Transatlantic Cluster Initiative

About the Program

The Transatlantic Cluster Initiative brings together leading German and US industry clusters to promote knowledge exchange through content-driven encounters. The program is organized by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACC Midwest) and is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy through the European Recovery Program.

The core program of the Cluster Initiative will connect German and American cluster organizations through targeted roadshow series in the US and delegation trips to Germany. The program establishes an exchange for best-practices focused on cluster management, internationalization, cluster policy, recruitment of a skilled workforce, technology development and transfer, and much more. As an increasing array of clusters join the Cluster Initiative, other opportunities for an ongoing dialog will be pursued.

Benefits of Program Partnership

- Establish transatlantic contacts to internationalize your cluster and its members/partners
- Benefit from best-practice exchange between cluster organizations in Germany and the US
- Gain visibility for your cluster: Your logo will be displayed on the Transatlantic Cluster Initiative website and the program’s printed marketing materials (e.g. agenda, flyer) as well as via social media
- Give a 10 min. introductory presentation at the U.S. roadshow on your cluster’s capabilities
- Guarantee of five (5) spots on the delegation trip to Germany
- Gain visibility in the “Transatlantic Cluster Insights” Newsletter

Program Details

The ERP Program is funding a series of 6 programs, each focused on a different industry. Previous programs revolved around the topics of: Metalworking; Lightweighting Technologies and Materials; Medical Technologies and Industry 4.0. Possible future themes to be addressed include: Optics & Photonics; E-Mobility, Transportation and Logistics; Aerospace and Aviation; Health IT; Life Science; Start-ups, IT and Digitalization; Waste- & Water Management; and many more.

Each program will entail an industry specific roadshow in the US and a delegation trip to Germany. The roadshows in the US will include targeted industry events at 2-3 US locations, while the delegation trips will offer 15 select participants to explore Germany during an intensive 5-day trip.

For additional information on the program, please visit: www.gaccmidwest.org/cluster
Program Partnership Details

GACC Midwest is looking to partner with representatives of US clusters, industry associations and economic development organizations. The partnership will entail the following:

- Host cluster representatives from Germany for at least one day of programming organized with GACC Midwest at partner location (host organization provides venue/marketing support for 80 people, AV, and catering)
- Additional financial support for the roadshow in the US (e.g. for transportation to site visits)

“I attended the Transatlantic Medical Cluster Trip in October 2017 and found the experience to be very valuable and productive. As a result of this trip, I am now engaged in 2 important initiatives with fellow attendees from the trip. In addition, I have a good understanding of the landscape for potential collaboration opportunities with organizations and companies I work with in the US and the German medical clusters we visited, along with key resources in Germany that we can contact in the future. I highly recommend participation in any future GACC Midwest trips of a similar nature.”

Eric Beier, MD, MBA, CEO, Matrix-Bio, Inc.

Delegation Trip to Germany

- 5-day trip to Germany to explore the targeted industry
- Program fee: $450*
  - Participants are responsible for their own airfare to and from Germany.

*Program fee covers (6) overnight stays, meals, cultural activities, entrance fees, and transportation as part of the program agenda while in Germany.

“My Transatlantic Metal Cluster delegation trip has provided me with valuable insights into the German Dual Vocational Education and Training Models. The best practices learned in Germany will have an impact on my future strategies and interactions with the local manufacturers and labor pool. The trip also was a great introduction to the German culture—from its industry to the food and customs.”

Tom Peters, Director of Workforce Development, Symbol Training Institute

About the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc.

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the network of German Chambers of Commerce Abroad (AHKs) with 130 offices in 90 countries around the globe.

Our continuing mission is to further, promote, and assist in the expansion of bilateral trade and investment between Germany and the United States, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association, and a professional consultancy – quite a unique concept in international trade promotion.

Contact me with further questions:

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