

PROGRAM BOOKLET

2026

AIXIA

Let's get real about AI!

OCTOBER 22, 2026

WELCOME TO STRASBOURG

Standing like no other for Franco-German cooperation and European unity, this city is the perfect home for this year's edition of **The Franco-German AI conference AIxIA**.

This year's conference is guided by one simple idea: Let's get real about AI. Beyond the hype and the big promises, we want to ask what AI actually delivers today. We invite you today to explore, together with thought leaders, innovators, and companies from both sides of the Rhine, what reliable, transparent AI in practice looks like and to connect with likeminded people from all across Europe.

Enjoy this day full of honest conversations, hands-on insights, and strengthened Franco-German collaboration in AI.

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Karlsruhe

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EUROPEAN DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB
Artificial Intelligence & CyberSecurity

**EDIH
GE**

European
Digital Innovation Hub
Grand Est Region



Business Support on Your Doorstep

CONTENT

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AGENDA

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HOSTS

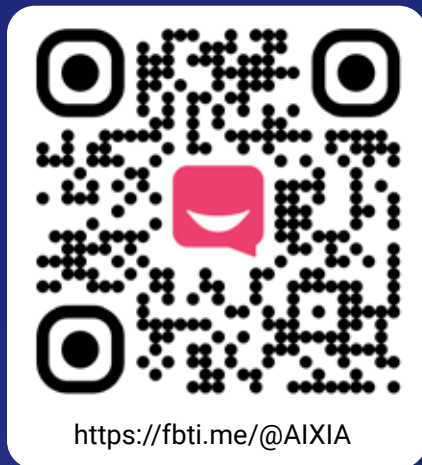
15

SPEAKERS

27

PARTNERS

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Share your thoughts on the event!*



<https://fbti.me/@AIXIA>

AGENDA



AGENDA

WELCOME SPEECH

9:00

Gennadi Schermann
DIZ | Digitales Innovationszentrum GmbH

Jean-Jacques Bernardini
Grand Est Développement

PANEL

9:30

From Hype to Impact – Business Models in the Age of AI

Where do companies really stand when it comes to AI? This panel will bring together Franco-German voices from industry to discuss which business models are proving their worth in practice – beyond the buzz-words.

Saïd Lamri
Digitallia

Marion Moliner
Hager

Steffen Wildner
ERBACHER the food family

Hans-Peter Zorn
inovex GmbH

KEYNOTE

10:30

Tourism: Europe's Playground for Agentic AI

Building on Digital New Deal's research, this keynote argues that Europe should combine data spaces with generative and agentic AI to structure and activate trusted private data—tourism provides the testing ground.

Arno Pons
aDRI / Digital New Deal

COFFEE BREAK

11:00

BREAKOUT SESSIONS I

11:30

No Data, No AI: Why Data Quality Comes First

No good data, no good AI. This session explores why data quality is the decisive foundation for any successful AI deployment — and how organisations are tackling this challenge in concrete terms.

Anthony Ohlmann
ADDI-DATA Group

Nicolas Declercq
Namkin

Room: Boston

AI Under Attack – Security Risks and Emerging Threat Vectors

AI systems are increasingly targets themselves. Experts examine current threat scenarios, vulnerabilities, and counter-measures — hands-on and technically grounded.

Maximilian von Lonski
VISS GmbH

Jean Williamson
Vaultys

Room : Churchill

Smarter by Design – Embedded AI for Industry (and Mobility)

Building AI directly into hardware and products — for real-time, on-device intelligence in industrial machinery and mobility applications (e.g. predictive maintenance, process optimization, driver assistance) — rather than relying on the cloud.

Jérémie Guignard
Technology & Strategy (T&S)

Guillaume Blanc
Monstock

Tolgay Ungan
Endiio Engineering GmbH

Room: Curie

LUNCH BREAK

12:45

B2B MATCHMAKING

13:30 – 16:30

B2B Matchmaking (powered by EEN)

Targeted business connections, not chance encounters: through the Enterprise Europe Network, Franco-German companies meet for structured 1:1 conversations — ideal for exploring partnerships, collaborations, and new projects.

