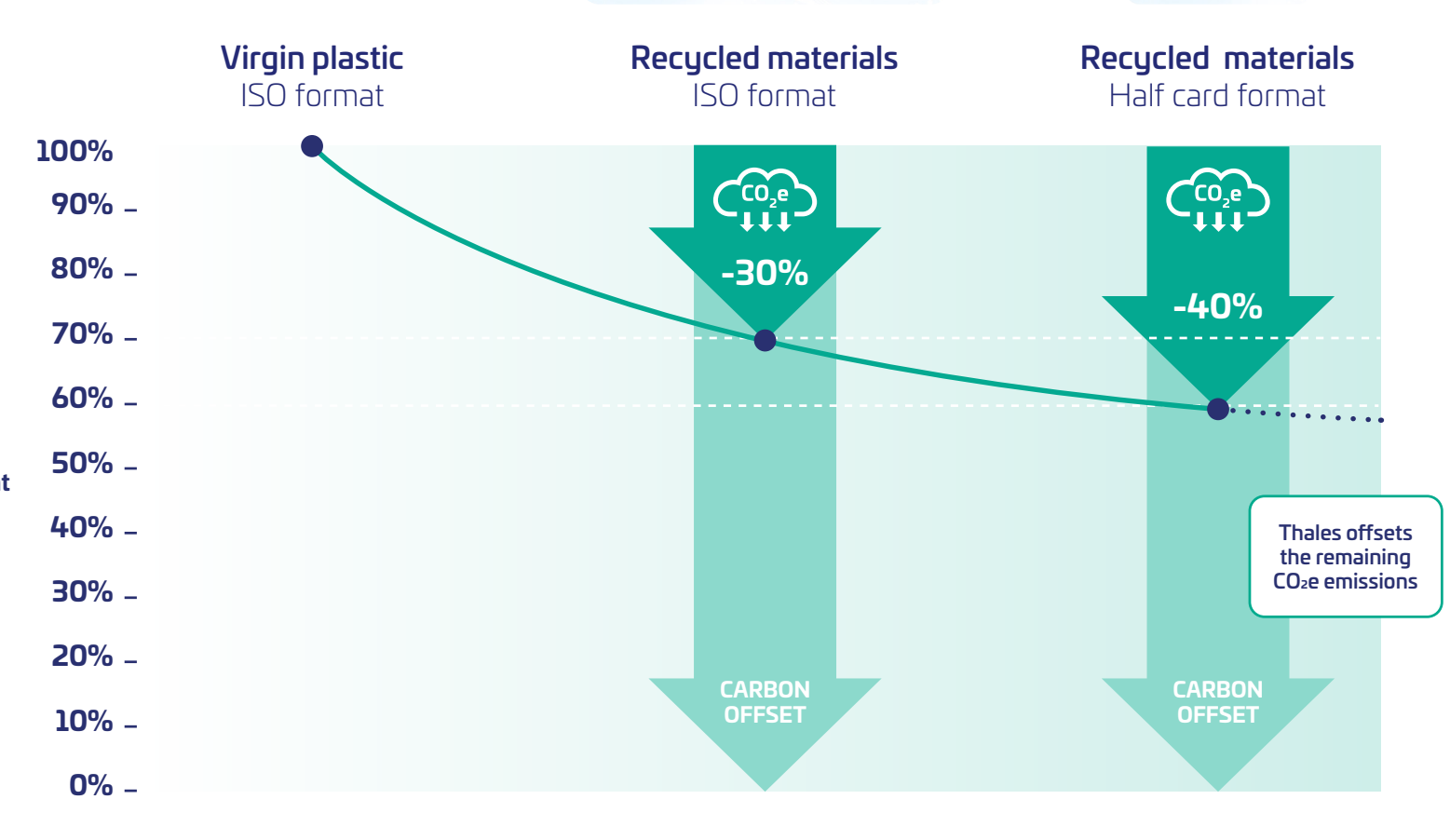
Between 2018 and 2023, Thales **reduced the carbon footprint of its mobile connectivity products by 39%** through improvements in concept, design, materials, manufacturing, transportation, and end-of-life processes.

In 2023, **55% of SIM cards sold incorporated eco-design elements.**

Since 2023, **all our new products and services are developed with eco-design principles,** focusing on optimising resource use, minimising waste, and promoting longevity and reparability.

Greener SIM cards

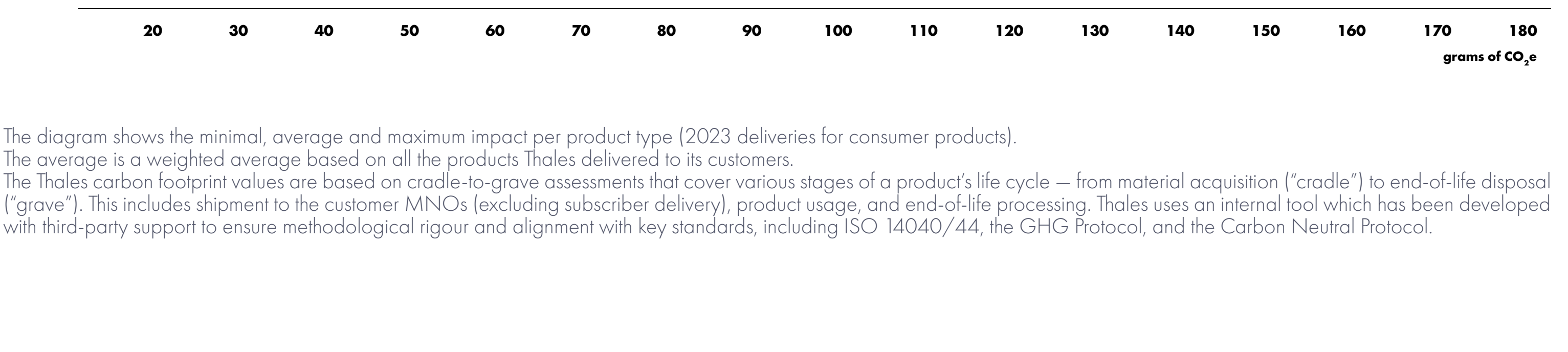
Since 2014, Thales has worked to reduce the environmental impact of its SIM cards to cut plastic use and lower carbon emissions. In 2020, we introduced the EcoSIM card made from recycled plastic from discarded fridges, using low-carbon manufacturing, optimized transportation and sustainable delivery methods, eco-designed packaging, and complete carbon offset of operations.



The comparison is based on production and truck delivery within Europe, excluding SIM card packaging.

Transitioning to eSIM

We have been working towards the transition from physical SIM cards to digital since the inception of the eSIM. While eSIMs eliminate the need for plastic, packaging, storage, logistics, and distribution, their larger chip size and associated digital services currently limit CO_2e savings. These factors significantly affect CO_2e emissions, emphasizing the importance of selecting the optimal configuration for each product. We can guide MNOs on how to minimize CO_2e impact.



The diagram shows the minimal, average and maximum impact per product type (2023 deliveries for consumer products).
The average is a weighted average based on all the products Thales delivered to its customers.
The Thales carbon footprint values are based on cradle-to-grave assessments that cover various stages of a product's life cycle — from material acquisition ("cradle") to end-of-life disposal ("grave"). This includes shipment to the customer MNOs (excluding subscriber delivery), product usage, and end-of-life processing. Thales uses an internal tool which has been developed with third-party support to ensure methodological rigour and alignment with key standards, including ISO 14040/44, the GHG Protocol, and the Carbon Neutral Protocol.

Moving forward together

Thales is recognised for its leadership in digital security. We are determined to achieve the same level of excellence in eco-design, providing products and services that limit environmental impacts while advancing technological innovation. Collaboration is key to our approach. By working closely with suppliers, customers, industry partners, standard bodies and regulators, we strive to reduce our collective environmental footprint and tackle the challenges of climate change.

Together, we can create a more sustainable future for all.

THALES
Building a future we can all trust

Your trusted partner for responsible connectivity.

For more information on responsible mobile connectivity, please **read our whitepaper**.