Maarten Smulders received his MSc degree (cum laude) in 2005 and PhD degree in 2009, under supervision of Bert Meijer at the Eindhoven University of Technology (NL). After postdoctoral stays at Cambridge University (UK) with Jonathan Nitschke and Twente University (NL) with Jeroen Cornelissen, he started his independent research career in 2013 as tenure-track assistant professor at Wageningen University (NL). In 2018 he was awarded a VIDI grant from the Dutch Research Council (NWO), which allowed him to fortify his research program in dynamic polymer materials. In 2019 he was promoted to tenured associate professor. Having spent a sabbatical leave at Ghent University with Filip Du Prez in 2021, in September 2022 he became guest professor at the same institute.

Maarten currently leads a group of six PhD students and two postdocs that work on several polymer-related research topics: dynamic polymer materials, polymer coatings and polymer (meta)foams.