

Summary of the EcoSMR Open Business Day 2021 on 22nd March

Keynotes and panel discussion

Tiina Koljonen talked about the role of new technologies and innovations in carbon neutral societies and how EU aims for climate neutrality by 2050 and many countries have adopted faster domestic schedule.

Sophie Macfarlane-Smith highlighted SMRs' potential to supply carbon neutral electricity, heating, steam, and H₂ with reasonable economics and good reliability and presented Rolls Royce's road plan to commercial units by 2031.

Kalev Kallemets talked about how increasing CO₂ prices have quickly reduced the amount of electricity produced from shale oil in Estonia and how the public feedback on four studied SMR options has been surprisingly positive, but many challenges still need to be solved.

Panel discussion stressed the quick need for actions and new solutions, that e.g. EU's new 2030 targets could be achieved, and the urgency to solve issues related to SMR technology, regulatory, and acceptability.

EcoSMR partner companies case stories, politician's view and panel discussion

Antti Rantakaulio presented Fortum's current market portfolio that contains more than 35 TWh of nuclear generation and made an extensive overview of the current markets, how climate change mitigation will change these markets, and how SMRs could be one way forward for Fortum and other companies.

Phil Hodges talked SMRs from project development point of view noting specific local challenges and overcoming them through collaboration with local stakeholders, industry, and regulators.

Atte Harjanne discussed on political challenges ranging from underestimated scale of climate change problem to problematic concepts and policy designs and suggested solving the main barriers by focusing on system level perspective and emission reductions through technology neutral mechanisms.

The panel talked over actions companies are doing, on hurdles, and found solutions. Different markets have different conditions and a range of solutions are needed. For example, electricity might be the best solution on one market whereas heat or H₂ on other. However, regulatory aspects and standardization are common challenges or otherwise all stakeholders will do a huge amount of overlapping work.