

EUROPEAN BIOECONOMY SCENE 2019

WELCOME TO HELSINKI 8–10 JULY 2019

EXCURSION: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Date: 10 July 2019

Location: Helsinki Capital Region

Time: 8.30–16.00

On this excursion, we will visit companies engaged in research and development. We will be introduced to different innovations such as an innovation and demonstration platform for bioeconomy and circular economy businesses (Bioruukki), the use of bio-based materials, for example lignocellulose for packages, the development of new bio-based products (Stora Enso), the development of new businesses in a forest-based bioeconomy (Metsä Spring), and ecological and economical manufacture of microcrystalline cellulose (AaltoCell™).

Bus transport is provided to all the sites. After the last stop, the bus will take participants to Helsinki Airport or back to the hotel.

A light lunch will be served during the excursion.

08.40 **Pick-up from the hotel Scandic Park Helsinki**

09.00 **Innovation Centre — exploring the next generation of renewable solutions to replace plastics**

Global megatrends are boosting the demand for renewable, recyclable, and fossil-free materials. Innovation work at Stora Enso is concentrating on finding renewable solutions that will replace fossil fuel-based materials in packaging, construction, and industrial intermediate chemicals. This means innovating bio-based solutions to replace plastics, concrete, glass, metal, and other non-renewable materials.

The **Innovation Centre**, located at Stora Enso's head office in the heart of Helsinki, offers a showroom, packaging design lab, virtual reality (VR) analysis technology for retail and intelligent packaging demonstrations, among other things. During the visit, we will learn how sustainable alternatives are being developed to replace fossil fuel-based materials.

Stora Enso's promise for a renewable future is based on sustainability, innovation and having the technological capabilities to meet the demands for a greener world. The company believes that everything that is made from fossil fuel-based materials today can be made from a tree tomorrow.

10.00 **Bus transport**

10.30 **AaltoCell™**



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11.30 **Bus transport**

11.45 **Metsä Spring Ltd**

Metsä Group is a responsible forest bioeconomy group based in Finland but with operations in almost 30 countries. Metsä Group employs approximately 9,300 persons and the annual turnover, in 2018, was EUR 5.7 billion. Notably, the parent company of Metsä Group is a cooperative with over 100,000 owner-members, all forest owners. An entity like Metsä Group is, in practise, part of a wider business ecosystem that includes both smaller and larger partner companies in various countries.

Metsä Spring Ltd is the venture capital arm of Metsä Group. Metsä Spring invests worldwide in promising startups with a visible path to the Metsä Group business ecosystem. The primary objective of this activity is to strengthen the ecosystem in the long run. Besides financing, Metsä Spring provides startups with access to Metsä Group's global network and expertise.

During the visit to Metsä Group, we will have the opportunity to become more acquainted with the circular bioeconomy, ecosystem-thinking, cooperative structures and Metsä Spring's activities.

12.45 **Bus transport**

13.00 **VTT Bioruukki Pilot Centre — an ecosystem for process industry scale-up and demonstrations**

VTT Bioruukki is an open access, shared pilot facility that offers a unique platform for scaling up new technology and process concepts and innovation for business opportunities in the circular bioeconomy. The 10,000 m² Centre brings together under one roof facilities for biomass and textile fibre processing, thermochemistry and green chemistry. An extension to the Centre will be ready in 2020. The Centre forms the core of Cleantech Garden in the City of Espoo. Currently, several startup companies use VTT Bioruukki facilities to scale up their operations and an ecosystem is forming for a digital platform for bio-based value chains.

During the visit, we will learn about some of the highlights of the Finnish circular bioeconomy innovations in the making. The visit also includes the "Novel Biomaterials" exhibition and a tour of the pilot centre.

A light lunch will be served during the visit.

16.00 **Excursion ends, bus transport to Helsinki Airport or the hotel**

Latest version of the excursion programme is available at www.bioeconomy.fi/eubioscene19

For further information, please contact: [ulla.palander\(at\)tem.fi](mailto:ulla.palander(at)tem.fi)



Ministry of Economic Affairs
and Employment of Finland