



ChamberBrief

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. (GACCoM)

Winter 2010 Issue

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Thank you to our
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'Tis the Season to be merry...

... and to visit the Christkindlmarket in Chicago. Inspired by the Christkindlmarket in Nuremberg, Germany, this much anticipated event brings a cherished German and European tradition to Chicago. Make sure to stop by for some German Gluehwein and Bratwurst this December and soak up the German Christmas spirit.

In this issue, GACCoM is looking back on a busy fall season. More than ten events were hosted by GACCoM within the past three months. Moreover, the German American Chambers of Commerce (GACC) together with the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT) and Roland Berger have just released the very positive results of the German American Business Outlook, an annual survey among German Firms in the U.S.

We are also excited to move into our new office at **321 North Clark Street** on Friday, December 10. Please note our [new address](#). More information on an Open House Reception will follow soon.

It is with pride that we say that 2010 has been a successful year for us. Much of this success is owed to our sponsors and supporters, and especially to our Platinum Sponsors 2010: Lufthansa, Hannover Messe, and Roedl & Partner. We would like to sincerely thank you for all your support throughout the year. Also, watch out for our new Highlights Brochure that will be published shortly, featuring GACCoM's best moments in 2010. We already look forward to 2011 which will be kicked off by our Annual Economic Forum on January 27.

We hope to see many of you at the Christkindlmarket Chicago and wish you a joyful holiday season!

Your GACCoM Team

Upcoming GACCoM Events

- [Christkindlmarket Chicago](#)
11/24 - 12/24/2010, Chicago, IL
- [YEC Holiday Stammtisch / December Stammtisch](#)



BECOME GACCoM's ANNUAL SPONSOR

Gain visibility in the German American Business Community. Lock in event sponsorships and much more at a special rate.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

12/14/2010 (Tuesday), Christkindlmarket Chicago, IL
Please note that registration is required.

- [Annual Economic Forum](#)
1/27/2011 (Thursday), Rosemont, IL

Confirmed Speakers Include:

Diane Swonk - *Chief Economist*
Mesirow Financial
Prof. Dr. Joachim Scheide - *Head Forecasting Center and Research Economist*, Kiel Institute for the World Economy
Caroll Neubauer - *Chairman and CEO*, B.



Braun Medical Inc.

Moderator: **Michael Backfisch** - *Middle East Correspondent*

- [Energy Efficiency in Industry Conference 2011](#)
2/1/2011, Troy, MI

GACCoM in Germany

- [Food Forum - Globale Wachstumsmaerkte fuer die Lebensmittelindustrie](#), 2/3/2011, Hanover Chamber of Industry and Commerce

German American Business Outlook Survey - "New Decade, New Growth"



November 30, New York, NY

"Encouraged by 2010 Business Results, 69% of German Firms in the US Look to Expand their Workforce in 2011"

This is the key result of this year's German American Business Outlook survey. The survey results were exclusively presented to the international trade press at the New York Stock Exchange on November 30. Among the panelists commenting on the survey results for the international trade press

were GACCoM Board Member and President & CEO of Komet of America, Inc., Dr. Friedrich-Hans Grandin, and Mark Tomkins, Vice President of GACCoM. A cooperation of the German American Chambers of Commerce (GACCs), the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT), and Roland Berger Strategy Consultants, the survey drew responses from close to 200 headquarters of German firms all around the United States.

[Visit our website](#) to view the complete results and impressions from the reception on the Trading Floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

27 Industry Experts give Insights on eMobility



German American eMobility Forum, November 17-18, Birmingham, MI

The first annual German American eMobility Forum on November 17 & 18 was a rousing success with one and a half days of panels, keynote speeches, and networking opportunities. The event was organized as part of the on-going GACC eMobility Series, and featured top speakers from both the US and Germany. Participants from the major OEMs, suppliers, non-profits, government entities, and universities joined us for the event in Birmingham, MI. Virginia Attaway Rounds, Director, Consulting Services GACCoM, moderated the Forum, featuring 27 industry experts who shared their insights across six panel discussions and in three keynote speeches. The audience was left with a strong sense of both how the electric vehicles industry got to where it is today and where it is headed in the future.



