



WALCC

World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

» *Newsletter*
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Business Ecosystems in a Low-Carbon Economy – October 5-7, 2016, Turku, Finland



Photo by Markus Koljonen (Dilaudid)

The Alliance's annual autumn forum will build on the insights presented at the spring forum in Chongqing, expanding the discussions on some of the forum's core themes, bringing a European perspective to areas of development that are central to the formation of world class sustainable cities.

The forum's comprehensive mini-workshops address these core issues through engaging discussions led by expert panels that represent a variety of perspectives on each of these themes:

New concepts in urban energy: The Paris Climate Accord reached at COP21 laid the foundation for a new push towards lowering carbon emissions with a particular focus on market-driven and cooperative approaches. This will support both technology and service innovations as well as the system level transformations necessary to realize true low-carbon energy production.

Urban Knowledge Alliances: Today's cities are the focus of a complex array of changes which call for demanding solutions that no organization alone can effectively carry out. The entrepreneurial communities, or knowledge alliances, required to tackle these challenges require careful fostering and responsive support.

Mobility-as-a-Service: Mobility-as-a-Service is a reconceptualization of our attitudes towards transportation, revolutionizing prevailing concepts of private and public transportation and considering transportation as a unified network of mobility resources. Unifying public, private, individual, and mass forms of transportation is an ambitious goal which requires a solution of equal complexity.

Circular Economy: Exceeding beyond mere efficient use or recycling of materials, the circular economy represents a radical re-envisioning of existing economic models. This change concerns all elements of production and consumption

and, consequently, calls for the participation and commitment of the world's companies, regulators, and researchers.

Smart City Experiences: Today's cities build on the growing ubiquity of advanced, smart technology in all areas as they develop initiatives aimed at establishing functioning smart cities. The new generation of smart cities builds on the examples set by a group of pioneering smart cities whose experiences have paved the way for them.

Battery Technologies: The growing significance of storage technologies in energy networks joins the battery industries' crucial role in the electrification of the automotive industry, making the field of battery technology one of the most important areas in creating the sustainable solutions of tomorrow.

Orchestrated Wellbeing and Health: As one of the world's most cost-efficient and high-performing healthcare systems, Finland's welfare system can serve as a source of comprehensive solutions for nations seeking to develop their own. In the Orchestrated Wellbeing and Health initiative, the Synocus Group and healthcare technology forerunners are developing a framework for leveraging this knowledge.

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Tesla, seeking societal impact through ecosystem excellence

As one of the world's leading electric vehicle manufacturers, Elon Musk's Tesla Motors is on the forefront of an industry which stands in front of a radical transformation. Tesla is in a unique position as one of the most sought after brands on the market and a leader of technological development, it also exerts a considerable influence in shaping societal attitudes towards sustainable transportation.

The recent launch of the Tesla Model 3 marked a new high in the level of public interest in electric vehicles, gathering a total of 325,000 pre-orders within the first week of the launch of the \$35,000 car. The introduction of Tesla's first mass-market vehicle signals a new phase in the public adoption of electric vehicles. This benchmark comes as the end result of a carefully executed strategy carried out by Musk which plotted a patient course through iterative product development and market share growth to societal impact.

In his speech at the launch, Musk traced Tesla's path from its early days as a budding technology start up striving to perfect its technology and building a reputation for reliability and excellence, perfecting the manufacturing process necessary for mass production and cost efficiency, while also establishing a worldwide service and support network. Having established its reputation and global network, Tesla used the profits from

its previous models to establish the new manufacturing process and enable the crucial cost reduction.

Tesla's patient evolution from the initial introduction of its first vehicle, the Roadster, in 2006, to the Model 3's 2016 launch is the result of a strategy which was guided by an overall vision of achieving a grand, societal impact while it proceeded through the various stages of its process and product development with continuous innovation.



Valmet Automotive receives Tekes funding to promote electric vehicle related technology development

Among the pioneers in the electric vehicle industry, WALCC member Valmet Automotive has established a sound record of reliable expertise through its production of both high-end EVs, such as the Fisker Karma, and mass-consumer models, such as the Think City. Valmet Automotive continues to explore new areas of development in the EV field, seeking to put its expertise and experience to use in developing the next generation of electric cars and battery systems.

In this interest, Valmet Automotive has received funding from Finnish innovation support agency Tekes to explore how it can share this wealth of information with the industry at large. A new development project will aim to establish a competence center for new materials and technologies relating to EVs and battery systems which would enable Valmet Automotive and its partners to share their knowledge and, together, advance the industry's development.

Valmet Automotive will continue its collaboration with the Turku Future Technologies network in this project, its role as one of the network's chief corporate partners bringing access

to a wide range of manufacturing industry companies and leading Finnish research and educational institutions.

