



3rd Digital Industry & Automotive Summit November 19th, 2026

MISSION:

Everyone has a view on what AI will do to industry. Fewer have put it on a production line, into a vehicle or in front of a customer. The **3rd Digital Industry & Automotive Summit** will try to bring together those who have: Leaders from Japanese and European companies in automotive, manufacturing and the digital industries. Venue is the Europa House, the seat of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan.

Three keynotes set the scene: autonomous driving on its way from pilot to fleet, robots and software reshaping the factory, and the paradigm shift under way in the industrial realm towards physical AI. We'll expand on the keynotes in the panels.

We are looking forward to a Japanese-European lens throughout and we welcome your questions. The evening closes with a networking reception in the entrance forum of the Delegation.

Companies participating: Infineon Technologies Japan, TIER IV, SAP Japan, Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation (ARCHION Corporation), Sakana AI.

LOCATION:

[Europa House](#), [4-6-28 Minami-Azabu, Minato-ku](#), [Tokyo 106-0047](#) – Delegation of the European Union to Japan. Keynotes and panels in the auditorium; reception in the entrance forum.

AGENDA (PM, JST):

- From 15:30 Doors open for guests
- 16:00 – 16:15 **Welcome & Introduction**
Thomas Gnocchi, Minister / Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the EU to Japan; Welcome from the EBC
- 16:15 – 16:30 **Keynote 1: “AI in the Automotive Realm”**
Ko Miyoshi, TIER IV, Executive Officer & COO
- 16:30 – 16:45 **Keynote 2: “Robots, Cars, and the Factory of the Future”**
Tomoe Abe, SAP Japan, Automotive Industry Director
- 16:45 – 17:15 **Panel 1 on the Paradigm Shift in the Automotive Realm**
Ko Miyoshi, Tomoe Abe, Božena Nawka · Moderator: Bjorn Kongstad, EBC
- 17:15 – 17:30 **Keynote 3: “The Future of Robotics Is Built on Chips”**
Takashi Goto, Infineon Technologies, Vice President Strategy & M&A Japan
- 17:30 – 18:15 **Panel 2 on AI in the Industrial Realm**
Mina Sekiguchi, Takayuki Sato, Takashi Goto · Moderator: Peter Fatelnig, Delegation of the EU to Japan
- 18:15 – 18:30 **Closing Speech**
Japanese policy realm – Digital Agency / METI (tbc)
- From 18:30 **Reception**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- Delegation of the European Union to Japan: **Thomas Gnocchi** (Minister / Deputy Head of Delegation): Thomas has been Minister and Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Japan since September 2024. Before coming to Tokyo he served four years as Ambassador and Head of the European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao (2020–2024). Earlier postings in the European External Action Service and the European Commission include Deputy Head of Division for Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific in Brussels, Deputy Head of the EU Office in Kosovo (2012–2017), Head of the Political and Information Section at the EU Delegation to Serbia (2008–2012), desk officer for several South-East Asian countries, and postings in Beijing and at the EU Delegation to Vietnam. He studied at the London School of Economics, Yale University and Tianjin University and speaks Italian, English, French and Chinese.
- TIER IV: **Ko Miyoshi** (Executive Officer & COO): Ko leads business and product development at TIER IV, the Tokyo-based developer of autonomous driving

systems built on the open-source Autoware platform, overseeing operations from strategy through execution to bring autonomous vehicles into deployment. He joined TIER IV in 2020 after leading business development for infrastructure projects at Mitsubishi Corporation and working in private equity, where he gained M&A execution and post-merger integration experience. He holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and an LLB from Keio University.

- SAP Japan: **Tomoa Abe** (Automotive Industry Director, Energy, Process and Automotive Industries): Tomoa is responsible for SAP Japan's automotive industry team, supporting Japanese OEMs and suppliers in their digital transformation around the globe. In eight years at SAP Japan Tomoa has worked closely with enterprise customers on business innovation, operational excellence and technology-driven growth. Before SAP, Tomoa worked for a supply-chain solutions provider, helping organisations optimise global operations, and was a founding member of Japan's first mobile payment service. With experience spanning enterprise software, supply chain management, fintech and the automotive industry, and an educational background in Japan and the United States, Tomoa combines a global perspective with local market expertise.
- Infineon Technologies: **Takashi Goto** (Vice President, Strategy, Mergers & Acquisitions, Japan): Takashi leads strategy and M&A for Infineon in Japan. At Infineon Technologies Japan he has held several management positions, including head of the Power & Sensor Systems division. His career spans telecommunications, networking and semiconductors, with earlier roles at NTT and WorldCom Japan. He holds degrees from Osaka University and Carnegie Mellon University.

