Dr. Ksenija Milicevic-Neumann is the Co-founder and Managing Director) of tozero GmbH in Munich, Germany, a company focused on lithium-ion battery recycling and the supply of recycled battery materials to the European market. Since co-founding tozero in 2022 together with Sarah Fleischer, she has led the development and industrialisation of the company's core technology, with a particular focus on the scale-up of her novel lithium extraction method from laboratory validation to commercial implementation. Under her technical leadership, the technology progressed through process optimisation, engineering transfer, and industrial design, enabling a 20,000× scale-up from lab scale to industrially relevant throughput, as tozero builds its first-of-a-kind (FOAK) commercial demonstrator plant. This scale-up marks a critical step in establishing European capacity for sustainable battery recycling and circular raw material supply. The company has secured €17M in funding, including Tier-1 investors and the European Innovation Council (EIC), to accelerate industrial deployment and build out production infrastructure. Through this work, Dr. Milicevic-Neumann has contributed to positioning tozero as a leading European player in recycled lithium supply, with the company already having successfully brought recycled lithium to the European market.

Dr. Milicevic-Neumann graduated from the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy (TMF) at the University of Belgrade, Serbia, and earned her PhD from RWTH Aachen University in 2018. From 2013 to 2018, she worked as a scientific engineer at IME Process Metallurgy and Metal Recycling (RWTH Aachen), contributing to multinational industrial R&D projects, including a €9M EC-funded initiative on automated electrochemical production of rare earth elements, collaborations with TRIMET SE on Al-Sc alloys, and research with the German Aerospace Centre (DLR) on advanced metal matrix composites for aircraft. During this time, she also supported the acquisition of ~€1M in competitive R&D funding (Horizon 2020, BMBF Client II, DAAD), supervised student theses, taught and examined courses, and published in international journals.

From 2019 to 2020, she served as R&D Manager and Safety Officer at a deep-tech startup Maana Electric in Luxembourg, working on sustainability-driven technology development for production of solar panels on Earth and Moon. From 2021 to 2022, she returned to RWTH Aachen as Senior Research Advisor and Startup Scout, focusing on funding acquisition and strategic projects in circular economy and space. Her research output includes 55 citations (excluding self-citations) and an h-index of 4 (Scopus), with ORCID 0000-0001-8645-0915.