

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 Moderation: Jan-Felix Kederer, Manager, Government Projects & Trade Missions, GACC Midwest
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 Battery Manufacturing in Europe 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 • Steffen Bader, Area Sales & Key Account Manager, Schaeffler Special Machinery • Damien Despinoy, President & Co-Founder, Volexion

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	Moderation: Meredith O'Connor, Vice Chairman and Leader of Advanced Manufacturing & Economic Incentives Practice, JLL
4:40 – 5:00 PM	German Delegation Innovation Pitches
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 • 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 & B2B Meetings
7:00 PM	End of the event