

Draft Agenda

## CONNECTING MIDWEST & GERMAN CLEANTECH STARTUP ECOSYSTEMS

March 17 to March 21, 2025, Berlin and Leipzig

### Sunday, March 16, 2025

Time	Program
AM	<b>Individual Transfer to Berlin</b>  Potential Flight Options from Chicago to Berlin: (1) Saturday, March 15: United Airlines - ORD to BER 11:35PM CT Departure, 4:55 PM CET Arrival (2) Saturday, March 15: Air France – ORD to BER 6:20PM CT Departure, 11:20AM CET Arrival (3) Saturday, March 15: SWISS – ORD to BER 8:05PM CT Departure, 2:05PM CET Arrival
PM	<b>Arrival in Berlin and Hotel Check In</b>  <i>Berlin is a vibrant startup hub known for its diverse ecosystem, offering a wealth of talent, cutting-edge innovation, and access to global markets. The city boasts a strong network of investors, accelerators, and co-working spaces, making it a hotspot for (clean) tech, digital, and creative startups. With its dynamic cultural scene and robust infrastructure, Berlin remains a top destination for entrepreneurs looking to scale.</i>
6PM	<b>Optional Welcome Dinner</b>  <i>Location: tbc</i>

### Monday, March 17, 2025

Time	Program
AM	<b>Navigating the German Cleantech Startup Landscape: Innovation and Collaboration</b>  <b>Exploring Germany's Vibrant Startup Ecosystem</b> A comprehensive overview of the German startup landscape, highlighting key trends, such as the <a href="#">Germany's federal startup strategy</a> and the <a href="#">Digital Hub Initiative</a> aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.  <b>Unveiling Key Insights from the Next Generation Report</b> Exclusive Insights of the latest findings from the <a href="#">German Startup Verband's Next Generation Report</a> and/or the <i>Green Startup Monitor</i> , offering valuable data and analysis on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the startup landscape in Germany.  <b>Interactive Workshop: Navigating Startup Ecosystems Across Borders</b> A collaborative session addressing the challenges and opportunities within the startup ecosystems of the U.S. Midwest and Germany. Topics include scaling up,

	<p>internationalization strategies, and enhancing global competitiveness in an increasingly dynamic market.</p> <p>Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christina Ronhardt, Start-ups und Digital Hub Initiative, <a href="#">Federal German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action</a></li> <li>• Representatives from startup and energy departments, <a href="#">Berlin Partner</a></li> <li>• Alexander Hirschfeld, Head of Research, <a href="#">German Startup Association</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Germany Trade and Invest (GTAI)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises</a> (tbc)</li> <li>• representatives from German Startup incubators and accelerators</li> </ul> <p>Location: Berlin Partner (tbc)</p>
PM	<p><b>Tour and exchange with the Urban Tech Republic (tbc)</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Urban Tech Republic</a> sees itself as an innovative ecosystem collaborative bringing innovations in urban tech for the benefit of everyone in the world with focus areas in mobility, energy, materials, recycling and water.</p> <p><i>Location: Berlin</i></p>

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

Time	Program
All day	<p><b>Exploring Innovation at the SET Tech Festival: A Gateway to Global Startup Ecosystems</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Start Up Energy Transition Tech Festival</a> is an annual one-day event bringing together innovators shaping the future of energy: the best start-ups in the field of energy solutions, innovation-driven corporates, investors, and public organizations leading the energy transition. Out of 500+ attendees at last year’s SET Tech Festival, 37% were leading corporates, 20% were investors, and 43% were startups</p> <p><b>Clean Tech Startups in Focus</b>  From scaling clean energy start-ups to investor-ready climate solutions, this year’s SET Tech Festival is designed to answer the questions shaping energy innovation today. Discover in-depth explorations of global clean tech startup ecosystems, delving into critical themes such as innovation, market dynamics, and collaboration opportunities.</p> <p><b>Official Side Event: Exploring the Startup Ecosystem Landscapes in Germany and the U.S.</b>  This exclusive side event is designed solely for our delegation, offering unparalleled opportunities to connect, collaborate, and showcase expertise. Possible formats include dynamic speed networking with industry leaders, interactive panels highlighting your initiatives, and hands-on workshops discussing strategies and partnership opportunities.</p> <p><b>Tailored B2B Meetings &amp; Networking</b>  Exclusive opportunities for one-on-one business connections, fostering partnerships, collaborations, and market insights between participating startups and stakeholders.</p>

