

From the Chair of the PDA board

Dear members of the PDA community!

All of a sudden, it's June again and we are rapidly approaching a well deserved summer break. But before that, please enjoy our newsletter to get an update on recent and upcoming events of PDA.

As part of the Net Zero Industry programme, PDA is promoting the critical role of product development, innovation and design to reach long term goals of sustainability and circularity in collaboration with industry and society. This is a prioritized activity for PDA going forward with the programme. With the current challenging global situation, product development and design will play an even more important role

than before, as new needs arise within sustainable energy, circular design, defence and resilience worldwide. Calls and information within Impact Innovation are available at:

<https://impactinnovation.se/utlysningar/>

During the coming year, PDA will continue to strengthen our presence and broaden our membership base. One of our goals is to make sure that we have a representative on the PDA board from each university in Sweden active within the broad area of product development. We will also build our local activities by engaging more researchers in fields related to product development. Please let us know if you would like to be part of this effort, or if you have colleagues, you think should join!

On behalf of the board of PDA, I wish you a pleasant annual leave. Looking forward to continuing the work with renewed energy after the summer break!



PDA chair Anders Warell, LTH

Net Zero Industry

New Leadership, Funding Opportunities, and Project Highlights

The Net Zero Industry programme continues to grow as a national platform for industrial

transformation. We are pleased to welcome **Sofia Wieselfors** as the new Programme Director. With a strong background in industrial strategy and sustainability,

she brings renewed focus to the programme's mission of reducing emissions, increasing resilience, and boosting innovation throughout Swedish industry.



The long-term impact of Net Zero Industry is assessed based on innovative products, services, and manufacturing processes. The programme focuses on two key areas of change: (1) optimal resource efficiency and (2) resilience. It is expected during ten years to allocate research funding annually of SEK 150 million, serving as a platform for innovation, knowledge sharing, demonstration, and implementation of new capabilities and technologies that contribute to reaching the Net Zero goals by 2040. Read more at the programme website.

Open Calls

Two strategic calls are now open, both highly relevant to the PDA network:

(1) Impact Innovation: Net Zero Industry 2025, with deadline 27 August 2025. The

call funds R&D and innovation projects in three areas:

1. Resource efficiency and resilience in product development and production of electronics.
2. Resource-efficient and resilient value chains for radically reduced greenhouse gas emissions in the manufacturing industry.
3. Resource efficiency and resilience through industrial recycling of products and components.

(2) Impact Innovation: Efforts within competence for Net Zero Industry, with deadline 30 Sept 2025. The call includes funding for:

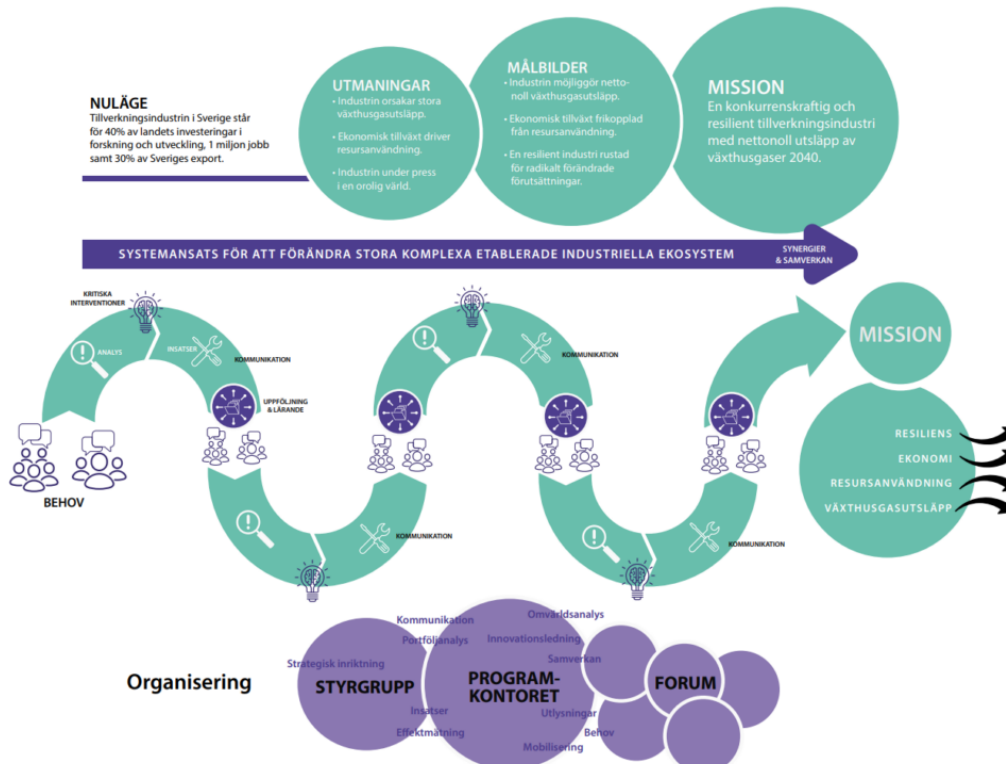
1. methods to evaluate manufacturing alignment with the net-zero mission,
2. educational collaborations on climate-neutrality and resilience.

