



AACII AEROSPACE MOBILITY NEWS 01 / 2026

OUR AEROSPACE MINISTER DOROTHEE BÄR ON THE OPENING OF THE MINT CENTER IN HIRSCHAID



Ulrike Trapp AACII Astrokids Dr Peter Glöckner Schaeffler Aerospace Frank Seuling, MINT Center

“We go vertical!” is what Dorothee Bär, Germany’s new space minister, is now saying. As Federal Minister of Research, she is shaping a new spirit of the times for technology and emphasizing the importance of STEM learning environments such as the one here in Hirschaid at its opening: “Germany must once again become the central country of inventors. Our approach is to specifically promote STEM skills among children and young people from an early age.” The AACII Astrokids are also enthusiastic about this, and recently their picture was presented to the minister at the opening of the Mint Center Hirschaid by Ulrike Trapp. In the photo, CEO Dr. Peter Glöckner of Schaeffler Aerospace can be seen together with Minister Dorothee Bär. The educational robot from Isento, with Dr. Shota Okojava and TJ Graebe, was also present, as were representatives of the International Airships Conference, including Prof. Christoph Pflaum from Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg FAU. All of this was acknowledged by initiator and managing director Frank Seuling in his speech before the distinguished guests.

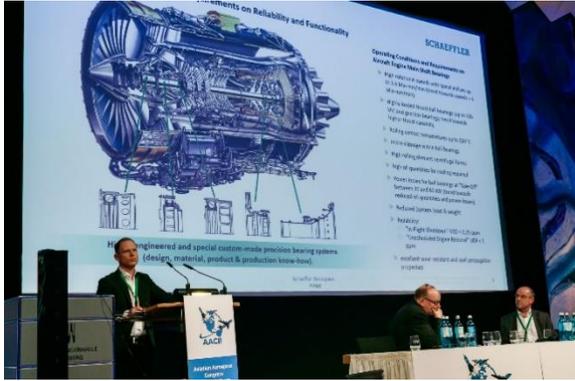
Editors: Ulrike Trapp, Valentin Schalit

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AT THE AACII COUNCIL MEETING MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENTED THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS:

SCHAEFFLER AEROSPACE DR PETER GLÖCKNER

Peter Glöckner, CEO of Schaeffler Aerospace, explained the company's major new achievements in sustainability. Top-level innovation is a key focus, including aircraft engines, helicopters, and space propulsion turbopumps.



PROF. DR. WEIGAND VIENNA AACII COUNCIL ON TRENDS IN PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY



Prof. Dr. Weigand presented the latest developments and trends in aviation and aircraft propulsion technology to the Council board. These are currently shaped by the development of the Airbus A320neo, after the Airbus ZEROe project had been the main focus in recent years. In addition to further developments of the geared turbofan and UltraFan, CFM International is currently working intensively on the development of the open-rotor engine. The changing priorities are also reflected in two new major projects by Clean Aviation.

Prof. Weigand also presented the current projects of Technical University Vienna in the field of aircraft gear systems, which are always carried out in accordance with the aviation regulations of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency EASA.

Prof. Weigand represents the fields of aviation and aircraft gear systems within AACII.

PROF. DR. TILKO DIETERT HEAD OF VDI NORTHEAST ON INITIATIVES OF THE VDI NETWORK

The VDI Verein Deutscher Ingenieure Association of German Engineers forms a unique, independent, and multidisciplinary network with around 130,000 members, approximately 10,000 active volunteers, and about 800 full-time staff. Together, we aim to provide important momentum for business, politics, and society, thereby promoting technological progress in Germany.



Demographic change in Germany is intensifying the shortage of skilled workers. In the long term, however, prosperity and progress cannot be achieved without bright minds and qualified professionals. Qualification is therefore the key to Germany's position as a technology and business hub. The VDI initiative "Zukunft Deutschland 2025" or "Future Germany 2025" focuses on the entire "life cycle" of competence development — from technical education in daycare centers and schools, to engineering education, and continuing through further training and lifelong learning.

