Just a few years ago it was hardly conceivable that the MENA region would lead the transformation to becoming an emission free energy provider to its citizens and an exporter of ‘green power’ and ‘green molecules’ to world energy markets. With swiftly dropping solar and wind energy costs and guided by visionary and pragmatic leadership, this picture has recently changed dramatically. The Dii Desert Energy Leadership Summit will shine its light this year on the progress that is being made in the energy transition, both at regional and international energy system level and at the level of smart city applications. The Summit will offer a platform for debate among decision makers, policy makers and experts. Focus will be on the way to go in the four key energy market components: green energy generation, transport of electricity / green molecules, energy storage, and the interaction with flexible industrial and residential demand. Apart from the usual focus on renewables and grid interconnections, special emphasis will be given to the emerging energy solutions in innovative cities, blockchain technology, desalination, e-mobility and the new wave of hydrogen as a solution for storage, transport and chemistry.
"Dii’s annual flagship event brings together the entire Dii network, now for the ninth time. From Dii shareholders, to its Associated Partners, public sector and political cooperation partners as well as other stakeholders on the way to "No Emissions". The conference is also a forum to discuss about the progress of Dii’s working groups and other activities in the region."

**PROGRAM**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>08:30am - 09:00am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>09:00am - 10:45am</td>
<td><strong>Keynotes</strong>  &lt;br&gt;Introduction: Paul van Son, CEO, Dii GmbH  &lt;br&gt;Opening address: H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, CEO, Dubai Electricity &amp; Water Authority  &lt;br&gt;Martin Herrmann, Member of the Executive Board, innogy SE  &lt;br&gt;Paddy Padmanathan, CEO, ACWA Power  &lt;br&gt;Obaid Amrane, Board Member, MASEN  &lt;br&gt;Khalid Rashid Al Zayani, Chairman, Al Baraka Bank  &lt;br&gt;Harry Boyd-Carpenter, Director, Head of Power and Energy Utilities, EBRD  &lt;br&gt;Prof. Dr. Ad van Wijk, Professor, Future Energy Systems, TU Delft  &lt;br&gt;Ahmed Ali El-Ebrahim, CEO, GCCIA  &lt;br&gt;Moderator: Frank Wouters, Director, EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network</td>
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<td>10:45am - 11:00am</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:00am - 12:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Top Executive Panel</strong> (Business perspectives)  &lt;br&gt;A panel of leading executives will discuss the opportunities, challenges and mechanisms for growing and accelerating renewable energy in MENA and beyond.  &lt;br&gt;Reda El Chaar, Executive Chairman, Access Power  &lt;br&gt;Daniel Calderon, CEO, Alcazar Energy  &lt;br&gt;Roberto de Diego Arozamena, CEO, Abdul Latif Jameel Energy  &lt;br&gt;Rory O’Neill, Executive Chairman, Europagrid  &lt;br&gt;Thomas Altmann, Vice President, Technology, ACWA Power  &lt;br&gt;Dr. Manar Al Moneef, President &amp; CEO, Renewable Energy MENAT, GE</td>
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<td>12:30pm - 02:00pm</td>
<td>Networking Lunch</td>
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Interactive parallel Dii style Round Tables

Our network round tables bring together specialist speakers to host half hour sessions. Delegates choose 4 tables and move between them when the bell rings. Public sector officials and key industry executives provide project and strategy updates, while other tables discuss topics from energy storage to regulation. Bring a lot of business cards.

Round Tables include:

- New Business models for energy with blockchain & smart cities - Pierre Samaties, CEO, Innogy Middle East and Peter Davies, CEO of VERV and founder of VLUX
- E-mobility, Smart Streets – Dr. Karoline Steinbacher, Managing Consultant Ecofys and Sidqi Saeed Jaber, Chief Engineer, RTA
- Electrical interconnections – Nick Carter, Convener, Electricity Interconnections/Markets, EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network & Senior Advisor, PWC Middle East and Dr. Kaifeng Yu, Senior Manager, GEIDCO
- Financing RE projects & investments - Edwina Kelly, Director, EFG Hermes and Frank Beckers, Member of the Dii Advisory Board
- PV based Energy Storage and Hybrid Systems - Daniel Zywietz, CEO, Enerwhere and Vikas Bansal, Head of Business Development, Solar International, Sterling & Wilson
- Renewables based Desalination - Thomas Altmann, VP Technology, ACWA Power and Jorge Salas Orta, Director, Abengoa
- Green Molecules (Renewables based hydrogen etc.) - Prof. Ad van Wijk, Professor, TU Delft and Frank Wouters, Director, EU GCC Clean Energy Technology Network
- Emerging renewable energy countries – Raed Blayrat, Director, CEBC and Dr. Hassan Qasem, CEO, Alternative Energy Projects
- Start-ups and angel investments - Kushal Shah, Managing Partner, Roland Berger
- Industrial and Commercial PV Projects - Jeremy Crane, CEO, Yellow Door Energy
- Technology Integrated LED Street Light financing - Alexis Gianniotis - Founder & CEO, Envirofina
- Update 700MW CSP Dubai and future prospects in MENA - Javier Carvajal, Director, Renewable Energy, ACWA Power

Coffee break

Electrical Interconnections, Grid Integration - Ahmed Al Ibrahim, CEO, GCCIA, Deger Saygin, Director, SHURA Enerji Transition Center, Prof. Jochen Kreusel, Market Innovation Manager Power Grids Division, ABB, Yalou Li, Chief Engineer, Power Systems Department, CEPRI, Siemens, Midal Cables,

Moderator: Fadi Maalouf, CTO & IPP Director, Dii Desert Energy

Dii working groups and activities: Dii Team + Working Group Leads

Friends and Partners of Dii, Reception dinner at the beach (Le Royal Meridien, Dubai, Marina)

For queries, contact Ms. Uma Dagdelen at uma@dii-desertenergy.org