

REGISTER NOW

22 – 23
OCTOBER

NEFI CONFERENCE 2026

FUTURE INDUSTRY –
INNOVATING FOR COMPETITIVENESS

MUSEUMSQUARTIER, Museumsplatz 1, Vienna, Austria

Registration: www.nefi.at/en/nefi-conference

The innovation network NEFI – New Energy for Industry, funded by the Climate and Energy Fund and supported by the federal states of Upper Austria and Styria, has been established around a consortium comprising AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, the Technical University of Leoben, the OÖ Energiesparverband, and Business Upper Austria. In doing so, it brings together a wide range of expertise in energy research and project implementation.

Day 1
Thursday,
22 October 2026

Overview Day 1

09.30 – 10.00
Check-in and Get-together

10.00 – 10.30
Welcoming and Opening

10.30 – 10.50
Impulse Lecture NEFI

10.50 – 11.30
Keynotes

11.30 – 12.20
Panel Discussion

12.30 – 13.45
Lunch Break

13.45 – 15.15
Parallel Sessions

15.15 – 16.00
Break and Poster Session

16.00 – 17.30
Parallel Sessions

17.35 – 17.50
Summary and Conclusion of
the First Conference Day

18.00 – 22.00
Get-together,
Conference Dinner and
Young Scientist Award Ceremony

sponsored by



wienerberger

09.30 – 10.00
Check-in and Get-together

10.00 – 10.30 | Arena 21
Welcoming and Opening

BERNHARD GAHLEITNER
*Member of the NEFI Network Steering
Committee, Business Manager Energy Markets &
Infrastructure Policy, Center for Energy, Austrian
Institute of Technology (AIT)*

CORNELIA ERTL
Moderation

10.30 – 10.45 | Arena 21
Impulse Lecture NEFI

**Innovating for Competitiveness – Science
Based Transformation Pathways for Austrian
Industry**

THOMAS KIENBERGER
*Member of the NEFI Network Steering
Committee, Head of the Chair of Energy Network
Technology, Technical University of Leoben*

10.50 – 11.30 | Arena 21
Keynotes

Keynote 1
**Building Blocks of Future Industrial Energy
Systems**

ALEXANDER SAUER
*Director of the Institute for Energy Efficiency
in Production (EEP), University of Stuttgart, Head
of the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing
Engineering and Automation (IPA)*

Keynote 2
**Net-Zero Clusters: Enabling Infrastructure for
Competitive Industries**

MERCEDES MAROTO-VALER
*Champion and Director of the UK Industrial
Decarbonisation Research and Innovation
Centre (IDRIC), Director of the Research Centre
for Carbon Solutions (RCCS), Deputy Principal
for Global Sustainability, Buchan Chair in
Sustainable Energy Engineering at Heriot-Watt
University*

Keynote 3
**Early-Stage Operating Experience with a
3 MW PEM Electrolyser**

CHRISTIAN WALLNER
*Managing Director of the PVI, Head of
Business Development Kärntner Elektrizitäts-
Aktiengesellschaft (KELAG)*

11.30 – 12.20 | Arena 21
Panel Discussion

MARTIN GRAF
Member of the Board, Energie Steiermark AG

THOMAS KIENBERGER
*Member of the NEFI Network Steering
Committee, Head of the Chair of Energy Network
Technology, Technical University of Leoben*

STEPHAN LAIMINGER
*Chief Technologist, INNIO Jenbacher
GmbH & Co OG*

JUDITH NEYER
*Head of the Department for Strategic Energy
Policy, Federal Ministry of Economy, Energy and
Tourism*

URBAN PEYKER
*Head of the Department Industry, Enterprise and
Financing, Deputy Managing Director Climate
and Energy Fund, Mission Director Net-Zero
Industries Mission*

ALEXANDER SAUER
*Director of the Institute for Energy Efficiency
in Production (EEP), University of Stuttgart, Head
of the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing
Engineering and Automation (IPA)*

CHRISTIANE EGGER
*Moderation, Member of the NEFI Network
Steering Committee, Deputy Manager of
the OÖ Energiesparverband, Manager of
the Cleantech-Cluster Energy*

12.30 – 13.45 | Ovalhalle
Lunch Break

13.45 – 15.15
Parallel Sessions (TBA)

15.15 – 16.00 | Ovalhalle
Break and Poster Session

16.00 – 17.30
Parallel Sessions (TBA)

17.35 – 17.50 | Arena 21
Summary and Conclusion of
the First Conference Day

CHRISTIANE EGGER
*Moderation, Member of the NEFI Network
Steering Committee, Deputy Manager of
the OÖ Energiesparverband, Manager of
the Cleantech-Cluster Energy*

18.00 – 22.00
Get-together,
Conference Dinner and
Young Scientist Award Ceremony

Day 2
Friday,
23 October 2026

Overview Day 2

08.30 – 09.00
Check-in and Get-together

09.00 – 09.20
Welcoming and Opening

09.20 – 09.40
Keynote

09.40 – 09.55
Introduction to Funding Program

09.55 – 10.15
Keynote

10.15 – 11.30
Parallel Sessions

11.30 – 11.50
Break

11.50 – 13.00
Parallel Sessions

13.00 – 14.00
Networking Lunch

08.30 – 09.00
Check-in and Get-together

09.00 – 09.20 | Arena 21
Welcoming and Opening

BERNHARD GAHLEITNER
Member of the NEFI Network Steering Committee, Business Manager Energy Markets & Infrastructure Policy, Center for Energy, Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)

CORNELIA ERTL
Moderation

09.20 – 09.40 | Arena 21
Keynote

Innovation in Austria and International Impact, (TBA)

09.40 – 09.55
Introduction to the Funding Program

FTI Initiative for the Transformation of Industry

URBAN PEYKER
Head of the Department Industry, Enterprise and Financing, Deputy Managing Director Climate and Energy Fund, Mission Director Net-Zero Industries Mission

09.55 – 10.15
Keynote

STEFAN LECHTENBÖHMER
Head of the Sustainable Technology Design Group, Kassel Institute for Sustainability, University of Kassel

10.15 – 11.30
Parallel Sessions (TBA)

11.30 – 11.50 | Ovalhalle
Break

11.50 – 13.00
Parallel Sessions (TBA)

13.00 – 14.00 | Ovalhalle
Networking Lunch