In doing so, VDI builds on a wide range of existing programs, from promoting young STEM talent through VDIinis, Zukunftspiloten, and the Young Engineers network, to academic and career counseling.

<https://www.vdi.de/themen/zukunft-deutschland-2050>

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MARVIN BIHL ELABORATED ON THE SUCCESS OF EMQOPTER DRONES



It's no surprise — the first mFUND Drone Networking Meeting of the Bundesministerium für Verkehr BMV took place at Emqopter GmbH. The first drone networking meeting of the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport was held at the premises of Emqopter GmbH in Würzburg as part of the mFUND accompanying research program. Under the motto "Experience innovation live," more than 100 expert participants from politics, academia, industry, and the German Armed Forces gathered to discuss the latest developments, opportunities, and challenges in unmanned aviation.

The focus was on how drone technologies — from urban air mobility and applications in transport and logistics to monitoring and inspection uses — can be integrated safely, efficiently, and sustainably into existing structures. The event was opened by Dr. Jan Dirks, advisor at the Federal Ministry of Transport, and Dr. Nils Gageik, Managing Director of Emqopter GmbH. This was followed by several keynote presentations that provided practical insights into current projects and research results. For more information, please contact info@aacii.space.

PROMOTION OF THE NEXT GENERATION IN THE LÖHE HIGH SCHOOL

Löhe High School, with principal Mark Meinhard and colleague Dr. Stammler Robotics, demonstrated future prospects for young talent. The same applies to the Aerospace museum Nürnberg Feucht, represented by its director Rohrwild.

Science was also represented by Pierre Leich. At the New Generation Forum, led by Prof. Balleis, Sunyukt Mishra spoke about the Harvard University Summer School in Boston — an AACII Astrokids participant. Also present on stage and in the exhibition were representatives from Technical University of Munich TUM, HyEnD TU Stuttgart, and German Aerospace Center (DLR), which awarded first prize to two participants from Franconia. Jugend forscht winner Willstätter also received first prize.



Photo: Direktor Mark Meinhard

The Jordan University of Science and Technology satellite team, led by Diana AlJabr, has recently received a global award.

ISENTO AND THE EDUCATION ROBOTER PIB SPEAK IN THE AACII COUNCIL

This is what the future looks like — and it also inspired participants at the AACII advisory board meeting: Dr. Shota Okojava demonstrated how the new pib educational robot makes robotics understandable for everyone. It not only answers students' questions, but can even be fully produced using 3D printing, assembled, and programmed. The open-source project offers



Dr Shota Okojava R&D



TJ Graebe, Isento Nürnberg

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maximum transparency and numerous opportunities for participation. The community from research, education, and industry is steadily growing.

At the VDE Bayern evening event, TJ Graebe presented forward-looking innovations from Isento.

MACH MOTORS SHOWS ITS PRESENCE IN SPACE, NEW SPACE, AND DEFENCE – ALSO WITHIN THE AACII COUNCIL BOARD.

MACHmotors is pure dynamism: known as a contract and custom manufacturer, it specializes in producing customer-specific electric drives — from single units to small series and prototype construction. The company delivers cutting-edge technology in a manufacturing environment using modern digital processes.

Quality, precision, and technical flexibility, as well as close collaboration with research and development distinguish the company. Among its customers are renowned manufacturers of precision machines. Impressively, MACHmotors also provides first-class solutions for motorsports and the telescope drive of the Giant Magellan Telescope.



Managing Director Anja Heisinger

VDE BAVARIA SPEAKS IN THE AACII COUNCIL



Klaus Bayer, Head of VDE Bayern e.V.

The [VDE Bayern](#) actively brings its role as a technologically and politically independent competence platform into the AACII Council board. With deep regional roots across all Bavarian administrative districts, the association connects industrial practice, scientific excellence, and social responsibility.