Room: Etoile

POLITICAL GREETINGS

14:00

Irène Weiss

Région Grand Est

Matthias Kloth

Council of Europe

IMPULSE TALK

14:15

From AI Strategy to Action: The Grand Est Journey

How can a regional authority turn AI ambition into concrete transformation? Grand Est is building a new AI strategy that combines internal transformation, public-policy innovation and territorial development. .

Benjamin Legrand

Région Grand Est

BREAKOUT SESSIONS II

14:45

AI for Public Services – From Policy to Practical Use

From strategy to implementation: this session discusses how AI can be deployed in the public sector — with a focus on digital sovereignty, concrete use cases, and what can realistically scale.

Emmanuel Chochoy

Chochoy Conseil

Ann-Katrin Riedel

WIANCO OTT Robotics GmbH

Room: Churchill

Powering the Future – AI for Critical Infrastructure and Energy Sovereignty

Energy, infrastructure, resilience: this session examines how AI can be used in safety-critical domains and what role it plays in Europe's energy sovereignty.

Todor Kostov
Reasonance GmbH

Adrien Badina
2CRSi

Room : Curie

COFFEE BREAK

16:00

PANEL

16:30

Building Trusted AI Together: Franco-German Cooperation in Europe

How can Europe hold its own in the global AI race? This closing discussion examines the role of Franco-German cooperation in building trustworthy AI, advancing technological sovereignty, and strengthening Europe's position.

Anna Christmann
SAI Europe

François Méro
Probabl

Ulf Nehrbass
Luxembourg Institute of Health

Davis Adedayo Eisape
Sopra Steria

CLOSING

17:30

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HOSTS



HOSTS



Main Organizer

DIZ | Digitales Innovationszentrum GmbH enables companies, municipalities, and research institutions to harness digital innovation. It drives and manages projects, funding, and knowledge transfer, while coordinating de:hub Applied AI and partnering with EDIH-AICS to foster collaboration between research, startups, and established businesses for the adoption of future-oriented technologies.



Grand Est Développement is the regional agency dedicated to supporting the transformation of businesses and territories across the French Grand Est region (Eastern France). Established in 2018 at the initiative of the Grand Est Region and the French Grand Est Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI Grand Est), with the support of the European Union, Grand Est Développement works to promote economic development throughout Eastern France. The agency is responsible for implementing public policies relating to innovation and digital, environmental and industrial transformation, working as closely as possible with businesses and local territories.



Powered by

The de:hub Applied AI leverages the region's AI strengths, recognized by the Federal Government since 2017 and supported by Baden-Württemberg's Ministry of Economic Affairs. As one of 25 national digital hot-spots, it links startups, corporates, research, and public institutions to advance AI and drive practical applications.

The EDIH-AICS promotes secure, sustainable, sovereign European AI and cybersecurity. It supports SMEs, startups, and public organizations with test-before-invest, funding guidance, and training, co-funded by the EU and Baden-Württemberg ministries.

EDIH GE is the technology acceleration platform of the Grand Est region. It is dedicated to innovation and the transformation of businesses across Grand Est, facilitates access for SMEs, mid-sized industrial companies and industrial solution providers in the region to AI and cybersecurity technologies developed through public and private research.

With 3,000 experts from 600 organisations across 65 countries, EEN is the largest European network supporting the implementation and dissemination of European policies on innovation, internationalisation, digitalisation and the green transition.

PARTNER EVENT

European
AI
Innovation
Month



European
Commission

SPEAKERS A-Z



GREETINGS



Gennadi Schermann

CEO

DIZ | Digitales Innovationszentrum GmbH



Jean-Jacques Bernardini

Head of the European Affairs Department

Grand Est Développement



Matthias Kloth

*Head of Digital Governance and Sport
Department*

Council of Europe



Irène Weiss

*Deputy Chairperson of the Higher Educa-
tion, Research, and Innovation Committee
of the Grand Est Region*

Région Grand Est



Emmanuel Chochoy

CEO, Chochoy Conseil

An EFREI engineer specializing in AI, Emmanuel Chochoy has worked on AI for mission aircraft and UAVs at Thales. He now leads Chochoy Conseil, where he oversees an industrial PhD in AI that has produced two international publications, and the development of HNOOSIA, a solution that structures and makes organizational knowledge traceable for trusted AI.

