

CombiEnt Press Release 2017-08-24

KONE AND FORTUM JOINS THE COMBIENT NETWORK - TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN SWEDISH-FINNISH EXCHANGE & KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN INDUSTRIAL DIGITALISATION

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN (Aug 24th) CombiEnt AB, the leading industrial collaboration platform, today announced that KONE Oyj and Fortum Oyj have joined the CombiEnt Network of companies, complementing the already participating Finnish companies Stora Enso and Wärtsilä.

CombiEnt also announced the opening of its Finnish subsidiary CombiEnt Oy with the objective to strengthen the collaboration between Sweden and Finland around Digital Transformation.

Sweden and Finland share a history of creating large global industry companies and also one of close business relations between the two countries. Working together to strengthen the industry's competitiveness and defending Sweden and Finland's established position as attractive innovation locations comes natural.

As a market leader in the elevator and escalator industry, KONE is constantly working to combine technology know-how and business agility, while adapting to changes in market and customer needs.

Fortum, a clean-energy company at the forefront in the market, provides its customers with electricity, heating and cooling as well as smart solutions to improve resource efficiency. Fortum actively engages their customers and the society in the change for a cleaner world.

Both Fortum and KONE have strong ongoing investments in digital business and are well positioned to contribute in and add value to CombiEnt's collaboration model.

"Collaboration and partnerships are a prerequisite to foster growth and innovation. Similarly, technology is transforming business models, skills development and how companies engage with customers. At KONE, we are focused on delivering more value to our customers and partners in smarter ways, and we are pleased to join the CombiEnt network of companies," says Henrik Ehrnrooth President and CEO of KONE

"Digitalisation will disrupt the energy business. Therefore it is crucial for us to be at the forefront of technology development in our industry. CombiEnt gives us an excellent network to collaborate in the digital industrial innovation", says Pekka Lundmark, President and CEO of Fortum.

CombiEnt's vision is to bring Digitalised Industrial Innovation to the industry. CombiEnt has an active interaction and governance with participating companies, and works closely with academia and establishing new partnerships to help CombiEnt achieve its aspirational vision.

"With SAAB being an active owner in CombiEnt, running several projects connected to our Swedish part of the business, we very much appreciate that CombiEnt now expands their reach into Finland. It will help to strengthen Saab's R&D activities in the country", says Håkan Buskhe, CEO of SAAB.

The core of CombiEnt's "modus operandi" is the active sharing of experiences between the enterprises engaged in the collaboration model, enabling faster learning and facilitating the digital transformation and culture change. CombiEnt is also actively exploring the opportunities AI and Machine Learning provide in developing new business models and fuelling growth.

In Finland Combient is already contributing to the Finnish Government AI Strategy and participates in the AI Strategy Steering Group set up by the Ministry of Commerce.

“Combient is a unique collaboration model created by the Industry for the Industry. Digitalisation, often referred to as Industry 4.0, is shaping a new type of industry impacting all aspects of a company's business. Combining the knowledge and experience of leading companies through this collaboration model is a powerful way to prepare for the future and create cross-industry innovation in Digitalisation in a faster and more efficient way. We welcome KONE and Fortum as new members and looking forward to a strengthened digital collaboration between Finland and Sweden”, says Tom Johnstone, Chairman of Combient.

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*Combient AB is a Joint Venture between 11 global enterprises, headquartered in Sweden.
Combient was founded in January 2015 and has its head office in Stockholm.*

Combient's owners include Atlas Copco AB, Electrolux AB, Ericsson AB, FAM AB, Investor AB, LKAB, Saab AB, SEB AB, Sigma AB, SKF AB and Stora Enso AB. The Associated Member Program includes 10 Members; Aleris AB, Fortum Oyj, Husqvarna AB, Höganäs, KONE Oyj, Mölnlycke Healthcare AB, Permobil AB, Scania AB, Södra AB and Wärtsilä Oyj.

Across the 21 participating companies, Combient engages with a group of app. 500,000 employees with a total turnover over €110B per annum.

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