For AACII, this creates tangible added value: access to a broad expert network, insights on future topics such as digitalization, the energy and mobility transition, and support in transferring research into practical applications. A particular focus is on qualification, promoting young STEM talent, and lifelong learning — key factors for securing Bavaria's innovation capacity and competitive strength.

Thus, the advisory board serves as a strategic resonance space between regional industry, universities, and politics.

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DINKELSBÜHL TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS SPEAKS IN THE AACII COUNCIL

The Technologie Campus Dinkelsbühl e.V. is thus a prime example of regional responsibility and forward-looking education — a model that could set a standard for others to follow. The Technologie Campus Dinkelsbühl e.V. is an innovative educational project that is making a lasting impact on the region. Managing Director and Project Leader Peter Kluck presents a concept that is unique in Germany. The Technology Campus is not just a place for technology, but a symbol of regional innovation. Financed entirely through resources from the local economy and the visionary support of founder Siegfried Müller, the project demonstrates how private-sector engagement can rethink education. The goal is clear: free STEM courses for children and youth aged 8 to 18.



Photo: Managing Director Peter Kluck

In the mornings, the courses are exclusively available to schools to provide practical supplementation to lessons. In the afternoons, parents can enroll their children — completely free of charge. In this way, the campus builds a bridge between formal education and individual development. The course offerings range from programming and robotics to 3D printing and future technologies such as artificial intelligence. With state-of-the-art equipment and hands-on formats, young people are playfully introduced to technology and the sciences.

“Our aim is to inspire enthusiasm for STEM and nurture talent early,” emphasizes Peter Kluck. “We don't just want to impart knowledge — we want to open up new perspectives.” The Technologie Campus Dinkelsbühl e.V. is thus a prime example of regional responsibility and forward-looking education — a model that could set a standard for others to follow.

INNOSPACE BONN DLR DEUTSCHE LUFT-RAUMFAHRT GERMAN AEROSPACE

High excitement at Space2Motion, Space2Agriculture, and Space2Health, as the unique Innospace competition for the latest space-based GNSS applications and NewSpace innovations posed a real challenge for research and development. The German Space Agency at the German Aerospace Center received 214 ideas from 24 countries — cutting-edge technologies inspiring pioneering spirit.

The two winners, Fibrecoat and YANK Technologies, demonstrated that novel technologies provide significant added value for space applications and, especially, for use on Earth. This strengthens Germany's competitiveness and its role in global partnerships.



Foto von Anna Glad

Dr. Peter Gräf, Director of Applications and Science, engaged in discussions with Ulrike Trapp from AACII and Dr. Heiko Otto, Helmholtz MedTech Director, specializing in developmental neurobiology, with degrees in Information Science and Biology from Munich.

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MOBILITY CHINA – PROGRESS WITH A BIG LEAP FORWARD



Photo right: From left Jing Kong, Director of the Center for International Communication of the Chengdu Radio and Television Broadcasting Corporation next to Deputy Director Dr Rainer Mertens DB Nuernberg. Dr Yan Xu Lackner, Director Konfuzius-Institute Nürnberg-Erlangen

In October 2025, the Confucius Institute Nürnberg-Erlangen, in collaboration with the DB Museum, hosted an information and discussion evening on high-speed rail transport in the People's Republic of China. The focus was on the world's largest high-speed rail network, which has grown to 48,000 kilometers since the opening of its first line in 2003. The event also explored whether this model could serve as an example for other regions of the world, such as Europe. The evening included a film on China's high-speed rail, a brief presentation on the topic by Florian Gau from the Faculty of Transport Sciences "Friedrich List" at TU Dresden, and a subsequent discussion round with experts from railway operations, the rail industry, and railway research..

MUNICH SPACE – PREPARATIONS FOR THE MUNICH SPACE SUMMIT



From March 23 to 27, decision-makers from industry, politics, and leading institutions such as European Space Agency ESA, European Union Agency for the Space Programme EUSPA, and the European Commission will meet at the Alte Kongresshalle in Munich to jointly shape the future of space. Preparations for the Munich Space Summit 2026 are in full swing.

