

**Presentation of panelists:**

**Dr. Ing. Ralf-Roman Schmidt** is a senior research engineer and is working at the AIT since June 2009, where he is responsible for the development and management of national and international projects in the field of district heating and integrated energy systems. His research priorities are decarbonization strategies and sector coupling, digitization and flexibility as well as low temperature district heating networks. He holds key positions in international networks (IEA, RHC-ETIP). After finishing his studies in process and mechanical engineering at the University of Bremen in 2005, he received his PhD-degree in the field of thermo-fluid dynamics in 2013.

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**Colonel Robert Šipec** is Head of Armament Division of the MOD of the Republic of Slovenia and acts as Deputy National Armament Director.

In 1992, he joined the Slovenian Armed Forces, where he performed tasks at the tactical, operational and strategic levels. He holds his master's degree from the U.S. Air Command and Staff College.

Career positions include the leadership of the Logistics Sector in the SAF Force Command, the Armament Sector and the Logistics Sector in the SAF General Staff. International military experience includes participations in the NATO operations KFOR and ISAF.

Since 1994, he has been involved in the development and equipping programs of the SAF, where he has led numerous acquisition projects. He was involved in the planning and monitoring of defence research and technology projects, especially in the fields of unmanned systems and hydrogen technologies.

As the head of the Slovenian delegation, he participated in the EU Consultation Forum for Sustainable Energy in Defence and Security Sector. Currently he is moderator to the Transversal Working Group at the Forum.

He acted as national expert to the CapTech Ground of the EDA. He is now appointed as a national expert to the Energy and Environment Working Group of EDA. He leads and directs several projects of the Ministry in the field of energy efficiency and the implementation of renewable and hydrogen technologies. He is appointed Vice President of the Slovenian partnership for energy and environment in defence sector (SiEnE).

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**Milan Jungic**, from City of Bled, Slovenia, is a Head of Product Portfolio Management in Danfoss District Energy segment, responsible for a portfolio of control components for District Energy systems. He is a Bachelor of Organizational Sciences - direction Information Technologies and has 18 years of experience in field of District Energy automation and optimization solutions. Outside his work, he's a partner, a father, »do it yourself« guy and enjoys being physically active as much as possible.

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**Paul Voss** joined Euroheat & Power as Managing Director in late 2013 from Danfoss District Energy, a global leader in District Heating and Cooling (DHC) technology. As Head of Public and Industrial Affairs, he led the company's efforts to engage with policy-makers at global, EU, national and local level. Prior to that, he was responsible for relations with EU institutions in the fields of energy and environment policy at the European LPG Association. He has also worked for CLAN Public Affairs as a

public policy analyst. Paul has an in-depth understanding of EU policy and first-hand experience in managing cooperation between the private and public sectors in pursuit of shared goals, and has played a leading role in establishing the heating sector in general and district energy in particular as priority fields in EU energy policy. He has studied in Canada, France and Belgium and holds a Masters degree in European Public Policy.

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**Friderik Knez** is currently head of department for building physics at the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering institute. He's working on efficient use of energy issue for over 20 years and in the last decade on sustainable construction. He is specializing in embodied energy and emissions as well as nearly zero energy buildings and plus energy buildings. Friderik Knez is also the coordinator of the professional council of the SRIP Smart home with wood chain. He is also involved in ongoing plus energy negative embodied carbon demonstration building.

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**Gorazd Štumberger (PhD)** is a Full Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Maribor (UM FER). His current research interest includes smart grids, microgrids, renewable energy and energy management systems. His research work resulted in 161 scientific articles, 349 conference papers, 6 patents. He was a visiting researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, and at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, a member of ARRS Scientific Council for Engineering, and a Head of Power Engineering Institute at UM FER. Currently, he is a Dean of UM FER, a member of the expert council in the Strategic research and development partnership (SRIP) Smart buildings and home with wood chain, and an editorial board member of journals Electrical Engineering, Electric Power Applications, and Energies.

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