

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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Tomkins, President and CEO, GACC Midwest Johannes Harms, Consul, German Consulate General Chicago Patrick Schweska, General Counsel, Illinois Manufacturers' Association <p>Moderation: Jan-Felix Kederer, Manager, Government Projects & Trade Missions, GACC Midwest</p>
3:40 – 3:50 PM	Opening Keynote <p>Cathriona Fey, VP of Clean Energy Production & Manufacturing, Illinois EDC</p>
3:50 – 4:00 PM	Overview of Trends in Battery Manufacturing in Europe <p>Benedikt Rothhagen, Project Manager Battery Production, VDMA</p>
4:00 – 4:40 PM	Panel Session 1: Driving Innovation and Collaboration in Next-Generation Battery Factories <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>Panel Session 2: Building the Circular Battery Economy – Infrastructure, Logistics, and Engineering for Recycling</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamal Burki, Co-Founder & CEO, Renewance • Mohamad Zeitoun, Founder & CEO, Re-new-able at Gotion • Markus Volkening, Manager, FEV Consulting • Said Al-Hallaj, Chief Battery Scientist, BEAM Global <p>Moderation: Simone Schuppan, Founder & Managing Partner, c2Impact</p>
5:40 - 7:00	<p>Light Dinner, Networking & B2B Meetings</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	End of the event