With this new format, Munich Aerospace, led by Managing Director Dr. Matthias Lermann, together with the Universität der Bundeswehr München and the German Aerospace Center DLR, are establishing an international flagship event for satellite navigation and New Space in Europe. Keynote speakers include, among others, Josef Aschbacher, Director General of ESA, Rodrigo da Costa, Executive Director of EUSPA, and Francisco-Javier Benedicto Ruiz, Director of Navigation at ESA. All options for sponsors and exhibitors can be found at <https://www.munich-space-summit.org/exhibition-sponsorship-2/>

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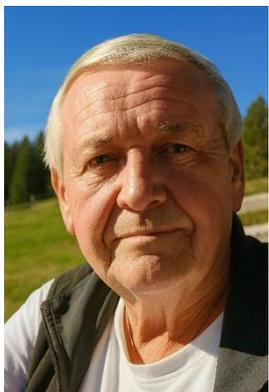
AACII ASTROKIDS REPORT — FROM BRAZIL HUGO SOBCZYK



Alex Hugo Sobczyk AACII, Dr Alessandra Fávero Embrapa Pecuaría Sudeste, Dr James Green former Chief Scientist NASA

Alex Hugo Sobczyk, AACII's South America correspondent, is our pride as a young talent in the AACII Astrokids. He recently visited the Space Center São José dos Campos in São Paulo. Brazil is one of the world's largest agricultural countries, which brought guests from around the globe to the SIAE Earth Space Agriculture event, including representatives from the International Space Station ISS and the Brazilian Space Agency AEB. The motto of the event was "From Earth to Space and from Space to Earth." At the event, Alex Hugo Sobczyk spoke with Dr. James Green, former Chief Scientist of NASA, and Dr. Alessandra Fávero from Embrapa Pecuaría Sudeste, organizer of the congress. You can receive these interviews and additional material from the ten conversations, including photos, by writing to info@aacii.space.

DR HANS JOACHIM KOLB — FROM TELECOMMUNICATION TO BUSINESS ANGEL



Hans-Joachim Kolb is a technology entrepreneur and consultant with more than four decades of experience in founding and supporting innovation-driven companies at the interface of research, advanced engineering, and market introduction.

After completing his studies and earning a doctorate in communications engineering, he founded MEDAV Digitale Signalverarbeitung GmbH in 1982 at the age of 28, with the goal of translating advanced research results in digital signal processing into marketable products for measurement and communication systems. Further entrepreneurial initiatives followed, including LingKom GmbH, focusing on multimedia and speech recognition, as well as TeWiSoft GmbH.

Through continuous organic growth and a clear focus on high technology, MEDAV became an internationally recognized provider of signal acquisition and radio direction-finding systems in the global security market. The company was later sold to an international corporation and successfully continued operations in Germany.

Today, Hans-Joachim Kolb is committed to fostering collaboration among users, innovators, and research institutions. As a business angel and consultant, he brings strategic experience, market knowledge, and the conviction that sustainable innovation arises from the close interplay of scientific excellence and entrepreneurial responsibility.

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AACII PARTNERS



EVENT CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2026

08	12	Defence Show	Riyadh, KSA
10	12	Smallsat Symposium	Silicon Valley, USA
11	11	SAP Data & Analytics	Frankfurt a.M., GER
12	13	World AI Cannes Festival	Cannes, FRA
13	15	Munich Security Conference	Munich, GER
17	19	Spanish Small Sat Int. Forum	Malaga, ESP
23	25	Enforce Tac	Nuremberg, GER
26	26	GovSatCom	Luxemburg, LUX
26	26	Cyber Security Forum	Aalen, GER

