

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 3rd, 2026

WHERE: IHK Ulm
(Olgastr. 95-101, 89073 Ulm, GERMANY)

MODERATION: Anja Lange

10:30 am **Registration and Welcome Coffee**

11:00 am **Introduction**

- Dr. Jan Stefan Roell, President BWIHK, President of the IHK Ulm
- Martin Ansbacher, Lord Mayor of Ulm
- Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg

11:15 am **Keynote**
AI in Production

- Prof. Dr. Michel Börner, THU, Endowed Professorship for AI in Production, BW

11:30 am **Digitalisation and AI for companies**

- Dr. Balázs Barta, CEO, Pannon Business Network – Human-Humanoid Test Center, HU
- Dr. Claus Hoffmann, CEO Center for Digitalisation Region Stuttgart, BW
- Svitlana Skrypka, Head of International Cooperation, Lviv IT Cluster, UA
- Daniel Riss, General Manager, Axians Infoma, BW
- Tomislav Vazdar, AI & Cybersecurity Strategist | CEO @ Riskoria | HR

12:15 pm **Keynote**

- Rolf Strehle, CEO, ditis Systeme - The Security Company (Voith Group), BW

12:25 pm

Corporate Cybersecurity

- Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker, CEO RegioClusterAgency, BW
- Dr. Iuliana Nichersu, EDIH-AICS, FZI Forschungszentrum Informatik, BW
- Silviu Sofronie, Director of Investigations, BitDefender, RO
- Gregor Spagnolo, Board member Slovenian Technology Forum, SLO
- Rolf Strehle, CEO, ditis Systeme - The Security Company (Voith Group), BW

01:15 pm

Networking lunch

02:30 pm

Insights: Regional AI-strategies and use cases

Baden-Württemberg

- Martin Ansbacher, Lord Mayor of Ulm
- Dr. Jan Stefan Roell, President BWIHK, President of the IHK Ulm
- Minister or State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Baden-Württemberg

Bavaria

- Katrin Albsteiger, Lord Mayor of Neu-Ulm (tbc)
- Tobias Gotthardt MdL, Vice Minister in the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy

Romania

- Alexandru Nazare, Finance Minister (tbc)

Bulgaria

- Krasimir Yakimov, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth (tbc)

Croatia

- Goran Romek, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy

Slovenia

- Matevž Frangež, State Secretary, Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport (tbc)

03:30 pm

Keynote

Future trends on Digitalisation, Artificial Intelligence

- Prof. Dr. Christian Stummeyer
Q & A

04:00 pm

Outlook and Official Invitation to the International Danube Festival

04:15 pm

Joint Walk to the Danube River

05:00 pm

Official Opening Ceremony of the International Danube Festival

06:00 pm

VIP Reception of the International Danube Festival