



The Future of EU Steel Research - How to foster EU steel leadership

Mönchengladbach, 26 November 2025 (and online)



The European Union's steel sector stands at a critical juncture, navigating the complex relationship of ambitious decarbonization targets, global competitiveness pressures, and the need to maintain economic security and employment. The event underscores the role of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel (RFCS) in generating the scientific and technical knowledge required for the industrial transformation. In the light of the Commission proposal to reform the RFCS, the event will show how ongoing RFCS project results can provide innovation impulses to the European industrial base and actionable feedback to current EU policies and legislative initiatives. The conference will be based on RFCS project presentations highlighting novel technological developments and emphasising the impact on economy and policy making. The audience is composed from project experts, researchers and decision makers from steel ecosystem and policy.

The goal of the event is to accelerate the uptake of innovative solutions in the EU steel industry by showcasing successful RFCS projects and their potential for scalability and impact. “The Future of EU Steel Research - How to foster EU steel leadership” is structured in two sessions:

- 1) **“Low to zero emission iron and steel production”** which includes focus areas such as energy efficiency and energy recovery technologies, electrification of processes, hydrogen-based iron production, and
- 2) **“Closing the Loop: Circularity, competitiveness and industrial symbiosis”** focussing on areas such as scrap quality management, innovative recycling, boosting competitiveness, smart digitisation and industrial symbiosis (slag, dusts, and sludges).

Sessions include pitches from selected RFCS research projects that inform on the innovation impacted the steel sector, society and policy making.



SMS Group, Am SMS Campus 1, 41069 Mönchengladbach, Germany



Register in https://rea.ec.europa.eu/events/future-eu-steel-research-how-foster-eu-steel-leadership-2025-11-26_en

Draft agenda

Time	Title	Presenter
09h30 – 10h00	Coffee / Registration	
10h00 – 11h00	Opening Session Moderator: Matthew Moggridge	
	Michael Rzepczyk Chief Operating Officer, SMS Group Maria Cristina Russo, Director Prosperity, DG RTD, European Commission Marc Tachelet, Director, Research Executive Agency Jean Theo Ghenda, Director of Technologies, EUROFER Annika Roos, President, ESTEP	
11h00 – 11h30	Low to zero emission iron and steel production Chair: Sebastiano Fumero, Research Executive Agency	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency and energy recovery technologies • Hydrogen and Electricity-based iron production • Low carbon technologies for high temperature downstream processes 	Bernard Vanderheyden, CRM Paul Tockert, SMS Group Laurent Sieye, Ugitech
11h30 – 12h30	Panel discussion	Sebastian Plickert, UBA Tom Theves, Min of Economy, Luxembourg Thorsten Hauck, BFI Johannes Rieger, K1 - MET Enrico Malfa, Tenova Michael Bott, Stahl Holding Saar
13h00 – 14h00	Lunch	
14h00-14h30	Closing the loop and boosting competitiveness Chair: Klaus Peters, ESTEP	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovative recycling • Boosting competitiveness • Industrial symbiosis & smart digitisation 	Javier Ciriza, Sidenor Griet Lannoo, CRM Frenk van den Berg, Tata
14h30-15h30	• Panel discussion	Jose Moya, European Commission JRC Gerald Fliegel, Primetals Lubor Kalafus, EUROFER Valentina Colla, SSSA Barbara Fernandez, CELSA
15h30 – 16h15	Future EU steel research Chair: Sebastiano Fumero, Research Executive Agency	
	Panel discussion	Carsten Schierenbeck, EC R&I Sebastian Plickert, UBA Annika Roos, ESTEP Thomas Echtermann, RWTH Aachen Guido Michelin, SMS Group Wolfgang Volkhausen, ThyssenKrupp
16h15 – 16h30	Concluding remarks	Danny Croon, EUROFER, Klaus Peters, ESTEP Sebastiano Fumero, REA
16h30	End of the event	

Q&A: andreas.jenet@ec.europa.eu , klaus.peters@estep.eu and d.croon@eurofer.eu