MARCH 2026

03	05	Routes Americas 2026	Rio, BRA
04	05	CPT Cybersecurity Conference	Munich, GER
04	06	Space Comm Europe	London, GBR
07	14	IEEE Aerospace Conference	Montana, USA
09	13	Fortinet Accelerate 2026	Las Vegas, USA
10	11	Paris Space Week	Paris, FRA
10	11	Robotic Messe	Friedrichshafen, GER
10	12	embedded world	Nuremberg, GER
17	18	Clean Aviation Annual Forum	Brussels, BEL
23	26	Cyber SAT Show	Washington, USA
23	27	Munich Space Summit	Munich, GER
24	26	Drohnen, Robotik & KI live	Hannover, GER
24	26	IAF Spring Meetings	Paris, France
25	26	Coiltech-Messe	Augsburg, GER
26	26	Ad Astra Summit	Darmstadt, GER

APRIL 2026

04	06	Symposium on Space Educational Activities	Munich, GER
07	12	FIDAE Chile	Santiago, CHI
08	10	Symposium on Space Edu. Activities SSEA	Munich, GER
09	11	NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge	Houston, USA
20	24	Hannover Messe	Hannover, GER
22	26	AERO Friedrichshafen	F.-hafen, GER
24	24	AACII Expert Talk New Generation	Dinkelsbühl, GER
28	29	Aerospace Tech Week	Munich, GER
28	29	Cybersecurity Summit	Hamburg, GER

MAY 2026

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01	01	Aerospace Mechanism Symposium	Alabama, USA
04	07	Luxemburg Space Resources Week	Luxemburg, LUX
05	05	Canadian Space Launch Conference	Ottawa, CAD
06	08	Int. Transport Forum	Leipzig, GER
11	12	Bodensee Aerospace Meeting	Stuttgart, GER
11	12	Int. Conference on Space Optical Systems	Amsterdam, NED
12	13	Space Summit for a Resilient Future	Toulouse, FRA
27	29	EBACE Luftfahrt ereignis	Geneva, SUI

JUNE 2026

02	03	European Aerospace & Defence Summit	Düsseldorf, GER
02	04	CABSAT	Dubai, VAE
03	04	Anaheim California Space Tech Expo	Anaheim, USA
08	08	BAS Berlin Aviation Summit	Berlin, GER
08	11	Eur. Test & Telemetry Conference	Nuremberg, GER
08	12	AIAA Aviation Forum	San Diego, USA
10	14	ILA Berlin	Berlin, GER
15	19	Eurosatory	Paris, FRA
26	28	Czechoslovak Aircraft Rally	Kunovice, CZE

JULY 2026

04	07	Int. Space Development Conference	Virginia, USA
06	06	Bayerischer Halbleiter Kongress	Munich, GER
07	08	Les Assises du NewSpace – French Space	Paris, FRA
20	24	Farnborough Airshow	London, GBR

AUGUST 2026

04	05	Int. Conf. on Aeronautical & Aerospace Eng.	Prague, CZE
04	06	Latin Am. Business Aviation Conf. & Exhib.	Sao Paulo, BRA
26	27	Smart Data & AI Summit	Riyadh, KSA
28	28	Int. Conf. on Aerospace & Aerodynamics	Krakow, PLN

SEPTEMBER 2026

01	03	Saudi Drone Exhibition SADEX	Riyadh, KSA
08	10	Deutscher Luft- und Raumfahrtkongress	Aachen, GER
14	18	World Space Business Week	Paris, FRA
15	16	Space Defense and Security Summit	Paris, FRA
16	17	ESA Noordwijk	Augsburg, GER
17	17	Space Innovation Summit	Paris, FRA
21	25	EUMETSAT Metereological Satellite Conf.	Darmstadt, GER
23	25	Deutscher Luft- und Raumfahrtkongress	Nuremberg, GER
24	26	Energie Campus Nürnberg, FAU	Nuremberg, GER
25	26	Int. Conf. on Electric Airships	Nuremberg, GER
28	30	Jeddah Construct	Jeddah, KSA
29	01	Messteli Intersec	Riyadh, KSA
29	03	Int. Astronautical Congress IAC	Sydney, AUS