PRESS RELEASE

Global Security and Innovation Summit 2026: From Summit to International Platform for Security and Innovation

GSIS connects international expertise and networks to advance security, innovation and concrete cooperation

Hamburg, 12 November 2026 – Geopolitical tensions, technological upheaval and new vulnerabilities are fundamentally reshaping the international security architecture. The decisive factor is no longer simply the military capabilities states possess. Equally important is who develops key technologies, finances innovation, builds industrial capacity and protects critical infrastructure.

The **Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS)** brings these perspectives together on a long-term international platform for security and innovation. Its aim is to connect stakeholders across disciplines and industries and turn strategic dialogue into concrete cooperation and initiatives. At its heart is the question of how Europe can translate its security policy objectives into technological and industrial capabilities more quickly.

Hamburg's Senator for the Interior and Sport, **Andy Grote**, will deliver an opening address at GSIS which will take place on **9 and 10 December 2026 at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg**.

From Strategic Dialogue to Concrete Cooperation

GSIS brings together three dimensions that are inseparable when it comes to building tomorrow's security capabilities: **geopolitics and security**; **technology and innovation**; and **industry, financing and scaling**. The agenda covers artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, as well as autonomous systems, space technologies, dual-use technologies and defence tech. The protection of critical infrastructure is another key focus, as technological strength translates into strategic capability only when backed by capital, industrial capacity and the right political framework.

"From the outset, GSIS was conceived as more than an international security conference. In its second year, this platform approach is becoming increasingly tangible: we are bringing together different partners, expertise and networks to work jointly on the security, technological and economic challenges of our time. Our aim is not simply to build a bigger

conference, but to create an international platform that enables long-term cooperation and turns strategic debates into concrete initiatives," says **Dimitrios Argirakos**, Executive Chair of GSIS.

International Perspectives: From Geopolitics to Defence Tech

The international speaker line-up reflects the breadth of topics covered by GSIS. Speakers include **Lord Sedwill**, former UK National Security Adviser and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS); **Lieutenant General Michael Vetter**, Director-General for Innovation and Cyber at the German Federal Ministry of Defence; and **Tim Wagner**, CEO Naval Systems at Rheinmetall. **Dr Florika Fink-Hooijer** of the European health authority HERA will address biosecurity and resilience, while **Laurent Jaffart** of the European Space Agency (ESA) will highlight the strategic importance of space. **Hans Beyer**, Head of Defence at Swedish bank SEB, and **Dr Markus Schillo** of the European Investment Fund will discuss financing for security-related technologies in the session "Financing the Defence-Tech Pivot".

The Platform Is Growing

International partners will contribute their specialist expertise, networks and their own formats to GSIS. The conference programme, partner events, technology presentations and networking formats provide different perspectives on security challenges and create space for concrete cooperation.

Partners include:

- the Federation of German Security and Defence Industries (BDSV),
- the Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP),
- Bitkom,
- the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce,
- the German Maritime Centre (DMZ) and
- Helmut Schmidt University / University of the Federal Armed Forces Hamburg.

Hamburg as a Starting Point for International Cooperation

As an international port, industrial and academic centre, Hamburg is closely connected to the economic and security landscape of Northern and Eastern Europe. Port security, maritime defence capabilities and the protection of critical infrastructure are particularly important in this context.

Maritime security is therefore a particular focus of GSIS. The platform can draw on established event formats and international networks of Hamburg Messe und Congress: **SMM**, the world's leading trade fair for the maritime industry; **MS&D – International Conference & Expo on Maritime Security & Defence**; and **ALL ABOUT PORTS**, the platform for integrated port solutions.

Shaping Security Together. From Summit to Platform.

GSIS will take place on **9 and 10 December 2026 at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg**. Registration is now open via the official ticket shop. Separate tickets are required for certain partner events.

Further information and the latest programme: https://www.gsis-hamburg.com

Register here: Participate as Delegate - Global Security and Innovation Summit

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About GSIS – Global Security and Innovation Summit
The Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS) is an international platform for security and innovation. It brings together decision-makers from politics, security and defence, technology, industry, academia and finance, connecting three key dimensions: geopolitics and security, technology and innovation, and industry, financing and scaling. GSIS is designed to foster long-term cooperation. Partners contribute their expertise, networks and their own formats, with the aim of turning strategic dialogue into concrete cooperation and initiatives. The annual Summit in Hamburg serves as the central meeting point for this international network. Maritime security is a strategic anchor, without limiting the platform's broader thematic scope. GSIS is organised by Hamburg Messe und Congress in cooperation with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). The next GSIS will take place on 9 and 10 December 2026 at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg.
More information: GSIS - Global Security and Innovation Summit

About the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
The Global Security and Innovation Summit is built on the combined expertise of its partner institutions. The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) is a globally renowned think tank for security and defence policy with deep expertise in regional geopolitics and geoeconomics. It is known for high-level forums such as the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue (Asia), the IISS Manama Dialogue (Middle East) and the IISS Prague Defence Summit (Europe). The institute provides policy-relevant and business-relevant analysis through its international research team.

More information: The International Institute for Strategic Studies

About Hamburg Messe und Congress
Hamburg Messe und Congress (HMC) is an organizer and host of major international events, trade fairs, and congresses. Its unique event campus in the heart of Hamburg comprises eleven exhibition halls and the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg – connected by the park Planten un Blomen. Leading international trade fairs such as SMM, WindEnergy Hamburg, and INTERNORGA are meeting places for visitors from all over the world. In addition, there are numerous guest events on a wide range of topics, including aviation, mobility, and renewable energies. The portfolio of trade fairs and congresses is geared towards the economic clusters of the Hamburg metropolitan region. Hamburg Messe und Congress employs over 350 people and generated sales of around 92 million euros in 2025.
More information:
Trade fairs | Conferences | Events - Hamburg Messe und Congress
Conferences | Conventions | Events in Hamburg - CCH

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Press Accreditation
Press accreditation is available for the Global Security and Innovation Summit on 9 and 10 December 2026 at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg. Journalists wishing to attend GSIS in person can apply for accreditation via the following link: Pressshop

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