

OIL SHALE NEWS

ESTONIA IS HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM “OIL SHALE 100” TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF ITS OIL SHALE MINING

From 20–23 September 2016, Estonia will be hosting an International Symposium “Oil Shale 100”. The Symposium will bring together resource holders, technology developers, researchers, government representatives and business leaders from across the world to celebrate a momentous anniversary in oil shale development – 100 years of oil shale mining in Estonia. The event is organized under the guidance of the world’s leading oil shale energy company Eesti Energia, Tallinn University of Technology and the University of Tartu.

According to Hando Sutter, Chairman of the Management Board of Eesti Energia, the Symposium will offer unique opportunities to learn about the latest innovations and technology updates in the field, as well as efficiency improvements and measures to reduce environmental impacts.

“Estonia is living proof that the oil shale industry can be viable long-term, and has remained so throughout the last century. Estonia is the biggest oil shale processor in the world, and we have proven technologies for producing both electricity and oil. In addition to running and developing the world’s largest oil shale industry, we are able to export our unique know-how to other resource holding countries,” Hando Sutter noted.

According to Professor Volli Kalm, Rector of the University of Tartu, the year 2016 is a milestone for Estonia’s oil shale industry, marking 100 years since oil shale mining in the country began, while oil shale has been the subject of scientific research during the same length of time. “Scientific research on oil shale, carried out by Estonian universities, enables the Government to make well-informed decisions, so that – through creating new jobs and promoting innovation in the energy sector – our society could continue to benefit from oil shale in the future,” Kalm said.

“When it comes to Estonian research and technology, oil shale science is indisputably world-class – a discussion of the field’s global future presents a big challenge, and opportunity, to all our researchers and engineers,” academician and Rector of Tallinn University of Technology, Professor Jaak Aaviksoo, uttered. The first international oil shale symposium was held in Estonia in 1968, and was organized by Tallinn Polytechnical Institute, today Tallinn University of Technology. Estonia also hosted an international oil shale symposium not long ago, in 2013, with 400 industry professionals from 33 countries attending.



Participants in the 2013 Oil Shale Symposium visiting the new Enefit280 Oil Plant in Ida-Viru County.

This year's Symposium's panel sessions will be held at Kultuurikatel (Tallinn Creative Hub) on September 20th and 21st. A field trip to Ida-Viru County will offer an opportunity to visit industrial oil shale facilities – the 300 MW Auvere Power Plant, and the Enefit280, a combined shale oil, gas and electricity cogeneration plant, as well as an operational open cast mine. The Symposium is being organised in collaboration with the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Estonian Ministry of the Environment, and the Estonian National Committee of the World Energy Council.

One can find additional information on the Symposium and submission of abstracts at www.oilshalesymposium.com