



Welcome to the fourth newsletter of XL-Connect!

In this edition, we share exciting updates from across the project, including our upcoming participation at the Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2026 in Budapest, where XL-Connect will join Europe's leading transport research and innovation community. You can also watch our latest project video, in which coordinator Alois Steiner presents key insights and our demonstration sites.

We also look back at our participation in the RTR Conference 2026 in Brussels, where XL-Connect contributed to discussions on smart and flexible EV charging together with partners from the V2X cluster. In addition, we are pleased to share three new interviews with XL-Connect partners, offering fresh perspectives from across the consortium.

We hope you enjoy this edition and stay tuned as we continue to explore the future of electric road transport and smart charging ecosystems.

Kind regards,

The XL-Connect Team

Latest results

Milestone 4 achieved



We are pleased to announce that Milestone 4 has been successfully achieved. The project's hardware and software are now ready for evaluation and demonstration. All related deliverables (D3.1–D3.5) have been completed, submitted, and approved by the project partners.

This milestone marks an important step forward in the project, enabling the validation of our solutions in real-world demonstration environments.

Visit our [results page](#) to find an overview of all our milestones and deliverables.

News/ Events



XL-CONNECT at TRA 2026 in Budapest

XL-Connect will participate in the Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2026, Europe's leading transport research and innovation conference. The event will take place from 18–21 May 2026 in Budapest, bringing together academia, industry, policymakers, and civil society to shape the future of mobility and transport.

As part of the programme, XL-Connect will be present with a booth in the ALICE Logistics Innovation Village, organised by ALICE. Within this innovation hub, XL-Connect is integrated into the Road Transport Electrification neighbourhood, together with the AHEAD and Drive2X projects.

In addition, XL-Connect will contribute to the conference programme with a project presentation/pitch at the ALICE Innovation Theatre on Wednesday 20 May, from 15:00 to 15:30.

We look forward to engaging with stakeholders and sharing insights on the future of electric road transport and smart charging ecosystems.

Hope to see you there in Budapest!

XL-Connect: Key Innovations and Demonstration Sites

New XL-Connect video available! Project coordinator Alois Steiner presents key insights and the project's demonstration sites. Watch it now.



XL-Connect Presented at UK–EU Symposium on V2X and Smart Charging

XL-Connect was recently featured at the UK–EU Innovation & Collaboration Symposium on V2X and Smart Charging, held in Manchester on 14–15 April. The event brought together key stakeholders from across the UK and EU to exchange knowledge on emerging developments in smart charging and vehicle-to-everything (V2X) technologies.

During Session 10 on Hardware, Power Electronics and Charger Architecture, XL-Connect was presented through a demonstration of Eavy Charging's smart sequential DC fast charging system, currently deployed within the project. The presentation attracted strong interest from industry representatives, researchers and innovation hubs, highlighting the relevance of XL-Connect's work in this rapidly evolving field.

Organised by the University of Salford Manchester, the symposium provided valuable insights into the future of V2X, V2G and smart charging solutions. The positive engagement and visibility gained at the event mark an important step in further promoting the project's innovations and impact. We look forward to sharing further results as the demonstration progresses.



XL-Connect showcases smart EV Charging at RTR Conference 2026

XL-Connect participated in the RTR Conference 2026, held from 10 to 12 February in Brussels, the key event showcasing the latest results from EU-funded and Horizon Europe road transport research projects. Now in its 9th edition, the conference brought together over 500 participants and covered topics such as green vehicles, urban mobility, ITS, safety, automation, and batteries.

During the conference, the V2X cluster, including XL-Connect, FLOW Project, EV4EU, and SCALE Project, was in the spotlight in the dedicated parallel session “Smart and Flexible Charging of EVs” on 12 February.

The projects highlighted how bidirectional charging can strengthen electricity grids while creating real value for users.

Watch the session recording [here](#).

The presentation by Alois Steiner, XL-Connect project coordinator, is also available [here](#).

We enjoyed connecting with fellow projects and conference participants, exchanging insights, and exploring the future of smart, flexible EV charging.



Interviews with XL-Connect partners

Get to know Tomas Bort from Mycroft Mind

Tomas Bort is Director of Innovation & Public Affairs and Business Program Manager for IPCEI ME/CT at Mycroft Mind, a Czech technology company specialising in



advanced analytics and predictive AI/ML algorithms embedded directly into edge devices in the energy sector. Having started his career on the technical side, Tomáš has over time moved into innovation management and programme strategy, today leading Mycroft Mind's participation in Europe's R&D programmes. He is the sole representative of a Czech technology company in the

prestigious Transformers Group of the IPCEI ME/CT program. Within XL-Connect, Tomáš oversees Mycroft Mind's contributions to grid modelling, connecting the company's expertise in embedded intelligence with the project's ambition to optimise EV charging at a pan-European scale.

What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?

My motivation was the realisation that the most important decisions about technology happen not just in R&D labs, but in the rooms where strategy is set. I wanted to be in both places at once — close enough to the technology to understand it deeply, and influential enough to help shape where it goes.

What is your (main) research area today?

My role is at the intersection of innovation management and European programme strategy. I focus on translating cutting-edge technology into real-world impact: driving Mycroft Mind's innovation agenda and managing our participation in large-scale European programmes like XL-Connect, IPCEI ME/CT or IPCEI AST.

You can find the full interview [here](#).

Get to know Martin Strelec from University of West Bohemia



What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?

A research career provides me with the opportunity to solve interesting technical challenges that are useful in the real-world and where I can gain new experiences, skills, and expertise. Moreover, a research career offers the chance to meet, collaborate with, and be inspired by

exceptional individuals, all of which helps me grow both professionally and personally.

What is your (main) research area today?

Nowadays, my research focuses on the digital transformation of the energy sector. I concentrate on developing innovative tools for optimization, estimation, and prediction that enhance the overall efficiency of power systems by integrating technical, market, and regulatory aspects.

You can find the full interview [here](#).

Get to know Dr. Temoc Rodriguez from Ricardo



Dr. Temoc Rodriguez obtained his Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Cambridge. He has worked in the field of power electronics for over 20 years, and he is currently Global Technical Expert on electric propulsion systems at Ricardo. Prior to joining Ricardo, Dr. Rodriguez worked in the field of renewable power generation, industrial power supplies and motor drives,

and aircraft electronic systems. He is currently leading electrification developments in automotive and aerospace programmes, including gallium nitride traction inverters, and highly integrated on-board chargers and dc/dc converters. He also leads industrial research with academic partners from leading universities in the UK. He spearheaded the innovations in the XL Connect V2G bidirectional 2-in-1 highly integrated On-Board-Charger and DC/DC converter using a common magnetic core to achieve higher power densities.

What was your original motivation to become a researcher/project manager?

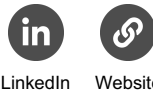
I have always been passionate about technology. It was a natural step to go from technology user to technology creator and working in industries that have seen some of the fastest technology developments such as renewable energy and electric mobility. It gives me great satisfaction to create new technological solutions to improve the world we live in.

What is your (main) research area today?

I work across all the electrified technologies necessary for propulsion of electric vehicles, from batteries to electronics and motors. I specifically look at next generation of technologies that will bring improvements in cost and performance.

You can find the full interview [here](#).

Partners



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