

## **SME Exponential Race To Zero**

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, with the support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), have announced a new partnership – the “SME Exponential Race to Zero” – to explore the development of a global platform to help SMEs build business resilience by providing them with concrete climate action tools and financial resources necessary to thrive in a post-COVID-19 world.

Building on the [The 1.5°C Business Playbook](#) and the ICC’s [Chambers Climate Coalition](#) network, the new initiative seeks to help SMEs build business resilience by providing them with concrete tools to work towards halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050 at the latest, while reducing costs, enhancing access to capital and increasing business preparedness.

SMEs comprise an estimated 80 percent of business worldwide employing billions of people and play a vital role in their local communities and in global supply chains. Accelerated climate action from SMEs will have a significant impact both in terms of overall emissions reduction in the businesses and global supply chain, but also in terms of community engagement and encouraging governments to align with Net-Zero by 2050 targets, allowing exponential scaling of climate action.

Johan Falk, Co-Founder and Head of Exponential Roadmap Initiative, said: “Simplicity and speed are the key guiding principles in order to mobilise a critical mass of SMEs to accelerate climate action. We are very proud to partner with ICC and UNFCCC in the SME Exponential Race To Zero, enabling us to move at full pace in equipping millions of SMEs with the tools required, as their success in doing so is absolutely critical for us to succeed in halving emissions by 2030 and reaching net-zero by 2050.”

Seeing as Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted SMEs and their workforces, as we begin to examine how to shape the post-COVID recovery, it is clear that building resilience will be a vital component of the rebuild process to ensure that businesses, communities and supply chains can survive future threats – whether biological, technological or environmental. With many governments expected to put an emphasis on a green economic rebuild, it will be doubly important to ensure that SMEs have the tools needed to adapt to changing market conditions and new policy frameworks.

On the initiative, ICC Director of Green and Inclusive Growth, Majda Dabaghi, said: “COVID-19 has emphasized the importance of hardwiring resilience into the global economy and ensuring that small business are prepared to survive exogenous shocks. In partnering with the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, we hope to be able to equip SMEs with the tools and resources they need to not only survive but thrive into the future.”

Nigel Topping, UK High-Level Climate Champion, shared support for the initiative noting: “The SME Exponential Race to Zero initiative comes at a critical time to help support SMEs become more resilient and recover better from the health and socio-economic effects of COVID-19. Ultimately, climate issues are business issues and this initiative helps SMEs, who comprise the vast majority of businesses worldwide, make the business decisions that will improve earnings, market share and avoid economic repercussions of future existential threats.”

Read the reports



Exponential Roadmap 1.5.1



The 1.5°C Business Playbook

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*The Exponential Roadmap Initiative brings together technology innovators, scientists, companies and NGOs, with the mission to accelerate climate action exponentially, one key program being the 1.5°C Business Playbook, guiding companies and organizations of all sizes to exponential climate action and strategy. This initiative is backed up by 45 partners.*

