SESSION SUMMARY | 3:40 PM | JOE C. THOMPSON CONFERENCE CENTER, UT AUSTIN

Fireside Chat: From Stockholm to Texas: Building Nuclear Power for the AI Era

Jacob Stedman	CEO of Blykalla
Moderator: Henrik Johansson	CEO & Founder, Nordus Group

The session in brief

Jacob Stedman explained how Blykalla aims to make nuclear power faster, cheaper and safer by building small: a compact, lead-cooled reactor produced in factories as a repeatable sequence rather than one-off megaprojects. He also explained why the company chose Austin for its U.S. base.

Key takeaways

Jacob Stedman

- Big projects rarely hit budget or schedule (he cited Bent Flyvbjerg's How Big Things Get Done). Building small and in factories removes much of the complexity of coordinating thousands of people on site.
- Nuclear is expensive when every plant is one of a kind. The goal is to build a sequence of standardized modules, use broader supply chains and avoid rare, long-lead components.
- Blykalla's reactor is roughly five to six meters tall and uses liquid lead at about 500°C instead of high-pressure water. Lead transfers heat well, has a very high boiling point and acts as a radiation shield, allowing a simpler design.
- Safety should be judged comparatively: rare nuclear accidents versus the continuous health harm from fossil-fuel pollution. Waste is a real drawback and should be acknowledged, but advanced designs can reuse part of spent fuel.
- AI and data centers need clean, round-the-clock power, and tech companies and governments are turning to nuclear for both supply and energy security.
- The West must out-execute, not assume competitors only copy; China is moving fast. Tesla and SpaceX show what ambitious goals, discipline and relentless follow-up can achieve.
- Austin was chosen for its pro-building culture, business climate and ability to attract talent. The U.S. offers faster pathways for demonstration reactors than Europe. Blykalla is targeting a non-power demonstration reactor in Texas around 2028 and commercial units in the early 2030s.

Henrik Johansson (moderator)

- Steered the discussion through public concerns (safety, cost and waste) and the practical lessons for Swedish companies building a U.S. presence: local relationships with regulators, investors and customers, and an in-person team culture.

Action points for attendees

1. Break large initiatives into smaller, standardized units that can be built, tested and repeated.
2. Map single-source suppliers and long-lead items in your critical projects early.
3. If AI or data workloads are in your plans, include long-term, 24/7 clean power in the business case.

4. Compare energy options on reliability, emissions, safety record and waste, not perception alone.
5. Pair bold targets with clear ownership and relentless follow-up.
6. When entering the U.S., compare regulatory timelines by state and invest early in relationships with regulators, partners and talent.

In their words

> *“The point is to not build one of a kinds, but build a sequence.”*
>
> Jacob Stedman

Prepared by SACC Texas from the session recording for in-person attendees of the SACC Summit 2026. Points are paraphrased and condensed; they are not a verbatim transcript. Speaker names and titles as listed on the official Summit agenda at sacctx.com.