



Press Release

IFA Berlin will host the CVC | Open Innovation Summit Europe 2026

European conglomerates, family-run businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises are working together to boost Europe's technological and industrial competitiveness

Berlin, 23 July 2026 – IFA Berlin, the world's leading event for home and consumer tech, will host the CVC | Open Innovation Summit Europe 2026. From 2 to 4 September, around 80 executives from Europe, the US and Asia will gather at the Messe Berlin exhibition centre.

The focus will be on how European conglomerates, family-owned businesses and SMEs can better combine capital, innovation and strategy in order to bring new technologies into use more quickly and strengthen Europe's competitiveness.

The carefully selected group of participants includes members of executive boards and management teams, owners and executives of family-run businesses, as well as those responsible for corporate strategy, corporate venture capital, transformation and open innovation. On Friday 4 September 2026, the first official day of the IFA, joint programme events organised by the IFA and the summit are planned.

"IFA is a place where new technologies become visible and can be experienced first-hand. As hosts of the CVC | Open Innovation Summit, we are also bringing onto our platform those who finance innovations, scale them within companies and bring them to international markets. In doing so, we are creating a direct link between technology, industry, strategic capital and practical implementation", says Leif Lindner, CEO of IFA Management.

Working together to boost Europe's competitiveness

Many European companies have recognised the pivotal technological and geopolitical changes. The greater challenge today lies in implementation: how can artificial intelligence, automation and new business models move from the pilot phase into core business operations? How do governance, capital allocation and decision-making processes need to be adapted? And how can corporate groups, family businesses, SMEs, investors and start-ups collaborate more effectively?

Other key areas of focus include Europe's technological sovereignty, critical infrastructure, industrial resilience and international partnerships between Europe, the US and Asia.

The Summit itself is structured as an open innovation project. The participating companies and institutions develop the programme jointly, define key research questions and contribute specific experiences and challenges from their organisations and portfolios.

The European co-hosts for 2026 include, amongst others, **BorgWarner, Evonik, High-Tech Gründerfonds, MANN+HUMMEL, SIGNAL IDUNA, and Swiss Post.**

Several of the organisations involved are collaborating in this constellation for the first time. Within just a few months, this has resulted in a joint European work programme.

“Europe will not secure its competitiveness through individual companies, investments or pilot projects”, says Philipp Willigmann, Chairman and Convener of the CVC | Open Innovation Summit. “New forms of collaboration are needed between large corporations, family-owned businesses, SMEs, investors and technology companies. The Summit creates a confidential space in which executives can work together to determine how capital, innovation and strategy can be brought together more effectively.”

A working summit rather than a traditional conference

The CVC | Open Innovation Summit is deliberately designed as a working meeting rather than a traditional conference. Participants do not simply come to listen, but contribute their own questions, experiences and proposed solutions in small, facilitated working sessions.

The working groups will address topics including the introduction of artificial intelligence, governance and decision-making processes, strategic capital allocation, corporate-start-up partnerships, and the transition from pilot projects to operational business.

Selected insights will be compiled into white papers following the summit. These are intended to serve as a basis for further corporate dialogue, partnerships and joint initiatives. The aim is to turn this exchange into concrete follow-up activities and measurable impact.

The summit is supported by selected technology, knowledge, legal and ecosystem partners, including **Deloitte, Dentons, RSM Ebner Stolz, the Bundesverband Beteiligungskapital, Berlin Partner and AsiaBerlin.**

Application to take part

The CVC | Open Innovation Summit Europe is a curated, invite-only event. It is aimed in particular at board members and senior management, owners and executives of family-owned businesses, as well as those responsible for corporate venture capital, strategy, transformation and open innovation.

Selected technology entrepreneurs, investors, academics and policy-makers will also be included in the programme.

Interested executives can apply to attend. Confirmation will be provided by the summit's co-hosts.

Application to take part:

<https://luma.com/wjp9t6oq>

IFA Berlin 2026

IFA Berlin 2026 will take place from 4 to 8 September 2026 at the Messe Berlin exhibition centre.

The participating exhibitors are listed here: [Exhibitors 2026 | IFA Innovation For All](#)

Members of the media can register for IFA 2026 here: [IFA Press Accreditation](#)

About the CVC | Open Innovation Summit

The CVC | Open Innovation Summit is an independent, non-commercial platform that brings together executives from international corporations, family-owned businesses and SMEs with investors, technology companies and policy-makers from Europe, the US, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

The long-term ambition is to establish a globally trusted platform where executives can combine capital, innovation and strategy to help shape the future of business and society.

The Summit is organised in collaboration with an international group of corporate and institutional co-hosts and led by Philipp Willigmann as Chairman and Independent Convener. u-path supports the operational and international development of the platform and, through Inside CVC, produces an accompanying podcast on corporate innovation, strategic capital and transformation.

Further information:

www.cvc-summit.com

www.u-path.com

Inside CVC Podcast:

<https://insidecvcbyupath.buzzsprout.com>

About the co-hosts

The CVC | Open Innovation Summit Europe 2026 is being organised in collaboration with a strong group of European companies and institutions. The co-hosts include, amongst others: [BorgWarner](#) | [Evonik](#) | [High-Tech Gründerfonds](#) | [MANN+HUMMEL](#) | [SIGNAL IDUNA](#) | [Swiss Post](#)

About IFA Berlin

IFA Berlin is the world's leading event for home and consumer technologies and celebrates over a century of innovation. Since 1924, IFA Berlin has been the premier global platform where technology leaders, innovators, and industry experts come together to showcase groundbreaking products and shape the future of consumer electronics and home appliances. The event takes place every September in Berlin. Journalists can register for IFA 2026 here. For more information on IFA Berlin 2026: www.ifa-berlin.com/de/

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CVC | Open Innovation Summit Europe

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