Antimony

After extraction, antimony ores & concentrates are processed into antimony metal. Antimony metal is further processed into semi-finished products such as antimony compounds & chemicals, in particular antimony oxide, and into PbSb alloys. Antimony oxide is used to manufacture flame retarded plastics and rubbers where it is added as a synergist with flame retardants, another semi-finished product in the form of plastic chips (a mixture of substances). These plastic and rubber intermediate products are then used to manufacture finished products such as textiles, PET containers, electrical equipment and also wire and cables. Antimony alloys are used in vehicle and traction lead-acid batteries and a wide variety of other finished products. Antimony chemicals are used to make a wide range of finished products (as pigments, in vehicle brakes, etc.). However, Sb chemicals account for a small amount of antimony and have been neglected in this MSA. The figure below presents the value chain of antimony with the main uses.

