

# THE DANUBE REGION AT THE TURN OF TIMES –

**Shaping the Digital Future along the Danube.  
Unlocking Opportunities for SMEs and Industry through Cooperation.**

A joint event within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).  
EUSDR PA 8 | IHK Ulm | Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg | Donaubüro Ulm/Neu-Ulm | EEN.

**DATE:** Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026  
**WHERE:** IHK Ulm  
 (Olgastr. 95-101, 89073 Ulm, GERMANY)

**MODERATION:** Anja Lange

<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Registration and Welcome Coffee</b>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jan Stefan Roell, President BWIHK, President of the IHK Ulm</li> <li>• Martin Ansbacher, Lord Mayor of Ulm</li> <li>• Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg</li> </ul>
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>Keynote</b> <b>AI in Production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Dr. Michel Börner, THU, Endowed Professorship for AI in Production, BW</li> </ul>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Digitalisation and AI for companies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Balázs Barta, CEO, Pannon Business Network – Human-Humanoid Test Center, HU</li> <li>• Dr. Claus Hoffmann, CEO Center for Digitalisation Region Stuttgart, BW</li> <li>• Svitlana Skrypka, Head of International Cooperation, Lviv IT Cluster, UA</li> <li>• Daniel Riss, General Manager, Axians Infoma, BW</li> <li>• Tomislav Vazdar, AI &amp; Cybersecurity Strategist   CEO @ Riskoria   HR</li> </ul>
<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Keynote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolf Strehle, CEO, ditis Systeme - The Security Company (Voith Group), BW</li> </ul>



12:25 pm	<b>Corporate Cybersecurity</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker, CEO RegioClusterAgency, BW</li> <li>• Dr. Iuliana Nichersu, EDIH-AICS, FZI Forschungszentrum Informatik, BW</li> <li>• Silviu Sofronie, Director of Investigations, BitDefender, RO</li> <li>• Gregor Spagnolo, Board member Slovenian Technology Forum, SLO</li> <li>• Rolf Strehle, CEO, ditis Systeme - The Security Company (Voith Group), BW</li> </ul>
01:15 pm	<b>Networking lunch</b>
02:30 pm	<b>Insights: Regional AI-strategies and use cases</b>
	<p>Baden-Württemberg</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin Ansbacher, Lord Mayor of Ulm</li> <li>• Dr. Jan Stefan Roell, President BWIHK, President of the IHK Ulm</li> <li>• Minister or State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg</li> </ul> <p>Bavaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katrin Albsteiger, Lord Mayor of Neu-Ulm (tbc)</li> <li>• Tobias Gotthardt MdL, Vice Minister in the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy</li> </ul> <p>Romania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alexandru Nazare, Finance Minister (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Bulgaria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krasimir Yakimov, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth (tbc)</li> </ul> <p>Croatia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goran Romek, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy</li> </ul> <p>Slovenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matevž Frangež, State Secretary, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport (tbc)</li> </ul>
03:30 pm	<b>Keynote</b> <b>Future trends on Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Dr. Christian Stummeyer</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A</p>
04:00 pm	<b>Outlook and Official Invitation to the International Danube Festival</b>
04:15 pm	<b>Joint Walk to the Danube River</b>
05:00 pm	<b>Official Opening Ceremony of the International Danube Festival</b>
06:00 pm	<b>VIP Reception of the International Danube Festival</b>