Watch the Broadcast!

[German American eMobility Forum](#)

Networking Receptions at Major Chicago Trade Shows: IMTS and Greenbuild 2010

IMTS German Night Networking Reception, September 14, Chicago, IL

Germany's leading role in the manufacturing industry was well reflected in the great representation of German exhibitors at the the 28th International Manufacturing Technology Show (IMTS). GACCoM proudly presented the IMTS 2010 German Night Reception attended by more than 150 IMTS exhibitors and visitors as well as GACCoM members who enjoyed a night of networking and knowledge exchange. In 2012, the IMTS will be co-located with the Industrial Automation North America; a result of GACCoM member Deutsche Messe AG forming a strategic partnership with IMTS organizer AMT (Association for Manufacturing Technology).



IMTS German Night Reception



Greenbuild International
Networking Reception



Greenbuild International
Networking Reception

GACCoM's Greenbuild 2010 International Networking Reception, November 16, Chicago, IL

During the GREENBUILD 2010 trade show in Chicago, GACCoM took the initiative to invite green building industry professionals, exhibitors and attendees, and members & friends to join them for GACCoM's GREENBUILD 2010 International Networking Reception. Guests connected with international and national industry professionals, learned about new trends in the green building industry and welcomed representatives from German green building hotspots such as North Rhine-Westphalia, Baden-Württemberg and EU Green Capital 2011 Hamburg.



A Night of German Wines and Indulgence



Executive German Wine Dinner, November 12, Chicago, IL

Our Annual Executive German Wine Dinner was once again a great success. This year, we enjoyed seven wines from Germany's renowned wine regions such as the Saar, Mosel, and Rheingau at the beautiful Renaissance Ballroom at the InterContinental Chicago. Udo Heinz of Udo Heinz Consult did a fantastic job pairing Rieslings and Pinot Noirs with delicious food prepared by Chef Kurt Mittleberger who was applauded at the end of the evening for his culinary creations. Another highlight was the honoring of our longstanding members and the welcoming of our new members. The GACCoM Team looks forward to another indulgent Wine Dinner which will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next year.



GACCoM's Green Events Fall 2010

Renewables & Energy Efficiency Roadshow in 3 Midwestern Cities

As part of the Transatlantic Climate Bridge and in cooperation with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany Chicago and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington, D.C., the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACCoM) organized for the third year in a row the Annual Renewables & Energy Efficiency Roadshow with the aim to further foster the transatlantic business relationship in these fields. Starting in Chicago, the Roadshow then made its way east to Detroit, concluding in Columbus, OH. 16 speakers, approximately 150 attendees, and 150 live online viewers participated throughout the three days of the Roadshow.



Watch the Broadcast!

[Renewables & Energy Efficiency Roadshow](#)



Renewables & Energy Efficiency Roadshow, German American Energy Conference
Chicago, IL, September 27, 2010



Washington D.C., October 14, 2010



Delegation Visit at Vestas, Brighton, CO
November 11, 2010

German American Energy Conference, Washington, D.C., October 14, 2010

The GACCs together with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington D.C., the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, Germany Trade and Invest, as well as the RGIT presented the German American Energy Conference featuring expert speakers and panelists from all areas of the sustainable sector. The event was opened with an inspiring welcome speech by German Ambassador Dr. Klaus Scharioth. Keynote speakers Matthias Kurth, President of the German Federal Network Agency (BNetzA) and Cathy Zoi, Acting Under Secretary of Energy at the US Department of Energy were equally positive in their assessments of the current status of the industry and its future. From the exciting large-scale wind and solar projects in Europe to historical energy efficiency standards and the huge investment from the Recovery Act in the US, the news was overwhelmingly positive for renewable energy companies. Besides the keynote speeches, the forum's three expert panels opened a discussion with the over 100 participants at the event on important topics such as energy infrastructure, new technology development & research and public policy.

