

DR. RAHUL WALAWALKAR

President and MD

Customized Energy Solutions (India)



Dr. Rahul Walawalkar is President & MD of Customized Energy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd. He leads the Emerging Technologies domain for Customized Energy Solutions globally, which under his leadership has emerged as a thought leader in the areas of energy storage, renewables, demand response, electric vehicles, and smart grid technologies.

A strong votary of improving energy storage and e-mobility in India, Rahul founded the India Energy Storage Alliance in 2012 and continues to serve as its President. He served as board member for Energy Storage Association, USA during 2009-15 and as the Chair for Global Energy Storage Alliance during 2018-20.

In 2021, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) of India inducted Rahul to be part of the Central Advisory Committee of the power regulator. Ministry of Power also inducted Rahul in 2021 to be part of Technical committee to be part of committee constituted to submit draft of comprehensive policy framework and recommend other necessary interventions and measures for promotion of storage related projects to Ministry of Power. He played an instrumental role in providing stakeholder inputs for the Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Manufacturing Program for NITI Aayog during 2019-20, under which 50GWh of manufacturing capacity is expected under the Production Linked Incentive scheme for GOI. During 2018-19 he worked on drafting the National Energy Storage Mission for MNRE. He served as member of standing committee on energy storage for MNRE during 2014-17 and national taskforce for renewable integration by Central Electricity Authority & Ministry of Power between 2013-14.

Under Rahul's leadership, Customized Energy Solutions' has received numerous awards including IPPAI Power Innovation Award for creation of India Energy Storage Alliance in 2016-17, Brad Roberts Award for outstanding industry contribution by Energy Storage Association (USA) in

2016, USAID's PACEsetter Fund Award for MICRO initiative in 2016 & 2019 and CII Innovative Energy Services Award for Tata Power Demand Response program in 2012.

In 2020, Rahul received the 'Global Young Entrepreneur Excellence Award' for his valuable contribution & leadership in the field of energy storage and renewable energy at the World Renewable Energy Technology Congress. In 2018, he was also recognized with India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) President's Award for outstanding contribution to growth of smart grids in India. He is the recipient of Energy Storage Crusader Award in 2017, Institution of Engineers (India) Energy Award in 2014 and Computer Society of India's Young IT Professional Award for 2000 & 2001.

Rahul holds a Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University and Master's degree in Energy Management from NYIT, United States and B.E. from Walchand College of Engineering, India.

DR. RICHARD LOBO

**Head Innovation and CQH - Business Excellence
Tata Chemicals Limited**



Dr. Richard Lobo is presently the Head of Innovation and the CQH . He is responsible for anchoring Technology Innovations that create at-scale long term impact and deliver disruptions into a competitive advantage. In his former role he was the Head of Corporate Strategy, Business Excellence and continuous improvement for India, US, UK, Kenya, South Africa, Morocco and Singapore operations at Tata Chemicals. Over the past few years he has been responsible for developing strategies for growth in South America, Africa, Australia and Asia.

He has over 18 years of experience in leading businesses, anchoring Business Excellence, Business Strategy, Innovation, Operational Effectiveness and EBITDA Improvement for multi-million dollar enterprises.

Dr. Lobo has a degree in Bio-Technology from the University of Mumbai and is an alumnus of IIM- Calcutta, Indian Institute of Technology –Bombay and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MITx), USA. Furthermore, he is a three time Gold Standard Champion at the Tata Business Excellence Leadership Program, Certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt and a certified Computer & Electronics professional

In 2020 YourStory chose Dr. Lobo as one of the Top 50 Storytellers that bring Ideas to life. He has been recognized as a Global Industry Expert in Design Thinking by The Economic Times Masterclass 2021. Dr Lobo serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of Tata Chemicals Ltd, and is Chairman of the TCL Institutional Biosafety Council in addition to Governing Council Member of The Society for Advancement of Electrochemical Science & Technology and member of Technology Hub for EV Energy Storage set up by Dept. Science & Technology, Govt. of India.