

## Advanced Plant Engineering for Battery Manufacturing & Recycling

### *Chicago Panel Session & Networking*

**Date:** Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 2025

**Location:** JLL ([200 E Randolph St, 44<sup>th</sup> floor, Chicago, IL 60601](#))

| Time           | Program                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3:30 – 3:40 PM | <b>Welcome Remarks &amp; Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Tomkins, President and CEO, GACC Midwest</li> <li>Johannes Harms, Consul, German Consulate General Chicago</li> <li>Patrick Schweska, General Counsel, Illinois Manufacturers' Association</li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Jan-Felix Kederer, Manager, Government Projects &amp; Trade Missions, GACC Midwest</p>                   |
| 3:40 – 3:50 PM | <b>Opening Keynote</b> <p>Cathriona Fey, VP of Clean Energy Production &amp; Manufacturing, Illinois EDC</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3:50 – 4:00 PM | <b>Overview of Trends in Battery Manufacturing in Europe</b> <p>Benedikt Rothhagen, Project Manager Battery Production, <a href="#">VDMA</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4:00 – 4:40 PM | <b>Panel Session 1: Driving Innovation and Collaboration in Next-Generation Battery Factories</b> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Donald Gilmore (DJ), Senior Engineering Manager, BEAM Global / Allcell Technologies</li> <li>Steffen Bader, Area Sales &amp; Key Account Manager, Schaeffler Special Machinery</li> <li>Damien Despinoy, President &amp; Co-Founder, Volexion</li> </ul> |

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|                | Moderation: Meredith O'Connor, Vice Chairman and Leader of Advanced Manufacturing & Economic Incentives Practice, JLL                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4:40 – 5:00 PM | <b>German Delegation Innovation Pitches</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 5:00 – 5:40 PM | <p><b>Panel Session 2: Building the Circular Battery Economy – Infrastructure, Logistics, and Engineering for Recycling</b></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamal Burki, Co-Founder &amp; CEO, Renewance</li> <li>• Mohamad Zeitoun, Founder/CEO Re-New-Able; Director at Gotion</li> <li>• Markus Volkening, Manager, FEV Consulting</li> <li>• Said Al-Hallaj, Chief Battery Scientist, BEAM Global</li> </ul> <p>Moderation: Simone Schuppan, Founder &amp; Managing Partner, c2Impact</p> |
| 5:40 - 7:00    | <p><b>Light Dinner, Networking &amp; B2B Meetings</b></p> <p><i>Start of B2B-Meetings at 6:00 PM: If you have signed up for the B2B session to connect with German manufacturing companies in short one-on-one meetings, please check the B2B-schedule at the event.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 7:00 PM        | <b>End of the event</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |