

GERMAN-BALTIC-UKRAINIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2026

29th October 2026

Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Vilnius

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NATO's Eastern Flank

UKRAINE

Battlefield experience · Operational
innovation · Modern warfare expertise

29th October 2026

08:45 – 09:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 09:50

Hall: Alfa

Moderator: Florian Schröder

CEO of German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (AHK)

Welcome Remarks & Opening Speeches:

His Excellency Gitanas Nausėda

President of the Republic of Lithuania (LT) (tbc)

Grant Hendrik Tonne

Lower Saxony State Government Minister for Economic Affairs, Transport and Building (DE)

Dr. Cornelius Zimmermann

Ambassador of Germany to the Republic of Lithuania (DE)

09:50 – 10:00

Hall: Alfa

MoU Signing Ceremony: AHK Partnership cooperation with Federal state Niedersachsen

MoU Signing Ceremony: STARK Defence (DE) & Granta Autonomy (LT)

10:00 – 11:00	<i>Hall: Alfa</i> Spotlight Interviews with Moderator Florian Schröder Guests: Oleg Dunda Member of Parliament of Ukraine (UA) <i>“From Battlefield Innovation to European Capability: What Ukraine Can Bring to the German-Baltic Defence Partnership”</i> General Michael Vetter Head of the Cyber / Information Technology Department and Chief Information Officer at the Federal Ministry of Defence (DE) Dr. Gerald Wissel Chairman of the Executive Board, Association for Unmanned Aviation (DE) Giedrė Kaminskaitė-Salters CEO Telia Lietuva (LT)		
11:00 – 11:20	Introduction to the Capability Labs and Their Moderators Moderated by: Florian Schröder CEO of German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (AHK) Julius von Freytag-Loringhoven Head of Baltic States, Friedrich Naumann Foundation		
11:20 – 11:50	Coffee Break		
11:50 – 13:00	<i>Room: tbc</i> B2B Matchmaking & Executive Roundtables - Powered by B2Match		
11:50 – 13:00	Capability Labs – Round I		
<i>Room: Alfa</i> LAB 1: SCALE How can Europe scale up defence production 20 times within two years? This includes industrial capacity, supply chains, financing, workforce, regulation, standardization, European harmonization and cooperation with Ukraine.	<i>Room: tbc</i> LAB 2: SPEED How can we increase the speed from idea to operational product and mass production by 10x or even 100x? This includes R&D, testing, certification, procurement, access to operational feedback, financing, and the transition from prototype to large-scale production.	<i>Room: tbc</i> LAB 3: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & RESILIENCE What does Europe need in order to prevail in a long-term confrontation with Russia? Here we deliberately want to look beyond the military battlefield: logistics and military mobility, ports and railways, energy, critical infrastructure, construction capacity, supply chains, civil preparedness, legislation and economic resilience.	

