

# GERMAN-BALTIC-UKRAINIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY CONFERENCE 2026

29<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Vilnius

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## THE MAGIC TRIANGLE

### GERMANY

Industrial capacity · Scaling ·  
Technology · Capital

### BALTIC STATES

Agility · Innovation · Leadership on  
NATO's Eastern Flank

### UKRAINE

Battlefield experience · Operational  
innovation · Modern warfare expertise

## 29<sup>th</sup> October 2026

08:45 – 09:30

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 10:00

*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) (online)

**Grant Hendrik Tonne**

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

**Edvinas Grikšas**

Minister of the Economy and Innovation of the Republic of Lithuania (tbc)

**Kristupas Vaitiekūnas**

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

**Barbara Schmidt**

Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy to the Republic of Lithuania (DE)

**Olha Nikitchenko**

Ambassador of Ukraine to the Republic of Lithuania (tbc)

10:00 – 10:10

*Hall: Alfa*

**MoU Signing Ceremony: AHK Partnership cooperation with Federal state Niedersachsen**

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

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| 10:10 – 11:10                                                                                                                           | <p><i>Hall: Alfa</i></p> <p><b>Spotlight Interviews with Moderator Florian Schröder</b></p> <p><b>Guests:</b><br/><b>Oleg Dunda</b><br/>Member of Parliament of Ukraine (UA)<br/><i>“From Battlefield Innovation to European Capability: What Ukraine Can Bring to the German-Baltic Defence Partnership”</i></p> <p><b>General Michael Vetter</b><br/>Director-General for Innovation and Cyber and Chief Information Officer at the Federal Ministry of Defence (DE)</p> <p><b>Dr. Gerald Wissel</b><br/>Chairman of the Executive Board, UAV DACH e.V. – European Association for Unmanned Aviation (DE)</p> <p><b>Giedrė Kaminskaitė-Salters</b><br/>CEO Telia Lietuva (LT)</p> <p><b>Bernhard Kluttig</b><br/>German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) · Head of the Department for Safety, Gas and Hydrogen, and Investments, former State Secretary of the BMWE (DE)</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 11:10 – 11:20                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Introduction to the Capability Labs and Their Moderators</b></p> <p>Moderated by:<br/><b>Florian Schröder</b><br/>CEO of German-Baltic Chamber of Commerce in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (AHK)</p> <p><b>Julius von Freytag-Loringhoven</b><br/>Head of Baltic States, Friedrich Naumann Foundation</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 11:20 – 11:50                                                                                                                           | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 11:50 – 13:00                                                                                                                           | <p><i>Room: tbc</i></p> <p><b>B2B Matchmaking &amp; Executive Roundtables</b> - Powered by B2Match</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| 11:50 – 13:00                                                                                                                           | <b>Capability Labs – Round I</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |
| <p><i>Room: Alfa</i></p> <p><b>LAB 1: SCALE</b></p> <p><b>How can Europe scale up defence production 20 times within two years?</b></p> | <p><i>Room: tbc</i></p> <p><b>LAB 2: SPEED</b></p> <p><b>How can we increase the speed from idea to operational product and mass production by 10x or even 100x?</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><i>Room: tbc</i></p> <p><b>LAB 3: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; RESILIENCE</b></p> <p><b>What does Europe need in order to prevail in a long-term confrontation with Russia?</b></p> |  |

