

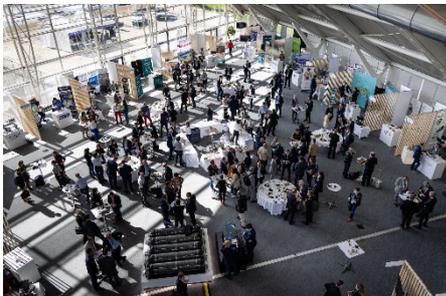
Rousing success for the first in-person Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum

420 participants
16 nationalities represented
250 B2B meetings
30 exhibitors
More than 70 speakers

Video recap: [Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum - 1st edition - YouTube](#)

Belfort, 14 October 2021 – The first in-person Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum welcomed 420 participants to the Belfort ATRIA on 29 and 30 September. This event, designed to accelerate the hydrogen transition in France and Europe, was organised and run by the Pôle Véhicule du Futur Competitiveness Cluster with support from AER BFC and in close cooperation with the French State, the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, Belfort and Greater Belfort, and the Pays de Montbéliard Agglomération.

A highly-anticipated debut event



The Forum was sold out by 7 September and **brought together public and private decision-makers** (including 10% international visitors) to discuss key topics in the hydrogen sector, share visions and expertise throughout the entire value chain and boost business and cooperation.

An symbolic plenary: a holistic approach to mobility

The Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum featured a panel of **17 speakers** that showed for the first time in France the hydrogen mobility sector's diversity (including forklift trucks, planes, buses, trucks and boats), and highlighted ongoing partnerships working to accelerate manufacturing and facilitate scaling-up.

The Forum's opening plenary included political representatives from the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, along with European Commissioner for Internal Market **Thierry Breton** and **Agnès Pannier-Runacher**, Minister Delegate for Industry, attached to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery. They all expressed their support and applauded the Forum's initiative.



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More than 70 acclaimed speakers



For two days, changemakers gathered inspiration and examined key topics in the hydrogen sector during five plenary sessions and eight expert workshops covering regulatory aspects along the entire value chain, stationary applications, technologies for using hydrogen, industrial hydrogen, waterway applications, production and storage technologies, jobs of tomorrow and aeronautics.

The Forum's international dimension was illustrated with participation from Bart Biebuyck (FCH JU, Europe), Julien Etienne (EKPO, Germany), David Fernandes (Microsoft, USA), Stephan Herbst (Toyota Motor Europe), Yongwon Jeon (EN, South Korea), Ignacio Morande (Prochile, Chile), Martin O'Neil (GE Gas Power), Nicolas Pocard (Ballard, Canada), Dr Ing Achim Schaad (Fraunhofer ISE, Germany), Martin Schneider (Siemens Energy, Germany), James Walker (EMEC, UK), among others.

Keynote Speaker: Mike Horn

Acknowledged as one of the greatest adventurers of our times, **Mike Horn** has teamed up with Cyril Despres, Vaison Sport (a regional business) and a team of researchers from the CEA to develop the "GEN Z" project with the purpose of winning the Dakar rally raid in 2023 with water vapour as the sole emission, thanks to a hydrogen fuel cell.

During his presentation on 29 September at 5.30pm, Mr Horn spoke about "**Protecting the planet to leave a future for the younger generation**". He talked about his adventures in the North Pole which are the main impetus to share what he has learned, then outlined his vision for the future.

At the end of his presentation, a doctoral student who completed her studies at the University of Franche-Comté (UFR STGI and CMI) joined Mr Horn on stage to ask why he chose hydrogen and what each person can do to minimise the impact humans have on the climate.



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A business friendly forum with 30 exhibitors and 250 B2B meetings



The exhibition space was filled with representatives from large companies (Faurecia, the Forum’s platinum sponsor and Alstom, EDF and Engie, Gold sponsors), promising companies like Rougeot Energie and McPhy (also Gold sponsors) along with Gaussin and Lhyfe, foreign companies (such as KST Motorenversuch and Hexagon Purus), start-ups with disruptive innovations (like Mob’hy and DYG Energy) and academic institutions (FEMTO-ST, UTBM, University of Franche-Comté).

During the two days of the event, **250 pre-scheduled business meetings** were held at stands and in a special area managed by CCI with support from the EEN (Enterprise Europe network), demonstrating the hydrogen sector’s dynamism.

Opportunity to visit top sites

Three site visits were organised on 30 September 2021. At the **Faurecia Clean Mobility** site, visitors toured the company’s hydrogen tank pilot production line and learned how these tanks are produced and what challenges have to be addressed in this area.

H2SYS specialises in fuel cell systems and generators. During the site visit, participants saw their new production line and watched a demo of the new very high-power electro-hydrogen generator. Finally, the visit to **FC Lab** featured a tour of their facility with 600 m² of equipment, including a test bench used for testing hydrogen components and systems. More than 70 attendees participated in these three visits.

Raising awareness among young people and the general public

An outdoor demonstration area illustrated light mobility (Toyota Mirai 1 and 2, Kangoo H2 and a Stellantis demonstrator) and heavy mobility (Safra Bus and Gaussin ATM). It also included an educational area developed and run by 30 University of Franche-Comté students (master of Engineering in Hydrogen energy and Energy Efficiency) visited by more than 130 students (from CM1 to secondary level). A large Lego® mock-up was used to explain hydrogen and how it is produced, stored and integrated into society.



Engie also hosted a “learn about energy” awareness activity for young people.

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Visitors also saw practical applications with a Pragma bicycle and H2SYS hydrogen-powered generators providing electricity for two tents.

A major announcement for hydrogen's future

General Electric, GRTgaz, Ineris, McPhy and the French technology universities network used the Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum as the venue to sign a research agreement to boost hydrogen innovation. This agreement will accelerate hydrogen innovation for all uses, including low-carbon projects for gas-powered electricity generation and industrial applications by bringing together major French industrial leaders and leading academic institutions.



With this product two-day event, the Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum has found its place in the hydrogen community.

It has a large social media presence with more than 2300 followers across all platforms.

The Hydrogen Business For Climate Forum is now a can't-miss event on the hydrogen sector's calendar. The second forum is scheduled for the second half of 2022, this time in Montbéliard.

To learn more:

- [The Hydrogen Business For Climate forum](#)
- [DP-forum-H2BFC-2021-FR.pdf \(hydrogenbusinessforclimate.com\)](#)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2IPAjrINWEU> (link for information, do not share)

Photo credit Pôle Véhicule du Futur Competitiveness Cluster

About Hydrogen Business For Climate

The Hydrogen Business for Climate Forum is a transnational event organised by the *Pôle Véhicule du Futur* Competitiveness Cluster, with backing from the French State, the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, the City of Belfort and Grand Belfort, and the Pays de Montbéliard Agglomération, in partnership with the AER BFC (the Regional Economic Agency of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté), the ADN FC (the Economic Development Agency of Nord Franche-Comté), the CCI, the EEN (Enterprise Europe Network), FC Lab, the ADEME, EIT Innoenergy, France Hydrogène and Hydrogen Europe. Its mission is to bring about the hydrogen energy transition in France and Europe.

To learn more: <https://hydrogenbusinessforclimate.com/en/>

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