



For Immediate Release

E4 Carolinas and Joules Accelerator Launch Energy Economic Development Initiative

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Energy Supply Chain Expert to Direct Effort

[E4 Carolinas](#) and the [Joules Accelerator](#) are collaborating to hire Lukas Brun, a recognized leader in energy supply chain and cluster economic development, to head their effort to research, define and promote the Carolina energy economy and certain of its energy economic development clusters and support initiatives to create and accelerate new energy ventures. Brun is an Adjunct Professor of the Duke University Sanford School of Policy's Center for International Development and a recognized energy supply chain expert who is extensively published on supply chain and workforce economics.

E4 Carolinas has operated since 2012 to promote economic development, workforce development, innovation, policy and networking initiatives supporting the Carolina energy economy. Jeff Merrifield, E4 Carolinas' Board Chair and head of Pillsbury Law's Global Nuclear Practice, explained that "E4 Carolinas has long desired to better define the Carolina energy economy, its value to our local and state jurisdictions and its various unique standings nationally and globally. The addition of Lukas Brun to our team will help realize this". David Doctor, E4 Carolinas' Chief Executive Officer, stated that "Brun will help further the work started by E4 Carolinas in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Commerce Office of Science, Technology and Innovation in 2018 through 2020 in developing the Southeast Energy Innovation Collaborative and its innovation report. The inventory and studies created will be available and support Carolina's economic development organizations when recruiting energy companies or companies whose operation is energy related".

The Joules Accelerator has operated since 2012, mainly supported by Duke Energy, to attract to the Carolinas early stage companies developing lead edge energy technologies. Bob Irvin, Joules' Executive Director, added that "Brun's addition will allow the Joules Accelerator to better articulate the Carolina energy economy's value to early stage energy companies and specifically identify supply chains relative to their unique technologies".

About E4 Carolinas

[E4 Carolinas](#), organized in 2012, is the trade association for Carolina energy companies and organizations. With 140 members and offices in Columbia, Charlotte and Raleigh, it serves members in the areas of energy economic development, innovation, talent development, policy information and communications.

About the Joules Accelerator

[Joules Accelerator](#) Identifies, advises, and connects cleantech startups to a network focused on tackling climate targets. The Joules Accelerator program spends 90 days with startup cohorts to identify commercialization outcomes in the Carolinas. Key partners include Duke Energy, Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster and its Members, E4 Carolinas and its members, the Cities of Charlotte, Raleigh, Durham, Greensboro, and Asheville, University of North Carolina system, Duke University, EY, Microsoft and others.

E4 Carolinas inquiries may be directed to David A. Doctor, E4 Carolinas' President & CEO, at daviddoctor@e4carolinas.org or 704-661-8131. Joules Accelerator inquiries may be directed to Bob Irvin, Executive Director, at bob.irvin@joulesaccelerator.com or 704-458-4188.