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| <p>This includes industrial capacity, supply chains, financing, workforce, regulation, standardization, European harmonization and cooperation with Ukraine.</p> | <p>This includes R&amp;D, testing, certification, procurement, access to operational feedback, financing, and the transition from prototype to large-scale production.</p> | <p>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.</p> |
| <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <p><b>Kerry Hoppe</b><br/>TYTAN Technologies · Business Development &amp; Government Affairs Manager (DE)</p>                          | <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <p><b>Nicole Büttner-Thiel</b><br/>Merantix Momentum GmbH · Founder &amp; CEO, AI-Entrepreneur (DE)</p>                                          | <p><b>Moderators:</b></p> <p><b>Konstantin Kuhle</b><br/>BLOMSTEIN · Special Counsel for International Trade, Public Procurement and ESG · former Member of the German Bundestag (DE)</p>                                                                      |
| <p><b>Oliver Rolofs</b><br/>COMMVISORY · Founder &amp; Managing Partner (DE)</p>                                                                                 | <p><b>Vaidas Saldžiūnas</b><br/>DELFI · Journalist (LT)</p>                                                                                                                | <p><b>Tomas Jermalavičius</b><br/>International Center for Defence and Security · Head of Studies (EE)</p>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Note Takers:</b></p> <p><b>Stefan Kägebein</b><br/>German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) · Director Eastern Europe (DE)</p>                       | <p><b>Note Takers:</b></p> <p><b>Samuel Häde</b><br/>ARD/ZDF (DE)</p>                                                                                                      | <p><b>Note Takers:</b></p> <p><b>Martynas Pilkis</b><br/>Axiology · Business Development Officer (LT)</p>                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Mareike Müller</b><br/>FOCUS, Security-Table and other media · Freelance Journalist (DE)</p>                                                               | <p><b>Theresa Locker</b><br/>Tagesspiegel Background · Editor (DE)</p>                                                                                                     | <p><b>Sonya Winterberg</b><br/>Riff Reporter and other media · Freelance Publicist and Journalist (DE)</p>                                                                                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Input Providers:</b></p> <p><b>Vincas Jurgutis</b><br/>Lithuanian Defence and Security Industry Association (LDSIA) · Chief Adviser (LT)</p>               | <p><b>Input Providers:</b></p> <p><b>Dr. Gerald Wissel</b><br/>UAV DACH e.V. – European Association for Unmanned Aviation · Chairman of the Executive Board (DE)</p>       | <p><b>Input Providers:</b></p> <p><b>Vidas Kšanas</b><br/>Lithuanian Airports · Chief Safety / Security Officer (LT)</p>                                                                                                                                       |
| <p><b>Matthias Puschnig</b><br/>Bundeswehr · Colonel, former Head of the Special Staff Ukraine (DE)</p>                                                          | <p><b>Donatas Sirgedas</b><br/>Quantum Systems UAB · Managing Director, Lithuania (LT)</p>                                                                                 | <p><b>Dr. Hans Volkert Volckens</b><br/>REFERENCE GmbH · Founder &amp; Managing Director (DE)</p>                                                                                                                                                              |
| <p><b>Maike Bielfeldt</b><br/>Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hannover · Chief Executive Officer (DE)</p>                                                       | <p><b>Laurynas Litvinas</b><br/>Granta Autonomy · Co-Founder (LT)</p>                                                                                                      | <p><b>Dr. Ieva Gajauskaitė</b><br/>Ministry of National Defence · Head of Division within the Total Defence and Crisis Management Group (LT)</p>                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Stefan Sahlmann</b><br/>MAN Defense · Vice President Business Development (DE)</p>                                                                         | <p><b>Dr. Artis Pabriks</b><br/>Northern Defence Policy Centre · Chairman (LV)</p>                                                                                         | <p><b>Algis Latakas</b><br/>Klaipėda State Seaport Authority · CEO (LT)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| <b>Lennert van Mens</b><br>Commerzbank AG ·<br>Transformation & Scale-up Financing<br>(DE)                                           |                                                                                      | <b>Maria Shamota</b><br>Ukrainian Council of Defence Industry<br>(UCDI) · Chief Industrial Relations<br>Officer (UA) |                                                                                                       |
| <b>Dr. Karolis Kačerauskas</b><br>Ellex Valiunas · Partner, Head of<br>Public Procurement and State Aid<br>Practice (LT)             |                                                                                      |                                                                                                                      | <b>Ukrainian Speaker</b> (tbc)                                                                        |
| <b>13:00 – 14:00</b>                                                                                                                 | Room: tbc<br><b>Lunch Break</b>                                                      |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                       |
| <b>14:00 – 16:30</b>                                                                                                                 | Room: tbc<br><b>B2B Matchmaking &amp; Executive Roundtables</b> - Powered by B2Match |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                       |
| <b>14:00 – 15:30</b>                                                                                                                 | <b>Capability Labs – Round II</b>                                                    |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                       |
| Room: Alfa                                                                                                                           |                                                                                      | Room: tbc                                                                                                            | Room: tbc                                                                                             |
| <b>LAB 1: SCALE</b>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                      | <b>LAB 2: SPEED</b>                                                                                                  | <b>LAB 3: CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; RESILIENCE</b>                                                |
| <b>Moderators:</b><br><b>Kerry Hoppe</b><br>TYTAN Technologies · Business<br>Development & Government Affairs<br>Manager (DE)        |                                                                                      | <b>Moderators:</b><br><b>Nicole Büttner-Thiel</b><br>Merantix Momentum GmbH · Founder<br>& CEO, AI-Entrepreneur (DE) | <b>Moderators:</b><br><b>Konstantin Kuhle</b><br>BLOMSTEIN · Special Counsel (DE)                     |
| <b>Joseph Bray</b><br>Airbus Defence and Space · Business<br>Development Manager (UK)                                                |                                                                                      | <b>Vaidas Saldžiūnas</b><br>DELFI · Journalist (LT)                                                                  | <b>Tomas Jermalavičius</b><br>International Center for Defence and<br>Security · Head of Studies (EE) |
| <b>Note Takers:</b><br><b>Stefan Kägebein</b><br>German Chamber of Commerce and<br>Industry (DIHK) · Director Eastern<br>Europe (DE) |                                                                                      | <b>Note Takers:</b><br><b>Samuel Häde</b><br>ARD/ZDF (DE)                                                            | <b>Note Takers:</b><br><b>Martynas Pilakis</b><br>Axiology · Business Development Officer<br>(LT)     |
| <b>Mareike Müller</b><br>FOCUS, Security-Table and other<br>media · Freelance Journalist (DE)                                        |                                                                                      | <b>Theresa Locker</b><br>Tagesspiegel Background · Editor (DE)                                                       | <b>Sonya Winterberg</b><br>Riff Reporter and other media · Freelance<br>Publicist and Journalist (DE) |
| <b>Input Providers:</b><br><b>Defence Resources Agency<br/> under the Ministry of National<br/> Defence</b> (LT) (tbc)               |                                                                                      | <b>Input Providers:</b><br><b>Malte Seifert</b><br>XPONENTIAL Europe · Director (DE)                                 | <b>Input Providers:</b><br><b>Dalia Čiutaitė-Antanaitė</b><br>LTG Cargo · Representative (LT)         |
| <b>Lynn Scheinman</b><br>SAP SE · Global Defence Expert (DE)                                                                         |                                                                                      | <b>Alexander Fischer</b><br>IABG · Vice President Sales and<br>Business Development (DE)                             | <b>Tanel Ringo</b><br>HHLA TK ESTONIA AS (EE)                                                         |