PANELISTS:

- Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation / ARCHION Corporation: **Božena Nawka** (Head of Digital Finance & Business Analytics): Božena is an international finance transformation leader with more than 15 years of automotive experience across Germany, Greece, Belgium and Japan. Since May 2026 she heads Digital Finance & Business Analytics at Mitsubishi Fuso Truck and Bus Corporation / ARCHION Corporation, connecting finance, data, process optimisation, digitisation and AI to strengthen business performance and management decision-making. Previously she was Manager, Digital Transformation & Business Analytics Finance at Mitsubishi Fuso (Daimler Truck Asia), where she owned the finance digital transformation roadmap, and spent fourteen years at Daimler AG

/ Mercedes-Benz AG headquarters, most recently as Product Owner for Purchase-to-Pay Analytics & Cash Outflow Steering. She holds a Diploma in Business Administration from Pforzheim University and completed MIT Applied AI for Digital Transformation (2026).

- RESONANCIA LLC: **Mina Sekiguchi** (Managing Partner): Mina is an independent energy transformation advisor and Managing Partner of RESONANCIA LLC, which she founded in 2022 after more than 15 years as Managing Director and Energy Sector Leader at KPMG Japan and Asia Pacific. She advises Japanese government bodies, utilities, oil & gas companies, trading companies and funds on investments and M&A in Japan and overseas, and supports clients in transforming energy infrastructure to be more sustainable and resilient. She serves as External Director of Penta-Ocean Construction Co., Ltd. and EX4 Energy Corporation Limited and as Auditor of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency.
- Sakana AI: **Takayuki Sato** (Manager, Office of the Chief of Staff): Since February 2026 Takayuki serves as Manager of the Office of the Chief of Staff at Sakana AI, the Tokyo-based AI start-up founded by former Google Brain researchers, acting as principal strategic operator and senior executive assistant to Co-Founder & Chairman Ren Ito across government relations, international affairs, corporate partnerships and internal governance. Before joining Sakana AI he spent six years at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), covering AI policy and government procurement, economic security measures such as export controls and inbound investment screening, bilateral trade negotiations with the United States, and climate and energy policy; earlier he managed bilateral relations with the German-speaking countries at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Tokyo and is trilingual in Japanese, English and German.

MODERATORS & HOST:

- European Business Council in Japan (EBC): **Bjorn Kongstad** (Policy Director – Moderator, Panel 1): Bjorn has worked with trade policy for some 20 years in both the public and private sectors. Since 2010 he has been at the EBC, where he advises on European industry's views to the Japanese national and regional governments as well as to the European institutions, and he was closely involved in providing industry input and technical detail to the European Commission during the negotiation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement.

- Delegation of the European Union to Japan: **Peter Fatelnig** (Minister-Counsellor, Digital Economy Policy – Moderator, Panel 2): Peter is the Minister-Counsellor for Digital Economy Policy at the Delegation of the European Union to Japan. Digital economy policy is a top priority in EU-Japan relations; his work is instrumental in developing the EU-Japan Digital Partnership and drives the conversation on key European policies such as the Digital Services Act, AI, data flows and cyber. From 2018 to 2023 he managed the digital economy portfolio at the EU Delegation to the United States, including the Trade and Technology Council. Before joining the European foreign service he was a senior manager at the European Commission, which he joined in 1998.
- EBC Automotive Components Committee: **Christian Seidel** (Chairperson – Host): Chris has chaired the EBC Automotive Components Committee since 2021, running its lecture series and the Digital Industry & Automotive Summits at the EU Delegation. He is MD of Witzmann Japan K.K., the Japanese subsidiary of the Pforzheim-based manufacturer of flexible metallic elements. He previously built and led the Japan business of the PRETTL Group and FIT VOLTAIRA across automotive and electronics components; from 2023 he was additionally the sales responsible for the global business line connectors.

PANEL DISCUSSION:

- Panel 1 – Paradigm Shift in the Automotive Realm (30 min): how is the industry impacted, which AI applications are emerging, and autonomous driving as a lead application. Panelists Ko Miyoshi, Tomoa Abe and Božena Nawka; moderated by Bjorn Kongstad.
- Panel 2 – AI in the Industrial Realm (45 min): how AI is applied in the industrial sector today, where the most promising application areas of a multi-purpose technology lie, and where the future of growth lies. Panelists Mina Sekiguchi, Takayuki Sato and Takashi Goto; moderated by Peter Fatelnig.
- Format for both panels: first half moderated; second half driven by questions from the audience.

RECEPTION:

- From 18:30 in the entrance forum of the Europa House adjacent to the auditorium, a buffet with canapés is offered and drinks will be served (wine, sparkling wine and soft drinks); all participants and guests of the summit are invited to join.

SUPPORTED BY:

- Delegation of the EU to Japan, German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan (AHK Japan), EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation, European Business Council in Japan
- Members of the EBC, AHK and partners