

BEPA's 7th General Assembly: new Secretary General appointed, 15 new members, € 496 million investments reported in Additional Activities

Bordeaux, 24 November 2023

BEPA seventh General Assembly of the Batteries European Partnership Association took place on Thursday 16 November 2023, in a hybrid gathering held in Bordeaux and online. Over 200 participants attended the event. 85 people attended online, while 110 people seized the opportunity to meet face-to-face at the Intercontinental Hotel Bordeaux.

A record number of participants were present at the seventh General Assembly of BEPA to get the latest updates on BEPA's activities and achievements in 2023 and shape the future of the association. Highlight of the meeting was the appointment of the new BEPA Secretary General. Starting in 2024, Fabrice Stassin, Director Government Affairs Electromobility Projects at Umicore, will be the new BEPA Secretary General continue on the path paved since the creation of BEPA by Philippe Jacques , who will step down from his position by the end of the year.

"I very much look forward to working with the Board, the EU institutions, Member States, Regions and BEPA members coming from industry, research organizations and associations. We have come a long way since the publication by the European Commission of a Strategic Action Plan on Batteries under the leadership of Maroš Šefčovič. While a European battery partnership was back then just a line in a strategic document, it is now a successful Horizon Europe partnership mobilizing, growing and strengthening our ecosystem." [Fabrice Stassin, Director Government Affairs Electromobility Projects at Umicore]

This year, BEPA members, in their role as partners in the private-public BATT4EU Partnership, were asked to report on their In-Kind Additional Activities for the first time. As per the Memorandum of Understanding between BEPA and the European Commission, the Partners other than the Union are required to invest at least as much as €925 million by 2027 into battery activities. With this first report, it was shown that more than **€496 million had been invested in the first one and a half year of the BATT4EU Partnership**. This is very encouraging as it already represents more than half of the amount required under the MoU. As this amount is based on voluntary reporting and in all likelihood not capturing all investments, BEPA will conduct a second opinion to validate the reported figure.

During the meeting, the BEPA members voted in favour of welcoming 15 [new members](#) into the association, reaching a total number of 228 members. Also, BEPA members voted on the open Executive Board and Association Delegation positions, which saw the re-election of **Gian Carlo Tronzano**, Head of E-Mobility Global Competence Center from Comau, filling the Manufacturing Supply position on the Board. To fill the Board position on recycling, **Justo Garcia**, Head of Financing Strategy Battery Project at Orano, was also re-elected in this occasion.

Congratulations to **Ilaria Pucher**, Head of R&D from Green Energy Storage for being elected as an Association Delegation representative for the Advanced Materials sector; and **Mel Totman**, Head of Product Management at Rimac Technology, for winning the election to be one of the two Association Delegation representatives for the Automotive sector.

The next point on the agenda was the presentation of the latest draft of the new Batt4EU Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda ([SRIA](#)). The chairs of the working groups provided an overview of the strategic research topics which has been proposed in the BEPA working groups, and the timeline for the topics to be tackled.

Seeing the expressed interest of BEPA members to have more networking events in person, better links with other Horizon Europe Partnerships and workshops with national and regional clusters, the BEPA office presented their new Matchmaking Platform feature in the Members Area of the BEPA website and presented upcoming events and networking opportunities.

The GA was followed by a Horizon Europe Matchmaking Workshop on the 2024 calls for projects under the BATT4EU Partnership. During the workshop, 11 organisations pitched on innovative project ideas in the battery field linked to the seven open calls. To support and encourage innovative ideas turned into action, BEPA organised for the first time the ‘Best Project Pitch Award’ competition. Congratulations to Çağla Odabaşı Özer, PhD from Siro Energy for being the winner of the Best Pitch Award.



The Batteries European Partnership Association (BEPA) is the international non-profit making association (AISBL) representing the private-side of the BATT4EU Partnership. It gathers the European battery community willing to contribute to the ambitious upcoming Research & Innovation Batteries Partnership under Horizon Europe. The main activity of BEPA is thus to provide input and advice to the European Commission in order to contribute to the identification of priorities of research and innovation activities and the definition of call topics to be included in the Horizon Europe Work Programmes.

For more information about opportunities to become a member of the BEPA community please visit <https://bepassociation.eu/>