

Draft Agenda

CONNECTING MIDWEST & GERMAN CLEANTECH STARTUP ECOSYSTEMS

March 16 to March 21, 2025, Berlin and Leipzig

Flight recommendations from Chicago, Denver, and Detroit to Berlin:

- Chicago – Berlin: [Austrian Airlines](#) – Outbound March 15 / Inbound March 22: Departure 5:20pm (Duration 11h15min via VIE)
- Detroit – Berlin: [Delta Airlines](#) – Outbound March 15 / Inbound March 22: Departure 10:10pm (Duration 12h30min via CDG)
- Denver – Berlin: [Lufthansa](#) – Outbound March 15 / Inbound March 22: Departure 5:25pm (Duration 11h35min via MUC)

Sunday, March 16, 2025

| Time | Program |
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| AM | Individual Transfer to Berlin |
| PM | Arrival in Berlin and Hotel Check In <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 | Optional Welcome Dinner <i>Location: tbc</i> |

Monday, March 17, 2025

| Time | Program |
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| 9:30am – 12:00pm | Navigating the German Cleantech Startup Landscape: Innovation and Collaboration Exploring Germany's Vibrant Startup Ecosystem A comprehensive overview of the German startup landscape, highlighting key trends, such as the Germany's federal startup strategy and the Digital Hub Initiative aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. Unveiling Key Insights from the Next Generation Report Exclusive Insights of the latest findings from the German Startup Verband's Next |

Generation Report and/or the *Green Startup Monitor*, offering valuable data and analysis on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the startup landscape in Germany.

Interactive Workshop: Navigating Startup Ecosystems Across Borders

A collaborative session addressing the challenges and opportunities within the startup ecosystems of the U.S. Midwest and Germany. Topics include scaling up, internationalization strategies, and enhancing global competitiveness in an increasingly dynamic market.

Participants:

- Jochen Zimmermann, Start-ups and Digital Hub Initiative, [Federal German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action](#)
- Janis Gummersbach, Senior Manager, Energy | Environment | Smart City, [Berlin Partner](#)
- Markus Facklam, Head of Unit International, [Berlin Partner](#)
- Alexander Hirschfeld, Head of Research, [German Startup Association](#)
- Almut Weigel, Trend & Innovation Scouting, [Germany Trade and Invest \(GTAI\)](#) (tbc)
- Thomas Großmann, Sustainable Development and Innovation, [Projektträger Jülich](#)
- Representatives from the [Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises](#) (tbc)
- Oliver Schmitz, Co-Founder, [Realta Fusion](#) & Director of the Grainger Institute for Engineering, [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)
- Representatives from German Startup incubators and accelerators (tbc)

Agenda

- 9:30 – 9:45 Welcome and Introduction (Berlin Partner, GACC Midwest, BMWK)
- 9:45 – 10:00 German Participants Pitches
- 10:00 – 10:30 Questions on the German cleantech startup ecosystem
- 10:30 – 10:35 Short Break
- 10:35 – 10:50 US Participants Pitches
- 10:50 – 11: 20 Questions on the US Cleantech Startup Ecosystem
- 11:20 – 12:00 Open Discussion and Networking
- 12:00 End of Event

Location:

*Berlin Partner für Wirtschaft und Technologie GmbH
Fasanenstraße 85
10623 Berlin*

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| | 3. Stock |
| 1-2:30PM | <p>Tour and exchange with the Urban Tech Republic (tbc)</p> <p>The Urban Tech Republic 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> |
| 2:30 – 3:30PM | <i>Transfer to Motion Lab</i> |
| 3:30PM | <p>Tour and exchange with Motion Lab</p> <p>MotionLab.Berlin is a leading ecosystem driving deep tech innovation and transformative technological advancements. It empowers companies to transition from lab to market by providing access to state-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced machinery, and an extensive network of suppliers, manufacturers, investors, SMEs, and corporates. As a vibrant hardtech community, it offers startup programs, industry expertise, prototyping facilities, and coworking spaces in Berlin to help accelerate the journey from concept to commercialization.</p> <p>Location: Bouchéstraße 12, Halle 20 12435 Berlin</p> |

