

Conference speakers

Dr Mike Rendall

Mike is the Chief Technology Officer at H-Power where he leads the development of hydrogen generation technologies from carrier fuels such as methanol and ammonia.

In October last year, Mike was appointed Chair of the UK Ammonia Alliance, a newly established industry group aimed at advancing the low-carbon ammonia sector in the UK. The Alliance includes founding members such as H-Power, Air Products, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and its objective is to accelerate growth in the UK's ammonia industry and promote the adoption of low-carbon ammonia solutions across various sectors.



Dr Neeraj Yadav

Neeraj is a Research Fellow at University of Nottingham in the Powertrain Research Centre. His research focuses on the development of ammonia, methanol and hydrogen-based combustion engines to support the decarbonisation of the hard-to-electrify sector.

He combines experimental and theoretical approaches to study combustion processes and emissions, with an emphasis on cleaner, sustainable, and near-zero-emission engine technologies.



Dr Ebrahim Nadimi

Ebrahim is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Durham University, working on clean maritime technologies, alternative fuels, combustion, CFD modelling and low-carbon propulsion systems.

His expertise spans combustion and alternative fuels, with a focus on ammonia-fuelled engines, spray and injector analysis, emissions reduction, and numerical simulation.



Dr Dawei Wu

Dawei is the MOL Professor of Maritime Energy Systems at Durham University, where he leads the UK Clean Maritime Research Hub's Power and Propulsion research theme.

His work focuses on the thermofluids and combustion of zero-carbon fuels – including hydrogen, ammonia, and e-fuels – as well as on low-carbon propulsion technologies for transportation. He collaborates closely with the maritime industry through Horizon Europe, CMDC and Smart Shipping initiatives, advancing economically viable decarbonisation solutions for ships and ports.

Dawei also leads the hydrogen technology roadmaps at the UK National Hydrogen Research Hub (HI-ACT) and serves as Work Package Lead for Propulsion System Scalability Analysis in the Green Ammonia Thermal Propulsion project. He previously held academic appointments as Senior Lecturer in Marine Engineering at Newcastle University and as Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Birmingham.



James Dodd

James has spent 28 years with Infineum UK, building deep expertise in the lubricant additives industry. His career began with six years in R&D before moving into the large engine sector, where he has spent 12 years developing and deploying additive solutions for marine and large engine lubricants.

Throughout his career, he's worked closely with OEMs and has been continuously engaged in the large engine community, including active participation in CIMAC UK and its working groups. For the past decade, he has held full responsibility for all large engine OEM-related activities across both 2-stroke and 4-stroke engines and for all fuel types.

James currently serves as Chair of the CIMAC UK National Members Association and is an active member of CIMAC Working Group 17 (Gas Engines) and Working Group 8 (Lubricants). He holds an Honours degree in Applied Chemistry with Analytical Chemistry and is a Chartered Chemist.



Professor Athanasios Tsolakis

Thanos is Professor of Thermodynamics and Head of Research for the School of Engineering at the University of Birmingham. He holds the James Watt Research Chair and leads the Clean Energy Engineering research group. He is a Co-Investigator on the MariNH₃ programme.



His research interests are focused on clean propulsion and energy systems, with broader studies of future transportation technology and policy, hydrogen production, safer fuels, and abatement of air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

His research covers both fundamentals and industrial applications, and he has received funding awards from Research Councils UK, Innovate UK, Horizon 2020, and Horizon Europe in collaboration with industry.

Silvia Alcove Clave

Silvia is Principal Scientist at Johnson Matthey (JM), where she has built over 16 years of experience. She obtained her Engineering Doctorate (EngD) from the University of Nottingham while working at JM, combining academic excellence and industrial practice.



Throughout her career, Silvia has developed strong industrial expertise in exhaust aftertreatment systems for both traditional and alternative fuel combustion engines, supporting marine and stationary applications. She currently leads the Clean Air Solutions Research team at JM Technology Centre in Sonning, UK, where she focuses on advancing emissions control technologies and delivering innovative solutions for cleaner air.

Additionally, Silvia joined the advisory board of the UK National Clean Maritime Research Hub in 2024. Her work reflects deep expertise in advanced catalytic and environmental technologies, positioning her as a significant figure in her field.

Dr Laura Norris

Laura is an economic geographer with expertise in sustainability transitions, technology acceptance, and the role of innovation in regional economic development and resilience.

Working as part of the Cardiff University team, she is undertaking an analysis of legislation and the wider innovation system to identify key areas to mobilise green ammonia acceptance on MariNH₃.



Dr Felix Leach

Felix is an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford where he's led an EPSRC project establishing fundamental properties of ammonia sprays, both in experiments and modelling.

He also researches emissions and efficiency in thermal propulsion systems as well as air and noise pollution.

In addition to publishing over 90 academic papers, Felix is the author of the award-winning books "Racing Toward Zero" about decarbonising transportation rapidly and "Critical Mass" which is about the negative impacts of ever-heavier vehicles.



Professor David Grant

David is Director of the University of Nottingham Energy Institute, coordinating the Institute's Energy Generation and Management Challenge.

He is Professor of Materials Science, the Faculty of Engineering's Djanogly Chair in Sustainable Energy and is a Co-Investigator on the MariNH₃ programme.

His research interests include energy storage systems for hydrogen and thermal stores, and biomaterials, and he's an international leading expert on clean energy storage.



Professor Agustin Valera Medina

Agustin is Professor in Combustion and Thermofluids at Cardiff University. He is an internationally leading academic in the field of ammonia combustion fundamentals, with recent activities covering ammonia combustion in both gas turbines and IC engines.

He's participated as a principal or co-investigator in over 30 industrial projects with multinationals including Rolls-Royce, Siemens, Ricardo, Airbus and BP, attracting approximately £11.2M in research. He's a co-investigator on MariNH₃.

He's published almost 200 papers, a quarter of these specifically concerning ammonia for power, and has been part of various scientific boards, chairing sessions in international conferences and moderating large industrial panels on the topic of "Ammonia for Direct Use." He is currently chair of the "Combustion and Emissions" working group of the Ammonia Energy Association, which holds its next conference in Chile in September.



Chairs

Nick Owen

Nick is an experienced engineer and consultant in the transport and mobile power sectors. At Ricardo, he became responsible for technology strategy and research, leading programmes on advanced engines and electrification. In 2012 he joined E4tech, establishing them in low carbon vehicle consulting, before becoming CTO at Dearman in 2014, developing a zero emission, liquid nitrogen engine for mobile refrigeration.



In 2018 he joined Dolphin N2 as Technical Director, responsible for developing the Recuperated Split Cycle Engine. He now serves a range of innovators in clean propulsion through his own company, Woodford Owen Consulting, and sits on the MariNH₃ Steering Group.

Steve Sapsford

Steve joined the automotive consultancy, Ricardo, in 1986 and worked in technical roles focusing on analysis and simulation of internal combustion engines.

In 2007, he became the Global Product Group Director for all gasoline engine business. In 2014 he became the Business Strategy Director for the Technical Consulting business with a special interest in sustainability and life-cycle analysis.



Steve left Ricardo in September 2018 to set up his own consultancy, SCE, with a focus on future propulsions systems and the role for sustainable fuels in complementing electrification.

He is an Industrial Advisor for Transport at the University of Nottingham and a member of the Industrial Advisory Board (School of Engineering) at the University of Cardiff. He was the chair of the Powertrain Systems and Fuels Group at the IMechE until June 2022 and recently co-chaired a UK Government Group regarding the application of H₂ICE for off-road machinery. Steve chairs the MariNH₃ Steering Group.