PDA is actively engaged in the programme. Professor Anna Öhrwall Rönnbäck represents PDA and Swedish Production Academy (SPA) in the Steering Group, and professors Ola Isaksson (Chalmers),

Monica Bellgran (MDU), and postdoc Arpita Chari (Chalmers), head of department Margareta Groth (LTU) contribute through the Net Zero Programme Forum. The program office is staffed by Rise and Teknikföretagen with SPA professors Magnus Wiktorsson (KTH) and Björn Johansson (Chalmers).

The competence call, (2), is linked to the December 2024 workshop on future competence and skills supply reported from in the previous Newsletter. Participants came from the Strategic Innovation Programmes *Lighter*, *Produktion2030*, *RE:Source*, and *Smarter Electronic Systems* and the PDA supported DESSI initiative. Jointly for PDA and SPA, and building on decades of collaborations, a working group for education and competence development was formed under the leadership of professor B-G Rosén (Halmstad University). This group will continue working with application(s).

The working principles for NZI are illustrated by the programme office, below.



About Net Zero Industry (in Swedish). Source: <https://www.netzeroimpact.se/om-net-zero-industry/>

Mycronic visit & SIG PM annual meeting

On 23 April, members of the Product Development Academy and SIG PM gathered at Mycronic's headquarters in Täby for a joint site visit and SIG PM annual meeting.



Participants at the Mycronic site visit.

The session featured insightful tours and demos showcasing Mycronic's strengths in factory simulation, CAD/PLM integration, and advanced electronics manufacturing, including AI-enhanced inspection and production. The discussions underscored Mycronic's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and continuous upskilling in product development, solidifying the link between academic expertise and industrial advancement.

Design Society Nordic Chapter

The purpose of the Nordic Chapter is to enhance a Nordic approach to product development in industry, education and

research. The [Nordic Chapter of the Design Society](#) meets three times per year. The next physical meeting will be at ICED 2025, Dallas, Texas.

All activities and reports from the **Design Society** can be found at <https://designsociety.org/>

PhD courses

Our PhD courses are open for anyone with an interest in product development, both PhD students and industrial participants. All participants receive a certificate after completing a course. Details and dates for our PhD courses are available at [Kunskapsförmedlingen](#). A few of them are listed below.

PDA product development courses: The 20 HEC course suite with 4 courses are part of the Graduate School Produktion2030: P06, P09, P13, P61.

1. **PDA Module 1 (P06): Critical Review of the Product Development Process.** Planned Spring 2026.
2. **PDA Module 2 (P13): Sustainability in Engineering Product Development.** Planned Fall 2026.
3. **PDA Module 3 (P61): Modeling/Simulation/Optimization.** Planned Spring 2026.
4. **PDA Module 4 (P09): Engineering Management.** Planned Fall 2025.

Other courses during 2025 include:

PM3: Research Methodology in Product Realisation #5, starts 6 October.

PM4: Engineering Design Research Methodology #5, starts 1 September.

P63: Metrology and Properties of Engineering Surfaces #4, starts 4 November.

P64: Product platforms #4, starts 18 August.

Upcoming conferences


ICED 2025: The 25th International Conference on Engineering Design (ICED),

August 11-14, 2025 in Dallas, Texas, USA. ICED 2025 will also be the 25th anniversary of the Design Society!

IDETC-CIE 2025: International Design Engineering Technical Conferences & Computers and Information in Engineering Conference, ASME, August 17–20, 2025, Anaheim, California, USA.

PDA/SIGPM 2025 workshop: A workshop on *Engineering in dynamic uncertain contexts - making impact through design research* will be organised **September 8, 2025** at Chalmers, Gothenburg. Save-the-date and contact Ola.Isaksson@chalmers.se or anna.ohrwall.ronnback@ltu.se for more information.

SPS2026: Our national Swedish Production Symposium is co-arranged by Swedish Production Academy and PDA. 24-26 March 2026 in Luleå.


 Call for Abstracts: SPS2026 – Swedish Production Symposium: **Leading the transformation towards net zero industry**. Abstract deadline: August 22, 2025.

We warmly invite the PDA community to participate in SPS2026 – Swedish Production Symposium, taking place in Luleå, 24–26 March 2026, co-organised by PDA, the Swedish Production Academy, PADOK, and Luleå University of Technology.

SPS2026 will feature a rich academic programme, industry dialogue, and exciting opportunities to explore the northern innovation landscape, with also:

- Creaternity Impact Days in Kiruna 20 March, Luleå-Boden 23-24 March 2026

We encourage you to share your research, connect with colleagues across disciplines, and help shape the future of sustainable and resilient production.

 Submit your abstract this summer – see you in the north!

Croatia.

NordDesign 2026: Will be held at Tampere University, Finland, August 2026. Call is forthcoming.

Membership

Support our work by becoming a member of our networks:

PDA: Join us! Please fill in this short [form](#). Please, also join the [PDA LinkedIn group](#).

SIG-PM, the special interest group for product modelling: Join SIG-PM [here](#) (fee 200 SEK).

If you are a PhD student within product development and production, join the [PhD student network PADOK](#).

Finally

Thank you for your enthusiasm and fantastic work during the spring of 2025. The PDA Board wishes you all a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Design 2026: 19th International Design Conference, 18-21 May 2026, Dubrovnik,