WindEnergy Business Events Series, Chicago, IL & Denver, CO, November 8-12

Under the framework of the Renewable Energies Export Initiative, the WindEnergy Business Events Series brought together over 200 companies and leaders in wind energy from both sides of the Atlantic. The centerpiece of the events series was a delegation of 8 German wind energy companies, which came to the Midwest to explore partnership opportunities and to showcase German wind energy technology. The event, which is supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, included an expert roundtable, a conference in Chicago, as well as a networking breakfast in Denver. Furthermore, the delegation visited a number of wind energy facilities including the Winergy Drive Systems facility in Elgin, IL and the Vestas nacelle plant in Brighton, CO. Additionally, more than 65 individual company meetings were organized between the German wind delegation and U.S. companies.



Watch the Broadcast!
[WindEnergy Business Conference](#)

Former EU Commissioner Günther Verheugen on present and future of the European Union



Luncheon and Discussion, October 21, Chicago, IL

On October 21, GACCoM was honored to welcome a very special guest. At a luncheon and discussion, former EU Commissioner Günther Verheugen provided current insight on the Euro, the European financial situation and the impact on transatlantic trade with

an outlook on the future of the European Union. Our members and friends learned about Günther Verheugen's perspective on the relationship between the US and the EU and took part in a lively discussion. The event was made possible through close collaboration with Fleishman-Hillard Inc., and was an excellent way of providing the German American business community with valuable information relevant to the EU and transatlantic relationships.



Günther Verheugen served as EU Commissioner from 1999 - 2004 and welcomed 10 new Member States to the EU.

GACCoM Member OPTIMA celebrates 25 years in Business



Congratulations!

Optima Machinery Corporation, located in Green Bay, WI celebrated its 25th anniversary in October. Among the congratulants were Mayor Jim Schmitt; GACCoM President and CEO Simone Pohl; Chairman of the GACCoM Board W. David Braun; and Hans Buehler, CEO of the Optima Group, Schwäbisch Hall,

Germany. Founded on October 28, 1985 with only two employees, Optima Machinery today has 45 employees and a revenue of \$21 million. Since 1999, Mr. Thomas Seifert leads Optima Machinery Corporation as President and strengthens its reputation for innovative manufacturing, filling and packaging machines. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

Member News

- [++ Bosch expansion in South Carolina adding 300 jobs ++](#)
- [++ Timo Rehbock Joins Barnes & Thornburg LLP as Partner ++](#)
- [++ ThyssenKrupp Swings to Profit ++](#)
- [++ Lufthansa To Use Biofuel ++](#)

[++ Daimler Financial is now Mercedes-Benz Financial ++](#)
[++ Andy Stecher named President and CEO of Plasmatrix North America ++](#)
[++ Siemens, Amtrak Ink \\$466M Locomotive Deal ++](#)
[++ Nordex opens for business in Arkansas with grand opening of wind turbine plant ++](#)
[++ XL Insurance Promotes Uwe Schoberth to EVP, Head of Regional Management - North America P&C ++](#)

GACCoM Proudly Welcomes its New Members since September 2010

Carcoustics USA, Inc. ++ Christine Nappo ++ Columbus 2020 ++ Day & Hellmer, P.C. ++ Dieter Reitzig ++ Hall & Hunter Realtors ++ Harris N.A. ++ Matthes Consulting ++ Müller - Die Lila Logistik AG ++ Phillip Moennig ++ Sylvia Becker-Hill LLC ++ TeaGeschwendner USA Inc. ++ The Camelot Company ++ The McCart Group ++ ToccoMaly LLC ++ VAG-Armaturen GmbH ++ Vesterling Corporation ++ Vetter Development Services USA Inc. ++ Waterstone Management Group LLC

Last but not least...

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact our Director of Membership and Chamber Development, Jayne Riemer-Chishty, at riemer-chishty@gaccomm.org or call 312 494 2169. We value your opinion!

If you are interested in GACCoM's [Sponsorship Packages 2011](#), Jayne Riemer-Chishty will be happy to discuss your companies' opportunities with you.

Please visit our [website](#) for information and pictures from recent GACCoM events. You also have the opportunity to download speaker presentations and video clips from many of our conferences, panels etc.

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. - GACCoM

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