	<p><b>Optional: Showcase Your Region</b> Reserve a booth to highlight your region’s unique strengths, initiatives, and opportunities in the global startup landscape.</p> <p><i>Location: Berlin</i></p>
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**Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

Time	Program
AM	<p><b>Tour and Exchange with the Impact Hub Berlin (tbc)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Impact Hub Berlin</a> is part of the global Impact Hub network, made up of 100+ local impact communities. We are changemakers united by the core belief that entrepreneurship can change the world. Socially, environmentally, and financially sustainable businesses are how we shape a better future for people and planet. And we know that impact-driven people thrive when they are part of a collaborative ecosystem of innovators. So together we will get there, with trust, courage, and collaboration.</p> <p><i>Location: Berlin</i></p>
	<p><b>Individual Transportation</b></p>
PM	<p><b>Half-Day Immersion in the daily operations of Start-Up Ecosystem Players</b></p> <p>Take a deep dive into one of our clean tech ecosystem players in the Berlin region. Spend half a day at their location, meet the team and learn about the collaboration between emerging companies, investors, and innovation hubs. You’ll discover operational initiatives and strategies driving success in the German market, build valuable connections, and gain inspiration for your own projects. Depending on the focus, you'll either have a personalized immersion experience tailored to your interests or join a small group for a collaborative deep dive.</p> <p>Possible stakeholders include but are not limited to:</p> <p><a href="#">Adlershof</a> (tbc) Berlin Adlershof is Germany's leading science and technology park, specializing in research-driven innovation. It hosts companies and institutions focused on photonics, renewable energy, materials science, IT, biotechnology, and environmental technologies. Its ecosystem supports collaboration between businesses and academic institutions, driving technological advancements and real-world applications.</p> <p><a href="#">Potsdam Science Park</a> (tbc) The Potsdam Science Park is a hub for innovation, research, and collaboration. Home to over 40 research institutes, startups, and companies, it fosters breakthroughs in fields like life sciences, clean energy, and digital technologies. With state-of-the-art facilities, networking opportunities, and a supportive ecosystem, the park is an ideal destination for researchers, entrepreneurs, and businesses shaping the future of science and technology.</p> <p><a href="#">Future Energy Lab</a> (tbc)</p>

	<p>The Future Energy Lab is a piloting and networking laboratory for trialling digital technologies for use cases in the energy industry. To test innovative digital technologies for the energy sector, a suitable experimental space is needed in which interested start-ups can network as easily and effectively as possible.</p> <p><a href="#">EIT Climate-KIC</a></p> <p>Realizing the full potential of climate solutions requires a concerted global effort, a shift in mindsets, and a stronger focus on demand-driven initiatives. We are accelerating climate innovation to meet the needs of local climate challenges across the globe. Our aim is to transform the start-up support landscape, ensuring that climate impact is deeply embedded in the fabric of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.</p> <p><i>Location: Berlin region</i></p>
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**Thursday, March 20, 2025**

Time	Program
PM	<p><b>Cultural Event (topic tbc)</b></p> <p><b>Bosch &amp; Beyond</b>  <a href="#">Hieronymus Bosch's</a> art reflected the vices, temptations, and aspirations of people during the transition from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Centuries later, we see that while knowledge brought enlightenment, it also introduced new challenges. Today, these challenges evolved with the rise of digitalization and artificial intelligence.</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p><b>DARK MATTER</b>  <a href="#">DARK MATTER</a> is a parallel cosmos of expansive light installations in which the boundaries between the real and the digital world become blurred. Within the pitch-black rooms of a converted factory, the visitor embarks on a journey through seven partly interactive works. Light, movement and sound fuse into emotional choreographies of luminous shapes and colors.</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p><b>Laure Prouvost</b>  2025 marks a century since quantum physics became established, and today its applications are predicted to enact a paradigm shift in our world. Following two years of research and rare access to a quantum computer, <a href="#">Laure Prouvost</a> presents a multi-sensory new work with LAS.</p>
1-6PM	<p><b>Uncover Global Expansion Opportunities at the Urban Innovation Forum</b></p> <p><a href="#">The Urban Innovation Forum</a> returns as Berlin's premier matchmaking event for the climate tech industry. Bringing together startups, investors, policymakers and industry leaders, the forum fosters collaboration, drives innovation and accelerates sustainable solutions for urban transformation.</p> <p><i>Location: Berlin</i></p>

