

Markku Leskelä appointed Research Director of Forestcluster Ltd

Markku Leskelä, Ph.D. has been appointed Research Director of Forestcluster Ltd. He will assume his new position on February 1, 2012.

The present Research Director **Lars Gädda**, D.Sc. (Tech.) will continue as Senior Advisor and he will be responsible for completing the on-going research programmes, and for supporting the metamorphosis Forestcluster has initiated towards the bio-based economy.

“We are in the middle of change, where our activities are expanding from the research focused on forest industry and forestry towards the bio-based economy. This change requires resources: we want to secure that the new research director will have chances to contribute to the successful metamorphosis. Markku Leskelä has wide experience in the forest industry research and in research management – both skills that are needed in this position. We are happy that he has joined us,” notes **Christine Hagström-Näsi**, CEO, Forestcluster Ltd.

Markku Leskelä was previously employed as a partner of Paperra Oy, a Finnish company providing services for improving energy and material efficiencies. The main part of his career he has worked at M-Real Oyj. He has graduated in biophysics from the University of Oulu. He did his Ph.D. in paper technology at Aalto University. He has had several confidential posts where he has promoted cooperation between companies and research organizations.

The need and desire for renewal among the forest cluster companies fascinates Leskelä.

“Contributing the renewal of all these companies makes this work versatile. The main flavour is the inconsistency of uncertainty and possibilities. The research has to create new innovations, and at the same time it has to take into account the uncertainty of success. The ultimate goal is to get new businesses based on the research results,” says Markku Leskelä.

The road towards bio-based economy rises following thoughts.

” Growing tree and existing technology together is a good starting point to develop solutions for other biomasses, and to create possibilities for new research and new players in the field,” concludes Leskelä.

Forestcluster Ltd is one of the six Strategic Centres for science, technology and innovation in Finland. It is owned by the key forest cluster companies and the main research institutes and universities in Finland.

For further information: www.forestcluster.fi

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Photos:

Markku_Leskelä_1.jpg

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