

Advanced Plant Engineering for Battery Manufacturing & Recycling – Chicago Panel Session & Networking

Date: Thursday, December 4th 2025

Location: JLL ([200 E Randolph St, 44th floor, Chicago, IL 60601](#))

Time	Program
3:30 – 3:40 PM	Welcome Remarks & Introduction • Mark Tomkins, President and CEO, GACC Midwest • Johannes Harms, Consul, German Consulate General Chicago • Patrick Schweska, General Counsel, Illinois Manufacturers' Association
3:40 – 3:50 PM	Opening Keynote Cathriona Fey, VP of Clean Energy Production & Manufacturing, Illinois EDC
3:50 – 4:00 PM	Overview of trends in German Battery Manufacturing Benedikt Rothhagen, Project Manager Battery Production, VDMA
4:00 – 4:40 PM	Panel Session 1: Building Smarter Battery Factories: U.S.–German Perspectives on Automation and System Integration Panelists: • Donald Gilmore (DJ), Senior Engineering Manager, BEAM Global / Allcell Technologies • Schaeffler • Damien Despinoy, President & Co-Founder, Volexion Moderation: Meredith O'Connor, Vice Chairman and Leader of Advanced Manufacturing & Economic Incentives Practice, JLL

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4:40 – 5:00 PM	German Delegation Innovation Pitches (1 min each)
5:00 – 5:40 PM	Panel Session 2: Building the Circular Battery Economy – Infrastructure, Logistics, and Engineering for Recycling Panelists: • Jamal Burki, Co-Founder & CEO, Renewance • Mohamad Ali Zeitoun, Director of Engineering & Manufacturing, Gotion / Re-new-able • Markus Volkening, Manager, FEV Consulting • Said Al-Hallaj, Chief Battery Scientist, Beam Global Moderation: Simone Schuppan, Founder & Managing Partner, c2Impact
5:40 - 7:00	Light Dinner, Networking & One-On-One Meetings <i>Start 5:40 PM: One-on-one meetings (in conference rooms)</i>
7:00 PM	End of the event