

2 – 5 MAY 2022

OTC – HOUSTON



The Energy Transition – Strategy, Innovation, Emerging Technologies and business Opportunities

Bio speakers



Hilde Skorpen

Since 2019, Hilde Skorpen has served as Consul General of Norway in Houston. She is a former Director of the Section for Business Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo. She held the position of Consul General in San Francisco from 2013 to 2017. She has also served as Ambassador for Disarmament and Deputy Head of the Norwegian Mission to the UN in Geneva, and has been posted to the Norwegian mission to NATO in Brussels, and the Embassy in Malaysia. Skorpen earned a Ph.D. in Political Science and International Relations at Boston University.



Jeffrey Blair

Since 2013, Jeffrey Blair has served as Director and Senior Director Europe, Middle East and Africa at Greater Houston Partnership. Former clients via Blair Acquisition & Management BV (Economic Development) include City of The Hague, West Holland Foreign Investment Agency and City of Breda. Blair earned a B.Sc. in Military Science from the University Maryland (Berlin).



Kerri Smith

Kerri Smith joined Rice University in 2004 where she serves as Executive Director of the Clean Energy Accelerator, Associate Managing Director of the Rice Alliance, Director of the NSF I-Corps Program, Board Member of the Texas University Network for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and Advisor to the OwlSpark and BlueLaunch Accelerator. In all positions, she plays a lead role in enabling entrepreneurship and accelerating the formation and scaling of tech-enabled startups.

Partners:



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**Niklas Husefest**

Niklas Husefest currently serves as Technology Solutions Manager at Syzygy Plasmonics. He has been with the company for three years where he played a pivotal role in building out their state-of-the-art laboratory facilities and growing the company from 10 to 60 employees. Prior to Syzygy, Husefest worked at DONG Energy as a reservoir engineer. Husefest holds a Master's Degree in Innovation & Entrepreneurship Mgmt. from the University of Oslo and a Master's in petroleum technology from the University of Bergen.

**Mike Avery**

Michael J. Avery is President, 1PointFive and Vice President, Business Development for Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV). Most recently, he served as President and General Manager of Permian Resources overseeing the development and production of Occidental's unconventional plays in the Texas Delaware Basin. He joined Occidental in 2005 as a drilling engineer and spent 10 years working projects in Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman, before joining Occidental's domestic operations in Houston. Avery holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stellenbosch University in South Africa and an Executive Master of Business Administration from Hult International Business School in Dubai.

**Kari Ann Lien**

Kari Anne Lien is Manager Energy & Renewables at Innovation Norway in Houston. Lien has a background from the energy industry, with several years in global roles at ExxonMobil. She has worked the last three years assisting Norwegian companies in Houston by facilitating various networking events, establishing, and managing strategic partnerships with industry clusters, industry associations, city administrations, innovation hubs and academia in her role as Senior Advisor at the Norwegian Consulate General in Houston. Lien has a Business Administration degree from the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH).

**Arne Thomassen**

Arne Thomassen is a Norwegian politician for the Conservative Party. He currently serves as Mayor of Agder County. Thomassen has served as a deputy representative to the Parliament of Norway from 2009 to 2021. He is the former Mayor of Lillesand Municipality and leader of Aust-Agder Conservative Party.

Partners:

