

In person event within the Vaasa Energy Week

Navigating the Challenges of the Establishment of Large- scale Battery Manufacturing: A Focus on Workforce, Education and Training

BIOS

March 13th, 2024
13:00 – 14:30 CET

BATTERY POWERED
TOUR FOR SKILLS



Kari Valkama is a project manager at Technology Centre Merinova in Vaasa, Finland. Merinova is the leader of the EnergyVaasa Cluster that possesses the Gold Label of Cluster Management Excellence. Its cutting-edge expertise is in energy technology and business development. Merinova is involved in various projects, programs and services regionally, nationally and globally. Kari holds a degree in Business Administration. He has years of experience in working with business and general development related tasks in SME companies in metal and cleantech industries.



Jakub Štolfa is an academic staff member at VSB – Technical University of Ostrava, where he has also received his Ph.D. He is also the President of the Automotive Skills Alliance, and a WP leader in the ALBATTTS project. His recent activities focus on a sustainable and pragmatic approach towards the skills agenda in Automotive Ecosystem. He has experience in project/program management, development of training and educational programs, technical background in Informatics and Mechatronics in the Automotive ecosystem.

Katarina Sandbacka is Manager of International affairs at Vamia Vocational college in Vaasa, Finland. Vamia is a multidisciplinary VET provider with 5000 students providing education and training for youth, adults and working life. She is co- leader for the Education and training work package in the Albatts project. Katarina has long experience from working life, in VET teaching, development and management. She is actively involved in the development of VET regionally, nationally and internationally in order to meet the emerging needs of working life. She has a passion for development and innovation in education. She holds a BSc in Hospitality Management from Oxford Brookes University, UK, MPhil in Product Development from Umeå University, Sweden and VET teacher education from Åbo Akademi, Finland.



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Helena Renström is manager for Society Expo 2026 – SE2026 in Skellefteå, Sweden. She has previously worked as marketing director of Skellefteå Municipality and been strongly involved in the society development and growth of Skellefteå brought on by the establishment of the Northvolt1 gigafactory. Expo 2026 is a project that will reflect the unique and rapid societal transformation that is taking place in Skellefteå and at the same time be a sustainable example for other parts of the world where corresponding changes may occur. It is about education, jobs, health and care, leisure opportunities, openness, and much more.



Mikko Hankaniemi is a director of products and systems at Ponsse Group technology company Epec. He is responsible for Epec's product and systems businesses and offering including product & project management operation and Research and development activities. Before joining Epec in 2019 he was over ten years in power electronics industry and held several management positions e.g. in product development, after sales and quality functions. He has also had several years career in academia working as a research scientist focusing on power electronics systems. Mikko holds a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Tampere University of Technology, Finland.