

Press release

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TOP SPEAKERS AT THE TECHNOLOGY TALKS AUSTRIA

Austria's most important technology conference will take place on 12 and 13 September 2024 in Vienna's Museumsquartier.

The world is undergoing a profound transformation process: digitalisation and decarbonisation are leading to rapid changes, which should, of course, also be humane. The central role of research, technology and innovation (RTI) in this "triple transition" is the focus of the new Technology Talks, which will take place this year on 12 and 13 October. September 2024 will take place in Vienna for the first time.

"The aim is for science, business, industry and the public sector to jointly discuss the importance of RTI for the triple transition and trigger a push towards RTI for Austria as a strong business location," explains Brigitte Bach, Chairwoman of the event's Board of Trustees and Spokeswoman of the AIT Management Board. "Leading international experts meet at the Technology Talks to discuss current, important topics," explains Andreas Kugi, Scientific Director of the AIT and Chairman of the Programme Advisory Board, with whose support numerous internationally renowned panellists have been invited to look at the various areas of the Triple Transition.

Ecological, digital and human-centred transformation

Following an introductory keynote speech by **Andrea Renda** (Center for European Policy Studies), **Kurt Satzinger** (Head of Research at voestalpine), **Gauri Singh** (Deputy Director of the International Renewable Energy Agency / IRENA) and **Rosalinde van der Vlies** (Green Planet Initiative of the EU Commission) will present their views on the topic of "ecological transformation". This session will be presented by Climate Protection Minister **Leonore Gewessler**.

The panel on "digital transformation", presented by Minister of Economic Affairs **Martin Kocher**, will also feature high-calibre speakers: **Alexia Cambon** (Co-Head of the AI + Productivity initiative at Microsoft), **Georg Krause** (CEO of msg Plaut), **Nicole Formica-Schiller** (CEO and founder of Pamanicor Health) and **Thomas Skordas** (Deputy Director General of DG Communications at the European Commission).

Elizabeth Churchill (Google, professor at MBZUAI from September), **Boris de Ruyter** (Philips Research), **Natascha Kantauer-Gansch** (A1) and **Markus Scholz** (TU Dresden) will discuss the "human-centred transformation" panel presented by Science Minister **Martin Polaschek**.

Conclusions for the RTI policy

Building on these substantive debates, conclusions for RTI policy are discussed at the technology talks.

The international level is represented by **Tateo Arimoto** (Japan Science and Technology Agency), **André Loeseckrug-Pietri** (Director of the Joint European Disruptive Initiative), **Caroline Paunov** (OECD), **Mirjam Storim** (Siemens Research & Innovation Ecosystems), **Helmut Schönenberger** (TU Munich) and **André Loeseckrug-Pietri** (Joint European Disruptive Initiative).

Susana Borrás (Copenhagen Business School), **Elisabeth Engelbrechtsmüller-Strauss** (CEO of Fronius), **Anna Panagopoulou** (European Commission) and **Antti Vasara** (President of the Finnish Research Centre VTT) will discuss European RTI policy.

Finally, **Thomas Henzinger** and **Sylvia Schwaag Serger** will focus on the national RTI policy, presenting the recommendations of the new Research Council (FORWIT) for the next federal government. These will be discussed with **Horst Bischof** (TU Austria), **Heinz Faßmann** (ÖAW), **Georg Knill** (Federation of Austrian Industries) and **Karin Tausz** (FFG).

In addition, there will be more than ten workshops, which will be organised in a proven manner together with partner organisations from the research and technology scene.

Increasing competitiveness

"Against the backdrop of global developments, the aim is to develop a resilient economy that is climate-friendly, efficient and humane. The big challenge is that all of these processes are interwoven and take place simultaneously at great speed. And on top of that, we have to make sure that we utilise these challenges to contribute to increasing the competitiveness of the economy and industry in Austria," says Brigitte Bach.

About the Technology Talks Austria 2024

First held in 1983 as part of the European Forum Alpbach, the Technology Talks will take place in Vienna for the first time this year on 12 and 13 September. The new Technology Talks Austria are being organised by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology in cooperation with the Federal Ministries for Climate Protection (BMK), Economics (BMAW) and Science (BMBWF) as well as the Federation of Austrian Industries (IV). Numerous research organisations are involved as partners.

Tickets for the Technology Talks Austria (180 euros; students 90 euros) and all details about the programme and the speakers at www.technology-talks-austria.at

Enquiry note

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