



Edinburgh Workshop 2026

“Shaping the Future of Thermoelectric Applications”

Co-located with ECT 2026

15th September 2026

Venue address:

John McIntyre Conference Centre, The University of Edinburgh, Pollock Halls
18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh EH16 5AY

Tuesday, 15th September, 17:15 – 18:15

WG3 Fostering Forum

Round table session

Objective: bring together researchers working on thermoelectric applications to discuss future research directions, identify common challenges, foster new collaborations, and explore opportunities for joint activities within and beyond the COST Action

Panel members: Hao Yin; Raúl Aragonés; Vicente Pacheco, Richard Tuley; Llesh Lleshaj; Marko Ilić

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Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction

- Welcome to the participants.
- Brief overview of WG3 objectives.
- Purpose of the Fostering Forum.

2. Short introduction by the panel members

Each panel member briefly introduces:

- Their research interests.
- Current challenges.
- Opportunities where collaboration would be valuable.

3. Open round-table discussion

Possible discussion topics include:

- Emerging applications for thermoelectric technologies.
- Key scientific and technological challenges.
- Opportunities for collaboration between academia and industry.
- Joint publications, STSMs and Training Schools.
- Preparation of future Horizon Europe and other collaborative projects.
- How WG3 can better support the thermoelectric community.

4. Conclusions and next steps

- Summary of the main ideas discussed.
- Identification of potential collaborative actions.
- Future WG3 initiatives.

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Panel members bios

Hao Yin

Leader of SUSTENET WG3

Hao Yin pursued his Ph.D in Materials Science from Aarhus University, after receiving his Master degree from China. Based on his studies and inventions, a hi-tech company has been founded. He joined the company from the start and is now the owner and director for it.

As many others, Hao and his company TEGnology have much to do with the global thermoelectric markets, from supply-chain to customers. Especially from recent years, when the global geopolitics and trade have changed significantly. How to secure operation and supply, as well as fulfill the regulations from both Denmark and EU, have become his focus.

Hao is also interested in understanding how culture difference affects decision-making in business.



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Raúl Aragonés

Microelectronics engineer (2001) and PhD in Microelectronics (2011), accredited as lector in 2016. Since 2003, he has worked as a scientific researcher in the Microelectronics Department at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). His research track record includes more than 60 indexed scientific publications, 40 of them as first author.

In 2014, he founded AEInnova, where he serves as CEO and CSO. The company designs and manufactures industrial sensing solutions powered by thermoelectric energy, enabling more sustainable and autonomous monitoring systems. His work at the intersection of microelectronics, energy harvesting, and industrial innovation has received over 30 international awards.



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Vicente Pacheco

Vicente Pacheco studied chemistry at the University of Puebla (BUAP, 1991), a master in materials science at the National University of Mexico (UNAM, 1993), and a PhD in crystallography at the University of Geneva, Switzerland (2000). He performed a post-doc stage at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Physics of Solids MPI-CPfS (2003) and went back to Mexico as titular professor at the Institute of Physics, University of Puebla (2006). In 2007, Dr. Pacheco return to the MPI CPfS as guest scientist and since 2008 he is scientific staff at the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Materials IFAM in Dresden, Germany. Dr. Pacheco's research areas include solid-state chemistry, intermetallic compounds, and functional materials—namely, permanent magnets, thermoelectric materials, and nanostructuring using sol-gel methods. The scaling up of thermoelectric material synthesis to an industrial level, the development of automated processes for assembling thermoelectric modules, and their recycling are some of the main topics of Vicente Pacheco's applied research.



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Richard Tuley

Dr Richard Tuley is the Lead Research Scientist at European Thermodynamics Ltd, focusing on bringing thermoelectric innovation to market. He has a background in Physics (DPhil, University of Oxford, 2010) and a focus on thermoelectric devices and their application for solid state cooling and electricity generation from waste heat. He leads a research team developing new thermoelectric device architectures and incorporating novel thermoelectric materials into innovative devices. With 16 years' experience in industrial research, he has a strong history of applied collaborative development, including filing 19 patents, and joint projects with more than 10 universities or research centres. He is also committed to educating the next generation of scientists, including through his role as a Visiting Professor at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).



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Llesh Lleshaj

He is an Associate Professor in quantitative finance at the Faculty of Economy, University of Tirana, with a Ph.D. in Statistics (since 2016) and lecturer for ten years in several finance courses (at the bachelor and master levels): Financial Management, Financial Modeling, Probability for Risk Management, etc. He is the author of the university textbook "Introduction to Financial Modeling" and over 45 scientific papers published in scientific journals and proceedings. In research, the most valuable commitment as a financial evaluation expert in several national and international projects (Cost Action, Erasmus +, EIT – HEI, etc.), and he is a member of several editorial boards of international scientific journals, and he continues to be a reviewer in two of them. He is also a member of the education committee at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Albania. He has experiences in the financial sector and industries and is currently a managerial consultant for business optimization processes, financial planning, budgeting, forecasting, KPIs evaluation, external audits, etc.



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Marko Ilić

Marko Ilić is a professor and researcher at the University of Niš, Serbia, with professional experience in energy engineering, thermal systems, HVAC technologies and renewable energy applications. His research and professional interests include energy efficiency, sustainable energy systems, thermal energy conversion, building energy performance and the integration of renewable energy technologies.

He has been involved in research, teaching and applied engineering activities related to the design, analysis and optimization of energy systems, with a particular interest in practical solutions that can contribute to more efficient and sustainable use of energy.

Within COST Action CA24120 SUSTENET, he is interested in the development and practical application of thermoelectric technologies, their integration with other energy systems, and the opportunities for cooperation between academia and industry. He is particularly interested in identifying realistic applications, technical challenges and opportunities for further development and collaboration in the thermoelectric field.

