WALCC

World Alliance for Low Carbon Cities

AVM ecosystem members show high level of activity

The Autonomous Vehicles and Mobility services (AVM) ecosystem now proceeds on many frontiers simultaneously. The forthcoming visit to China and the participation in the WALCCs' Tengchong Forum May 18th and 19th, 2018 has involved Fortum and several startups in intense preparations during April. Simultaneously, the SuomiAreena event is approaching and, here too, there are a multitude of activities under planning.

On May 4th, the AVM ecosystem was presented in Kuopio by Synocus and Kyyti in an event organized by the local ELY Centre. The city representatives are evaluating how mobility services can be included in their plans to make the city and the region more attractive. The discussions in Kuopio highlighted the interest in mobility services equally among private and public organizations due to the change in legislation forthcoming in July 2018. We expect this to create considerable interest in the mobility services during the coming weeks! Many announcements regarding new services and alliances between companies are likely to emerge as well.

As the AVM ecosystem has now gathered some twenty members, there are many interesting development efforts underway on the level of individual members. The beginning of May brought news that our member Chempolis had secured a €160 m deal to set up a biorefinery in India. In April it was announced that Intera had invested in Roima Intelligence to support the company's continued growth and international expansion. The CEO of Roima Intelligence, Jukka Ropponen, stated that customers like Valmet Automotive, another AVM member, had shown how efficient and competitive production can be with the help of optimized processes and the right digital solutions. These examples illustrate the dynamism among our members.

The coming months will see the organizations participating in the AVM ecosystem launch many new projects. One project already launched is Fortum's Excellence in Renewal project, which submitted its application to Business Finland in February. At the end of April, Ponsse submitted its own application for a new initiative called Shaping the Future. Synocus is supporting several other AVM members that are in the process of preparing their own Business Finland applications.

The AVM ecosystem held its spring meeting on March 26th at the Hotel Klaus K. In this meeting the Advisory Group presented the ecosystem's governance principles and administrative practices, which also were approved by the board of World Alliance for Low Carbon Cites. In addition, the Advisory Group had also outlined the action plan until the end of August, which is now to be implemented. The focus of the action plan is on establishing the three selected focus areas (Autonomous vehicle pilots, Software applications for citizen engagement, and Low carbon inner city logistics) to develop interesting activities related to each of these for the SuomiAreena forum in Pori July 16th-20th. The more detailed plans for the focus areas will be discussed at the AVM summer meeting to be organized on June 11th, 2018. All AVM members are invited to participate in this meeting.

For the latest on the AVM ecosystem and its members, follow along at avm.walcc.org.

AVM Ecosystem participants

Anchor organizations

- ABB
- Fortum
- Ponsse
- Valmet Automotive

SME Member organizations

- Chempolis
- Citynomadi
- Coreorient
- Epec
- Future Dialog

- Koneteknologiakeskus Turku
- Kyyti
- Niinivirta
- Roima Intelligence
- Synocus
- Unikie Oy
- Wapice

City Member organizations

- Lahti
- Turku

AVM activities

- Anchor projects
- Focus area 1: Autonomous vehicle pilots
- Focus area 2: Software applications for citizen engagement
- Focus area 3: Low-carbon inner city logistics
- Focus area 4: Green hospital
- Market shaping

SuomiAreena to serve as a showcase for AVM

The AVM ecosystem will bring a showcase of its Anchors' as well as SME and City members' efforts in the field of smart mobility to the annual SuomiAreena forum in Pori this July. SuomiAreena is organized by Finland's largest Finnish commercial broadcasting company MTV and City of Pori. SuomiAreena is held simultaneously with the oldest jazz festival in Europe, Pori Jazz; hence the visitors can enjoy lively discussion during the day and musical highlights in the evening. Last year the event drew 74 000 visitors who took part in over 170 events. As such, the forum offers an ideal opportunity to engage a large array of people drawn to the area and introduce them to some of the country's leading companies in the fields of electric and autonomous mobility and the smart services supporting the transition of mobility solutions in the future.

Fortum drives Excellence in Renewal project

Fortum became the first of the Anchor organizations to submit a funding application to Business Finland for a parallel project which will support the AVM ecosystem and its SME and city Members. The Excellence in Renewal (EiR) project is a joint Sino-Finnish project which brings Fortum into cooperation with the Karhula Foundry and Chinese partner Tus-Clean Energy in a project funded jointly by Business Finland and China's Ministry of Science and Technology. The EiR project will explore smart city solutions and renewable energy through activities including piloting solutions for electric vehicle (EV) charging networks, the requirements of EV-based city logistics, contribute to the City of Lahti's CitiCAP project through the Personal Carbon Trade initiative, as well as a study of the markets for charging solutions in China. Fortum is joined in the project by AVM ecosystem SME members Citynomadi, Coreorient, Future Dialog, and Globeon.

Through this project, Fortum also invited participating SMEs to join Fortum at a high-level workshop hosted by its partner organization in China, Tus-Clean Energy, at which the companies can present their solutions to one of the world's largest incubators. Fortum and a group of interested SMEs will then continue on to Tengchong where they will present the achievements of the EiR project and AVM ecosystem at the WALCC's spring forum.