

Press release

18.1.2022

Antti Kaikkonen appointed as Managing Director of Blastr Green Steel in Finland

Antti Kaikkonen (MSc in Finance and Electrical Engineering) has been appointed as Managing Director of Blastr Green Steel Oy (Blastr) as of 1 March 2023. In this role, Antti will be responsible for, among others, building the local team and leading it in developing a green steel plant and an integrated hydrogen production facility in Inkoo, Finland.

- I am excited to join the Blastr team on its journey to decarbonize the steel industry. In addition to contributing to accelerating the energy transition, the project will bring new jobs, positive benefits and well-being to the whole of Southwestern Finland. I look forward to developing the project in close dialogue with the local people, partners and stakeholders, said Antti Kaikkonen, incoming Managing Director of Blastr Green Steel Oy.

Before joining Blastr, Antti worked for the leading Nordic energy company Fortum for nearly 19 years where he led large development projects for power-intensive industries in Finland with a strong focus on sustainability.

- I'm very pleased to have Antti on our team. He brings us valuable experience in the Finnish energy industry and in decarbonizing their processes. With Antti on board, we will be able to further strengthen the good collaboration with our key partners, such as Fortum, said Hans Fredrik Wittusen, the CEO of Blastr Green Steel.

For more information, please contact:

General media inquiries regarding the Blastr Green Steel Project: Minna Sundelin, Communications Advisor to Blastr, Fama Consulting Oy Ltd, +358 40 582 2750, minna@fama.fi

Antti Kaikkonen, Managing Director, Blastr Green Steel Oy (1 March onwards),
antti.kaikkonen@blastr.no, +358 50 453 6308

***Blastr Green Steel** is dedicated to decarbonizing the steel value chain through developing local, sustainable and scalable value chains for steel production. By utilizing local raw materials and fossil-free energy and applying circular economy thinking throughout the value chain, Blastr aims to cut the CO2 emissions of its end products by 95% compared to conventional methods. The company will establish a pelletizing plant in Norway and a green steel plant*



with an integrated hydrogen production facility in Finland and is expected to become one of the largest industry start-ups in the Nordic region. Blastr was founded in 2021 and is part of Vanir Green Industries. www.blastr.no

Vanir Green Industries (VGI) *is a Nordic business builder and investment company that builds and scales leading, sustainable, robust, and profitable companies that will help accelerate the energy transition. VGI was founded by Tore Ivar Slettemoen, who also founded NYSE listed Freyr Batteries. In addition to Blastr, the VGI portfolio consists of Removr developing solutions for capturing and storing CO₂; Freija developing technology for producing green methanol and Njordr focusing on onshore and offshore wind power projects. Njordr's subsidiary Nordi develops renewable energy projects in Finland. www.vaniras.no*