Moderators: Kerry Hoppe TYTAN Technologies · Business Development & Government Affairs Manager (DE)	Moderators: Nicole Büttner-Thiel Merantix Momentum GmbH · Founder & CEO, AI-Entrepreneur (DE)	Moderators: Konstantin Kuhle BLOMSTEIN · Special Counsel for International Trade, Public Procurement and ESG · former Member of the German Bundestag (DE)
Oliver Rolofs COMMVISORY · Founder & Managing Partner (DE)	Vaidas Saldžiūnas DELFI · Journalist (LT)	Tomas Jermalavičius International Center for Defence and Security · Head of Studies (EE)
Note Takers: Stefan Kägebein German Chamber of Industry and Commerce · Regional Director Eastern Europe (DE)	Note Takers: Samuel Häde Productions for ARD and ZDF · Freelance Reporter and Documentary Filmmaker (DE)	Note Takers: Martynas Pilkis Axiology · Business Development Officer (LT)
Mareike Müller FOCUS, Security-Table and other media · Freelance Journalist (DE)	Theresa Locker Tagesspiegel Background · Editor (DE)	Sonya Winterberg Riff Reporter and other media · Freelance Publicist and Journalist (DE)
Input Providers: Vincas Jurgutis Lithuanian Defence and Security Industry Association (LDSIA) · Chief Adviser (LT)	Input Providers: Dr. Gerald Wissel UAV DACH · Chairman of the Executive Board (DE)	Input Providers: Bernhard Kluttig German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) · Head of the Department for Safety, Gas and Hydrogen, and Investments, former State Secretary of the BMWK (DE)
Matthias Puschnig Bundeswehr · Colonel, former Head of the Special Staff Ukraine (DE)	Donatas Sirgedas Quantum Systems UAB · Managing Director, Lithuania (LT)	Vidas Kšanas Lithuanian Airports · Chief Safety / Security Officer (LT)
Maike Bielfeldt Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hannover · Chief Executive Officer (DE)	Laurynas Litvinas Granta Autonomy · Co-Founder (LT)	Dr. Hans Volkert Volckens REFENCE GmbH · Founder & Managing Director (DE)
Stefan Sahlmann MAN Defense · Vice President Business Development (DE)	Dr. Artis Pabriks Northern Defence Policy Centre · Chairman (LV)	Dr. Ieva Gajauskaitė Ministry of National Defence · Head of Division within the Total Defence and Crisis Management Group (LT)
Lennert van Mens Commerzbank AG · Transformation & Scale-up Financing (DE)	Maria Shamota Ukrainian Council of Defence Industry (UCDI) · Chief Industrial Relations Officer (UA)	Algis Latakas Klaipėda State Seaport Authority · CEO (LT)
Dr. Karolis Kačerauskas Ellex Valiunas · Partner, Head of Public Procurement and State Aid Practice (LT)		

13:00 – 14:00	<i>Room: tbc</i> Lunch Break	
14:00 – 16:30	<i>Room: tbc</i> B2B Matchmaking & Executive Roundtables - Powered by B2Match	
14:00 – 15:30	Capability Labs – Round II	
<i>Room: Alfa</i> LAB 1: SCALE	<i>Room: tbc</i> LAB 2: SPEED	<i>Room: tbc</i> LAB 3: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE & RESILIENCE
Moderators: Kerry Hoppe TYTAN Technologies · Business Development & Government Affairs Manager (DE)	Moderators: Nicole Büttner-Thiel Merantix Momentum GmbH · Founder & CEO, AI-Entrepreneur (DE)	Moderators: Konstantin Kuhle BLOMSTEIN · Special Counsel (DE)
Joseph Bray Airbus Defence and Space · Business Development Manager (UK)	Vaidas Saldžiūnas DELFI · Journalist (LT)	Tomas Jermalavičius International Center for Defence and Security · Head of Studies (EE)
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Input Providers: Defence Resources Agency under the Ministry of National Defence (LT) (tbc)	Input Providers: Malte Seifert XPONENTIAL Europe · Director (DE)	Input Providers: Dalia Čiutaitė-Antanaitė LTG Cargo · Representative (LT)
Lynn Scheinman SAP SE · Global Defence Expert (DE)	Alexander Fischer IABG · Vice President Sales and Business Development (DE)	Tanel Ringo HHLA TK ESTONIA AS (EE)
Mario Alvelos Mercedes-Benz Special Trucks I Daimler Truck AG · Key Account Manager Defence (DE)	Tomas Milašauskas RSI Europe · CEO (LT)	Ukrainian Speaker (tbc)
Faysal Rahman Deutsche Bank AG · Global Defence Coordinator – FIC & CB (DE)	Ukrainian Speaker (tbc)	

Ukrainian Speaker (tbc)			
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break		
16:00 – 16:45	<i>Hall: Alfa</i> German-Baltic Business Awards 2026		
16:45 – 17:30	<i>Hall: Alfa</i> Presentation of Capability Lab Results - Vilnius Declaration 2026		
17:30 – 22:00	<i>Sky Bar</i> Networking Cocktails – Access with special tickets only		

Additional Notes:

- The conference will be held in English.
- Dress code: Business or Service Dress Uniform.
- Participation by invitation and pre-registration only. Tickets: <https://www.bdc2026.com/>
- Program subject to change.