

PRESS RELEASE

Bitkom and GSIS Expand Strategic Partnership for 2026

Focus on digital technologies, maritime security and data-driven defence

Berlin/Hamburg, 23 June 2026 – Germany’s digital association **Bitkom e.V.** and **Hamburg Messe und Congress GmbH** are continuing their strategic partnership and renewing their cooperation for the **Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS) 2026**, which will take place on 9 and 10 December 2026 at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg. The partnership will focus on key digital technologies, maritime security and data-driven innovation for security and defence.

Bitkom Takes on a Stronger Role in Programme Development

Following the successful launch of GSIS in 2025, where Bitkom contributed to the programme for the first time as a partner, the digital association will play an even greater role in shaping the content and strategic direction of the Summit in 2026. Bitkom will contribute its expertise to the development of selected programme tracks and thematic priorities.

Dr Bernhard Rohleder, Director General of Bitkom e.V., said: “Digital technologies are indispensable to modern security and defence policy, and their strategic importance is growing rapidly. GSIS 2025 demonstrated that international dialogue provides a valuable opportunity to identify risks and seize emerging opportunities. In 2026, we will continue to develop this platform together and contribute our expertise wherever technology and security policy intersect in practical ways.”

Dimitrios Argirakos, Executive Chair of GSIS, said: “Technology is no longer merely an accompanying aspect of security policy – it is becoming its strategic operating system. This is precisely where GSIS positions itself. Together with Bitkom, we share the ambition to connect technological innovation, economic dynamism and geopolitical capability. The continuation of our partnership sends a strong signal for the further development of GSIS as an international platform for security and innovation.”

On 9 and 10 December 2026, GSIS will once again bring together senior representatives from government, industry, armed forces, research institutions and civil society in Hamburg to discuss the implications of technological developments for security and resilience.

About GSIS – Global Security and Innovation Summit

The **Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS)** is an international platform at the intersection of security, technological innovation and economic resilience. It brings together governments, technology companies, investors, infrastructure operators, research institutions and international organisations to develop joint responses to geopolitical, technological and economic challenges. GSIS is more than a conference; it is a platform for long-term collaboration. Its aim is to connect decision-makers, innovators, investors and institutions in ways that foster new partnerships, concrete projects and international cooperation. The Summit seeks to strengthen Europe's ability to combine technological innovation, economic competitiveness and strategic resilience. In addition to the main conference, GSIS encompasses a range of connected formats, including partner events, networking opportunities and the Innovation Zone, where companies showcase their technologies and solutions. Held annually in Hamburg, the Summit serves as the central gathering point for this platform and is complemented by international partner formats. 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 Bitkom e.V.

Bitkom is Germany's leading digital association and Europe's largest think tank on digital issues. More than 2,200 companies are members of the association, including over 1,300 high-performing SMEs, around 750 innovative tech start-ups, half of Germany's 40 DAX-listed companies and many other global players. Together, they develop positions and policy recommendations for politics and business.

More information: [Bitkom e. V.](#)

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](#)

Digital Press Kit

This press release and image material, can be found in the online press area at:
<https://www.gsis-hamburg.com/press/press-material-downloads>. Note on image use: Only with source reference "© Hamburg Messe und Congress / Photographer".
[Download Digital Press Kit](#)

Press Contact

Nele Bruns

PR Manager
Hamburg Messe und Congress
Phone: +49 40 3569-2439
nele.bruns@hamburg-messe.de

Chris Egerton

Press Communications Manager
International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
Phone: +44 7935 420493
christopher.egerton@iiss.org



Privacy policy:

For further information on the protection of your data please read our Data Privacy Policy at <https://www.hamburg-messe.de/en/privacy-policy>. You may also use the same link to contact our Data Protection Officer.