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| <b>Mario Alvelos</b><br>Mercedes-Benz Special Trucks I<br>Daimler Truck AG · Key Account<br>Manager Defence (DE) |                                                                                               | <b>Tomas Milašauskas</b><br>RSI Europe · CEO (LT)                     | <b>Dr. Romuald Eimont</b><br>CENTER FOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND<br>TECHNOLOGY (FTMC) · Head of<br>Innovation Dept. (LT) |
| <b>Faysal Rahman</b><br>Deutsche Bank AG · Global Defence<br>Coordinator – FIC & CB (DE)                         |                                                                                               | <b>Mart Laus</b><br>Marduk Technologies · Engeneering<br>Manager (EE) | <b>Anastasija Udalova</b><br>SIA H.A. Brieger · CEO (LV)                                                              |
| <b>Eduard Vainu</b><br>Meridein Grupp OÜ · Head of<br>Development (EE)                                           |                                                                                               | <b>Kyrylo Martyniuk</b><br>Battlepath OÜ · CEO (EE)                   | <b>Ukrainian Speaker</b> (tbc)                                                                                        |
| <b>Ukrainian Speaker</b> (tbc)                                                                                   |                                                                                               | <b>David Teare</b><br>Senior Banker at SEB                            |                                                                                                                       |
| <b>15:30 – 16:00</b>                                                                                             | <b>Coffee Break</b>                                                                           |                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |
| <b>16:00 – 16:45</b>                                                                                             | <i>Hall: Alfa</i><br><b>German-Baltic Business Awards 2026</b>                                |                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |
| <b>16:45 – 17:30</b>                                                                                             | <i>Hall: Alfa</i><br><b>Presentation of Capability Lab Results - Vilnius Declaration 2026</b> |                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |
| <b>17:30 – 17:45</b>                                                                                             | <b>Universal Aid Ukraine - Charity action</b>                                                 |                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |
| <b>17:45 – 22:00</b>                                                                                             | <i>Sky Bar</i><br><b>Networking Cocktails – Access with special tickets only</b>              |                                                                       |                                                                                                                       |

#### 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.