



German American  
Chambers of Commerce  
Deutsch-Amerikanische  
Handelskammern

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## Press Release

### For immediate release

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## **German American Business Awards: German American Chambers of Commerce honor Excellence in Innovation, Service, and Investment**

### ***Celebrating 25 Years of German Reunification, DOW Chemical Company awarded for early investment in Eastern Germany***

Chicago, IL, October 9, 2015 – On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of German reunification, the German American Chambers of Commerce honored **The Dow Chemical Company** with the **GACC Award for Outstanding US Investment in Eastern Germany**. Dow recognized Eastern Germany's strong industrial policy and the economic potential early on after the reunification. In 1995, they acquired former IG Farben facilities and started an impressive restructuring effort to turn them into state of the art chemical sites. Today, Dow directly employs approximately 5,000 people in Germany including 1,700 people in Central Germany. The company is one of the largest plastics producers in the new federal states and remains a key driver of the chemical industry in Germany: through their Industrial Value Park, their investment in dual vocational training programs, and their advocacy for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). With their ambitious sustainability goals and bold investments, Dow has contributed immensely to long-term economic growth in Eastern Germany. The versatile chemicals manufacturing corporation, headquartered in Midland, Michigan, is one of the 12 largest US companies in Germany, and Germany is their second largest production base and market after the US. Dr. Benno Bunse, Chairman/CEO of Germany Trade and Invest, key partner of the event, honored this special occasion by personally presenting the award to DOW.

Early US investment in the newly unified Germany, especially in the Eastern German states, was vital for the economic development of the country. Former US Ambassador J.D. Bindenagel gave a moving eyewitness account of his memories of being onsite for this monumental moment in world history. "When we celebrated German unification, we knew that building the German-American relationship with Germans who had just won their freedom would be a challenge. We shared the hope for freedom and turned to American business to commit to creating jobs and growth. The U.S. Embassy in the 1990s supported American business investment in the east, and today there are hundreds of American companies in the eastern federal States providing jobs and growth and connecting with America," says J.D. Bindenagel.

The GACC Awards are one of the highest accolades in German-American business. In addition to the Outstanding Investment in Eastern Germany Award, four more *GACC Awards* were presented throughout the Gala, honoring companies excelling in German-American business. The following businesses were recognized for their exceptional achievements: DACHSER Transport of America for Excellence in Services; the three regional Excellence in Innovation Awards were awarded to Rittal Corporation (Midwest), Schmidt Technology (New York), Bosch Rexroth (South).

"German-American business is stronger than ever, and our trade relations stand on a solid network of outstanding companies. The GACCs serve as a catalyst for constant knowledge and technology exchange between our countries, and are supporting investments and business opportunities through an extensive gamut of initiatives," says Martin Richenhagen, Chairman of the German American Chambers of Commerce.



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As part of their mission, the GACCs are always working to foster innovation through their programming, like the Smart Factory Industry Forum at the Digital Manufacturing and Design Innovation Institute featuring leading companies such as Microsoft, Siemens, and Wittenstein preceding the Gala. Three winners, one from each of our GACC regions, were honored with the **GACC Award for Excellence in Innovation**.

**Rittal**, founded in 1961, has continuously evolved into the world's leading systems provider for enclosures, power distribution, climate control, IT infrastructure and software & services. Rittal won the Innovation Award (GACC Midwest) for their Blue e+ cooling unit series, which was introduced at Hannover Messe 2015 and opens a new era for industrial air conditioners. Their innovative approach that uses energy-efficient active components has lowered the total cost of ownership by up to 75% - a huge saving for both users and the environment. Being equipped with an advanced inverter technology, the units are suitable for global use.

For GACC NY, **Schmidt Technology Corporation** was honored with the Innovation Award. Schmidt Technology Corporation is an international leader in Assembly presses and systems for precision applications. Schmidt's custom built innovative presses for client Airbus significantly reduced production time while increasing output and improving quality and traceability.

As part of the Bosch group, **Bosch Rexroth** supports mechanical and plant engineering efforts around the world with its cutting-edge technology and unique industry knowledge - and is the winner of the Innovation Award from GACC South. Bosch Rexroth's Open Core Interface solution for 3D modeling optimizes design & modeling processes through more precise visualization and reusability. As a previous Hermes Award winner, Bosch Rexroth's technological innovation clearly displays a powerful step toward the realization of the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

The German-American business community could not work as smoothly and efficiently without the support of all our service providers. With their uniquely transatlantic service concept, **DACHSER Transport of America** was honored with the **2015 GACC Award for Excellence in Services**. DACHSER is one of Europe's leading logistics providers. DACHSER's comprehensive full coverage service sets trends in the industry – worldwide. With their mix of reliable standardized processes and customized services, they find the ideal integrated supply chain solution for all customers, from start-up to multinational corporation. The “DACHSER corporate DNA” includes continuous optimization and the maturing of their network as a display of their commitment to their clients – which is clearly shown through their 13 locations and continuous growth in the US.

“The GACCs are proud to honor these outstanding companies, which underline the innovative and progressive value German subsidiaries add to the U.S. economy – and vice versa. We are looking forward to future growth of transatlantic business, especially with regards to the US being the partner country for Hannover Messe 2016,” says Mark Tomkins, President & CEO of GACC Midwest.

### **About Us**

The German American Chambers of Commerce (GACCs) with their three main offices in Atlanta, Chicago and New York, as well as branches in Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco, all work together under the network of the GACCs. With approximately 2,500 members and an extensive national and international business network, the GACCs are the first choice when it comes to business between the United States and Germany with their broad spectrum of activities and services. Other German American organizations and chapters are affiliated with the GACCs. Additionally, our liaison office in Washington, DC, the Representative of German Industry and Trade (RGIT), represents the interests of the German business community vis-à-vis both the U.S. administration and other international organizations based in Washington, DC. AHKs are closely connected to the Chambers of Industry and Commerce (IHKs) in Germany. The umbrella organization of the IHKs is the German Association of Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHK), which speaks for 3.6 million business enterprises in Germany and also coordinates and supports the AHKs. The German Chamber Network (AHK) provides experience, connections, and services worldwide through 130 locations in 90 countries. The service portfolio of the AHKs is unified worldwide under the brand name DEinternational. The AHKs cooperate closely with the foreign trade and inward investment agency of the Federal Republic of Germany – Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI). [www.ahk-usa.com](http://www.ahk-usa.com)