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

| Time | Program |
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| All day | <p>Exploring Innovation at the SET Tech Festival: A Gateway to Global Startup Ecosystems</p> <p>The Start Up Energy Transition Tech Festival 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>Clean Tech Startups in Focus 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>Official Side Event: Exploring the Startup Ecosystem Landscapes in Germany and the U.S. 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>Tailored B2B Meetings & Networking</p> |

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| | <p>Exclusive opportunities for one-on-one business connections, fostering partnerships, collaborations, and market insights between participating startups and stakeholders.</p> <p>Optional: Showcase Your Region Reserve a booth to highlight your region’s unique strengths, initiatives, and opportunities in the global startup landscape.</p> <p>Beyond Silicon Valley: Why the US Midwest is Cleantech’s Best-Kept Secret – Meet the US Cleantech Startup Ecosystem</p> <p>Format: 3 High tops, 4 Mics Possible Moderator: Manuela as a US Midwest Cleantech Startup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vorstellungsrunde Panellisten, inhaltliche Einführung (2 min pro Speaker) - Vorbereitete Fragen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o As a German cleantech startup thinking about the US, only the SV and NYC comes to mind: why should I consider the Midwest? o As a German startup support organization, I want to know how you solve challenges in terms of funding and incentives for cleantech startups? o How do you build a successful to create a cleantech startup ecosystem? o What are your challenges/questions for the German startup ecosystem and who should come talk to you? - Additional Questions from German Audience <p><i>Location: Berlin</i></p> |
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Wednesday, March 19, 2025

| Time | Program |
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| 8 – 10AM | <p>Transfer from Berlin to Leipzig</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> |
| 11AM-PM | <p>Tour and Exchange at Spin Lab Leipzig (tbc)</p> <p>SpinLab 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>Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (tbc)</p> <p>The UFZ is a leading research institute dedicated to environmental sciences, including renewable energy, resource management, and sustainable development. Explore the</p> |

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| | <p>intersection of cutting-edge research and startup innovation in CleanTech. Learn about collaborations between researchers and entrepreneurs.</p> <p><i>Location: Leipzig</i></p> |
| 6 – 8PM | Transfer back to Berlin |

Thursday, March 20, 2025

| Time | Program |
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| AM | Individual transfer to Immersion location |
| AM | <p>Half-Day Immersion in the daily operations of Start-Up Ecosystem Players</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>Adlershof (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>Potsdam Science Park (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>Future Energy Lab (tbc) 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>EIT Climate-KIC 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</p> |

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| | transform the start-up support landscape, ensuring that climate impact is deeply embedded in the fabric of the entrepreneurial ecosystem. <i>Location: Berlin region</i> |
| | Individual transfer to Urban Innovation Forum |
| 1-6PM | <p>Uncover Global Expansion Opportunities at the Urban Innovation Forum</p> <p>The Urban Innovation Forum (UIF) is an annual gathering of top founders, investors, tech leaders, ecosystem players and operators in Berlin, fostering meaningful connections and groundbreaking insights in climate innovation.</p> <p>The Urban Innovation Forum is initiated by the Climate Tech Hub and co-funded by the European Union and the Berlin Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises.</p> <p>Audience: Founders, VCs, operators, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, academics & city officials</p> <p><i>Location: Fotografiska (Am Tacheles), Oranienburger Str. 54, 10117 Berlin</i></p> |

Friday, March 21, 2025

| Time | Program |
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| AM | <p>Cultural Event</p> <p>Bosch & Beyond Hieronymus Bosch's 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>DARK MATTER DARK MATTER 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>Laure Prouvost 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, Laure Prouvost presents a multi-sensory new work with LAS.</p> |
| PM | Lunch and Debriefing |

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| PM | Individual Departure |
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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.

**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.*