6:30 – 8:30PM	<p><b>Transfer from Berlin to Leipzig</b></p> <p><i>Leipzig offers a thriving startup ecosystem with affordable living and operational costs, a strong talent pool from local universities, and a supportive network of incubators like SpinLab. The city excels in tech, clean energy, and creative industries while emphasizing sustainability and innovation. With excellent infrastructure and access to regional funding, Leipzig is an ideal hub for startups seeking growth in Germany and beyond.</i></p>
8:30PM	<p><b>Hotel Check-In and Dinner</b></p> <p><i>Location: Leipzig</i></p>

**Friday, March 21, 2025**

Time	Program
AM	<p><b>Tour and Exchange at Spin Lab Leipzig (tbc)</b></p> <p><a href="#">SpinLab</a> is a startup accelerator that supports early-phase startups in smart city solutions, energy, and eHealth. Their accelerator program helps entrepreneurs develop innovative products and bring them to market. SpinLab focuses on creating impactful digital solutions through a comprehensive process of research, design, and testing.</p> <p><i>Location: Leipzig</i></p>
PM	<p><b>Leipzig Blue-Green (Fraunhofer Institute) (tbc)</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Leipzig Blue-Green City Lab</a> is a collaborative initiative led by the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (IGB), focusing on sustainable urban development. The project integrates innovative blue (water) and green (vegetation) infrastructure solutions to enhance climate resilience, improve urban living conditions, and promote biodiversity. By combining cutting-edge research with practical applications, the lab develops scalable concepts for cities aiming to adapt to climate change and achieve sustainable growth.</p> <p><i>Or</i></p> <p><b>Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (tbc)</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">UFZ</a> is a leading research institute dedicated to environmental sciences, including renewable energy, resource management, and sustainable development. Explore the intersection of cutting-edge research and startup innovation in CleanTech. Learn about collaborations between researchers and entrepreneurs.</p> <p><i>Location: Leipzig</i></p>
PM	<p><b>Individual Departure</b></p> <p>Possible Flight Options from Leipzig to Chicago:</p>

	(1) Friday, March 21: UA – LEJ to ORD 2:10PM CET Departure, 5:25PM CT Arrival (2) Saturday, March 22: UA – LEJ to ORD 2:10PM CET Departure, 9:06PM CT Arrival (3) Saturday, March 22: UA – LEJ to ORD 6:10AM CET Departure, 4:15PM CT Arrival
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Interested in joining our trip? Fill out a [non-binding registration form](#) today to declare your interest in joining this program.

#### What to do in Berlin during the weekend:

- Reichstag Building – Tour the glass dome for city views.
- Brandenburg Gate – Iconic landmark and historic symbol of unity.
- Museum Island – Home to world-class museums like the Pergamon and Neues.
- East Side Gallery – Walk along a preserved section of the Berlin Wall with vibrant murals.
- Berlin Wall Memorial – Learn about the city's divided history.
- Checkpoint Charlie – Famous Cold War crossing point with a museum.

#### What to do in Leipzig during the weekend:

- Bach Museum – Learn about the life and works of composer Johann Sebastian Bach.
- Leipzig Zoo – A renowned zoo with themed areas like Gondwanaland.
- Panorama Tower (City-Hochhaus) – Enjoy panoramic views of the city.
- Spinnerei Galleries – Explore this former cotton mill turned art and cultural hub.

*\*This agenda represents a draft program. Kindly be aware that the program is subject to modifications based on factors such as the availability of participating organizations, logistical considerations, and other relevant factors. The program organizer reserves the right to make adjustments to the content and schedule of the agenda with short notice.*