Chochoy Conseil is a French AI and strategy consultancy developing HNOOSIA and the MSMKC© methodology to help organizations deploy trusted, sovereign and frugal AI.



Anna Christmann

CEO, SAI Europe

As a long-standing representative for startups and the digital economy for the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, Dr. Anna Christmann has initiated many innovation projects that have advanced Germany as a business location. After serving in the Bundestag from 2017 to 2025, Dr. Christmann decided to start her own business. With her new innovation agency SAI Europe, she continues to work from Berlin to accelerate innovation in Germany and Europe.

SAI Europe stands for a new pace for innovation in Europe. It is a strategic agency that aims at supporting startups, SMEs, research, and administration in accelerating their innovation activities and helping them to find the right network.





Jérémie Guignard

PhD, R&D Funding Manager, Technology & Strategy

A PhD in physics and an expert in innovation funding, Jérémie Guignard has spent over 15 years supporting companies and R&D teams in structuring, financing and showcasing the value of their projects. A specialist in the French Research Tax Credit (CIR), grants and the management of strategic programs, he combines scientific expertise with financial vision, management and business development.

T&S is a consulting and engineering group. With advanced domain expertise, T&S supports its clients in software development and product industrialization.



Todor Kostov

CEO, Reasonance GmbH

Todor Kostov, CEO of Reasonance GmbH, has been scaling productive AI systems as Principal AI Engineer since 2016. After studying computer science at KIT and a thesis at Fraunhofer IOSB, he brought ML solutions into deployment across four continents. As founding engineer, he built a market leader for AI-driven district heating and delivered projects for Trumpf, NetzeBW and BASF. Today he optimizes industrial energy costs.

Reasonance delivers three-times award-winning forecasts for PV, hydro and load, as well as smart BESS/flexibility optimization for industry, energy trading and grid operation.



Saïd Lamri

CEO, Digitallia

CEO and founder of Digitallia, Saïd Lamri is an expert passionate about Data and AI. A member of Impact AI and HIA France, and AI Ambassador and AI Operator for Grand Est, he has been supporting business leaders through their company's technological transformation since 2019.

We design tailor-made solutions to transform business models and generate measurable business impact.



Benjamin Legrand

Strategic Project Manager, Région Grand Est

Benjamin Legrand is Strategic Project Manager for AI at Région Grand Est. After eight years advising the Regional President on higher education, research, innovation, digital affairs and bioeconomy, he has coordinated the Region's renewed AI ambition since March 2026. His work connects internal transformation, public policies, research, economic development and European co-operation.

Région Grand Est is a French region serving 5.5M inhabitants at the heart of Europe, with a strong industrial base, dynamic innovation ecosystem and unique cross-border position.



Maximilian von Lonski

Founder & CEO, VISS GmbH

Maximilian von Lonski is founder and CEO of VISS GmbH, a deep-tech start-up building hardware-enforced endpoint isolation. Before VISS, he built his career in enterprise sales, including a top account executive role at Amazon EMEA. VISS was incubated at CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security, is a NATO DIANA alumnus and pilots in healthcare and critical infrastructure.

VISS builds the VISSBOX: hardware-enforced pixel isolation for any PC. External data arrives only as pixels, never as a file. No executable return path. Made in Germany.



François Méro

CEO, Probabl

François Méro is CEO of Probabl, the company founded by the creators of scikit-learn, the world's most widely used machine learning library. His career bridges open source and enterprise: he scaled Talend from a startup to a NASDAQ IPO and ultimately a \$2.4 billion acquisition. At Cegid, he integrated machine learning into accounting. Now, at Probabl, he's making open-source data science the standard for enterprise AI.

Probabl is the Tabular AI company created by the founders and stewards of scikit-learn. It develops software that helps enterprises build reliable tabular AI models faster to make predictions based on their data.



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Marion Moliner

AI Team Manager, Hager

Marion Moliner is AI Team Manager at Hager, leading an AI engineering team – data science, cloud engineering, GenAI platform – across all Group functions, from manufacturing and supply chain to sales. She grew the team from zero to 15; part of it also drives Hager's AI Community, building AI skills and acculturation. She previously worked at Altran, after postdocs in physics, including KIT Karlsruhe. She holds a PhD in theoretical physics.

