SurfCenter – a Competence Center for a Sustainable Surface Treatment Industry

Sustainability has traditionally been a prioritized area for the surface treatment industry. The nature of the processes and materials involved push the branch forward in the search for new and improved alternatives to achieve more environmentally friendly production systems and comply with new and increasing regulations without undermining quality and cost. Today, this type of initiatives is often handled as separate projects in small constellations. With the increased need for a rapid change and transition to meet the climate challenge, a more efficient approach is required. Therefore, we are proposing SurfCenter.

The vision is that SurfCenter will gather applied R&D in the surface treatment area with focus on the need of Swedish companies for a sustainable and resilient development. For instance, experts within sustainability, circular economy, and life cycle analysis will collaborate with process and material specialists to overcome the challenges of this industry, ensure the Swedish competitiveness on a global scale, and, in the long run, keep the production in Sweden.

The competence center SurfCenter will gather actors from the surface treatment industry, with a common vision and strategic ideas for building a long-term excellent research environment, where the results can be shared between the parties and promote the creation of new innovations.

SURFCENTER – VISION

A sustainable Swedish surface treatment industry through a long-term excellent research collaboration leading to a branch that is:

- Globally competitive
- CO₂ neutral
- Circular and ecological
- Socially sustainable
The purpose with SurfCenter is to be a comprehensive effort to overcome the sustainability challenges (economical, social and ecological), faced by the surface treatment industry with a long-term perspective of 5+5 years. By bringing together research institutes, universities, and companies (from OEMs to SMEs), SurfCenter will be a centre for excellent research focused on developing the best available technologies for rapid incorporation into production lines and looking over the entire life cycle of the processes at issue.

The center will enable this through:

- Initiate and implement R&D projects
- Competence development: PhD studies, surface technology courses, training of operators, etc.
- Close collaboration within the partnership
- Access to test beds at institutes, universities, and companies

**SURFCENTER – FACTS**

**DURATION**
Phase 1: 5 years (2024-2028)
Ev. phase 2: 5 years (2029-2033)

**COORDINATOR**
RISE

**GROUP OF PARTNERS**
Surface treatment companies, SMEs, OEMs, Tier 1-n suppliers, research institutes, universities

**BUDGET**
Grant from Vinnova: max 36 MSEK/5 years
Total center budget: 1/3 grant, 1/3 in-kind companies, 1/3 in-kind institutes and universities

**FINANCING**
VINNOVA – Kompetenscentrum inom Hållbar Industri och Digital omställning 2024

**APPLICATION DEAD-LINE**
1 March 2023

**FOR MORE INFORMATION visit:**
[https://www.ri.se/en/what-we-do/projects/center-for-a-sustainable-surface-treatment-industry-surfcenter](https://www.ri.se/en/what-we-do/projects/center-for-a-sustainable-surface-treatment-industry-surfcenter)

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