Hager is a leading supplier of solutions and services for electrical installations in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.



Ulf Nehrbass

CEO of LIH, the Luxembourg Institute of Health

Ulf Nehrbass has spent his career focusing on the application of excellent research towards unmet patient needs. More recently, Ulf started the French German translational center, Ksilink, which was co-founded by Sanofi, INSERM, the Helmholtz Gemeinschaft and others. Ksilink is employing Artificial Intelligence approaches to enable patient-based drug discovery.

The Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH) is a public biomedical research organization focused on precision health and the translation of scientific excellence into meaningful benefits for patients.



Anthony Ohlmann

CEO, ADDI-DATA Group

Anthony Ohlmann is CEO of ADDI-DATA Group, where he leads the company's development in industrial data acquisition, embedded systems and edge intelligence. His work focuses on bridging industrial hardware, real-time data processing and AI to create smarter, more efficient industrial edge and field-level solutions.

ADDI-DATA develops industrial data acquisition and edge computing solutions, turning raw signals into reliable, AI-ready data for industrial applications.



Arno Pons

CEO aDRI / Digital New Deal

Arno Pons heads Digital New Deal, a think tank dedicated to digital sovereignty, as well as a do tank focused on building trusted digital ecosystems. He is also co-founder of the Digital Resilience Index and the author of government reports addressing the challenges of strategic autonomy in data and AI.

Gen4Travel is a European initiative building trusted, interoperable agentic AI for tourism, enabling companies to share data and deliver seamless, personalized journeys.



ERBACHER
the food family

Steffen Wildner

Head of Data & Platforms, Erbacher the food family

Steffen Wildner is Head of Data & Platforms at ERBACHER – the food family, a family-owned German food producer. Bridging data strategy, AI, and e-commerce, he drives digital transformation and process optimization. With hands-on experience implementing AI in this industry, he brings a grounded, practical perspective to the debate on how established businesses can optimize in the age of AI disruption.

ERBACHER the food family – pioneering nutrition of today & tomorrow. Shaping the future of food & feed with innovation, sustainability & 80 years of expertise.



Jean Williamson

Co-founder & COO, Vaultys

With over 20 years of experience in the industry, operational transformation, and critical infrastructure, Jean leads Vaultys' development with one goal in mind: to make security actionable, tangible, and adoptable by organizations.

Vaultys is a French cybersecurity company specializing in sovereign digital identity, passwordless authentication, and securing access for humans, machines, and AI agents.



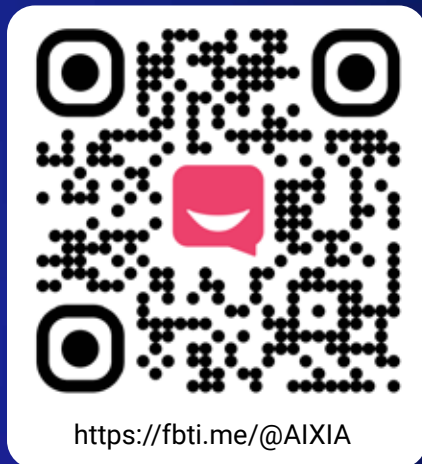
Hans-Peter Zorn

Head of AI/CTO, inovex GmbH

Hans-Peter Zorn is an expert in the industrialization of artificial intelligence. His professional roots lie in both computer science (algorithmics) and computational linguistics (semantics). He actively helped shape the industry's transition from Big Data to Generative AI and currently oversees the technological direction of inovex, among other things. His driving force is „End-to-End Engineering“: AI solutions that are technically excellent, trustworthy, and economically successful.

Around 500 IT experts support companies in DE & CH with their digital transformation: from app dev, data & AI to scalable cloud infrastructure and Academy training.

*Help us debug and improve:
Share your thoughts on the event!*



<https://fbti.me/@AIXIA>

THANK YOU

for being part of

2026

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Let's get real about AI!

See you next year!



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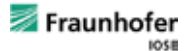


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Heinrich Heine
University of
Düsseldorf **HKA**

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karlsruhe.digital



KI-ALLIANZ
Baden-Württemberg



KI Bundesverband e.V.

**Netzwerk der
Digital Hubs
Baden-Württemberg**



The Franco-German AI Conference

Organizers

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