

**CDO
Aachen
2025**

Convention on
Digital
Opportunities
November 19, 2025

Beyond the AI Buzz:
Creating Sustainable Value

Digital.

Free of Charge.

INFORMATION ON PARTICIPATION

fir
an der
RWTH Aachen



**INDUSTRIE 4.0
MATURITY CENTER**

Beyond the AI Buzz: Creating Sustainable Value

Implementation in the overview
and supervision of the speakers was
exemplary.

*Mr. Mütze, Coordinator
of Prof. Nyhuis*

Artificial Intelligence is no longer just a trend; it's a strategic driver of measurable business value and sustainable transformation towards an Upgrade Circular Economy: an innovative, resilient, and sustainable future for Europe. At CDO Aachen 2025, discover how leading organizations move from theory to practice: leveraging AI agents, data-driven decision-making, and operational efficiency to gain real-world impact while unlocking the potential to an upgrade circular economy.

Explore how AI is accelerating the upgrade circular economy, cutting costs, and enhancing compliance in a fast-changing regulatory landscape shaped by the EU AI Act. Learn from best practices in implementation, build AI Centers of Excellence, and examine how collaboration between humans and machines is reshaping the way we work.

Digital.

Free of Charge.

CDO Aachen 2025 will take place in a purely digital format, is free of charge for participants and will be in English.



CDO
Aachen
2025

The Event at a Glance

The Symposium

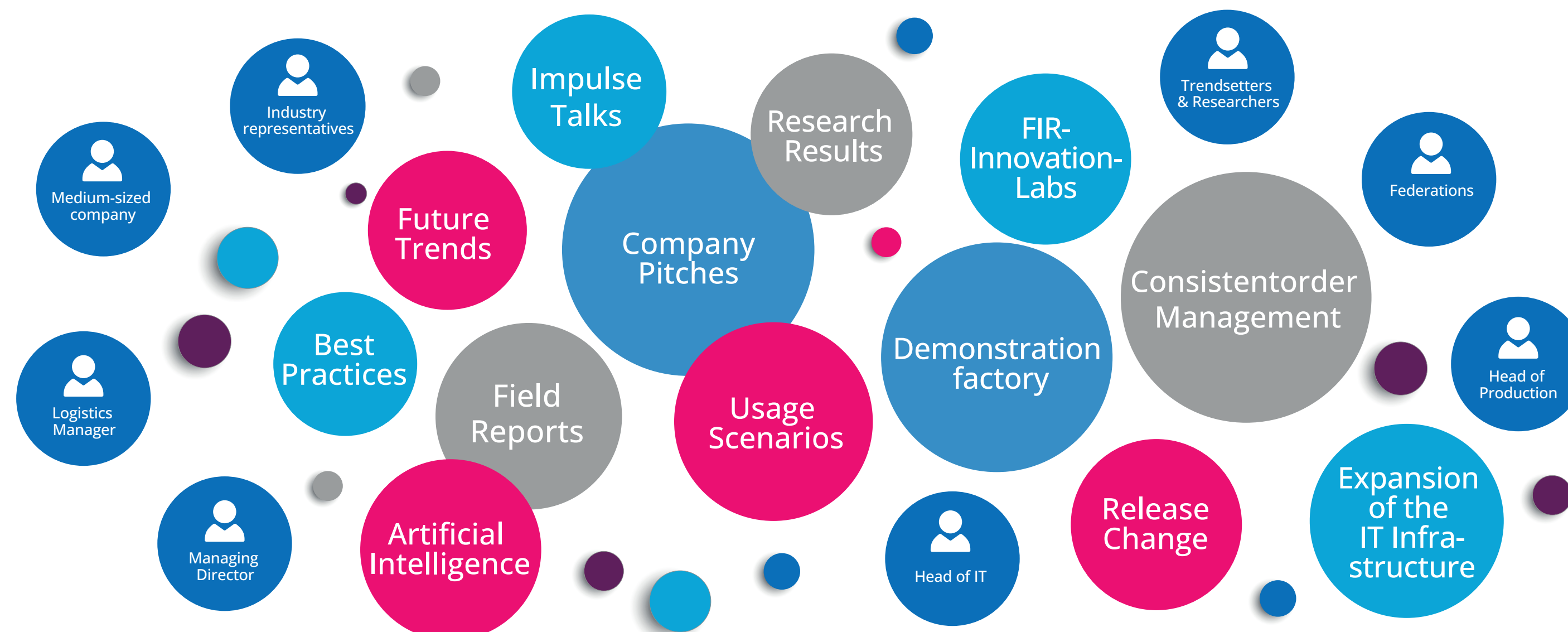
CDO Aachen 2025 is aimed at the Chief Digital Officer, the Chief Information Officer as well as innovation-driving project managers and impulse-giving executives with a pronounced enthusiasm for technology and all interested related professions. You can expect top-class speakers from research and industry at our symposium.

Join us and find out more about the latest developments and strategies in the field of artificial intelligence. Learn how companies can achieve long-term success through targeted AI strategies and which technologies are already creating significant added value today. You will also gain insights into how structures and processes can be adapted to accelerate and improve the integration of AI in your company.

The Partner Pitches

Companies present technical solutions that support you in the implementation of your digitization strategy. We offer partners a prestigious platform to present their company, their service portfolio or the results of their research project to an interested audience. Open-minded forum participants are thus given the opportunity to find out about the latest state of the art and to receive individual advice.

Topics and Stakeholders



Program 2025

09:30	Keynote Speech ‘Beyond the AI Buzz: Creating Sustainable Value’ as well as Welcome & Moderation of the Day Christian Hocken, Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center Gerrit Hoeborn, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen Max-Ferdinand Stroh, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen
10:00	Keynote Speech Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Boos, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen
» Success factors for AI implementation «	
10:25	Ambidexterity & AI Along the Value Chain Gerrit Hoeborn, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen
10:50	Data, Transparency, and the Circular Economy: Our Evolving Sustainability Strategy Gritli Heitbrink, Interface Deutschland GmbH
11:20	Transforming Manufacturing with AI-Driven Shop-Floor Search Frank Kuckelkorn, interface projects GmbH
11:50	follows
12:15	Lunch Break
» Man and Machine «	
12:45	AI in Practice Max-Ferdinand Stroh, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen
13:10	AI @ Henkel Consumer Brands Dr. Biljana Visnjicki, Henkel AG & Co. KGaA
13:40	Leveraging Data and AI for Strategic Decisions at LANXESS Dr. Martin Baier, LANXESS Deutschland GmbH
14:10	Agents of Change: How AI Is Redefining Manufacturing Work Today Dr. Tobias Wissing, Tulip Interfaces
14:35	Break

» AI Reality Check «

14:55	Scaling Digital from Within: The Kuraray DX Fellowship Approach to AI & Data Readiness Christian Hocken, Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center John Siepeling, KURARAY CO., LTD.
15:20	AI @ RWE - A structured way to success Dr. Max Schumm, RWE AG
15:50	AI Reality Check – The Unified Namespace as Enabler for AI Use Cases Dr.-Ing. Jacques Englänger, Onward GmbH Dominik Malek, Hirschvogel Holding GmbH
16:20	Accelerating the Path from Data to Decision – Enabling the Enterprise to Deliver Value Through Re-usable Data Products Ivonne Appleyard, Merck KGaA
16:50	DATA₂VALUE Sebastian Zenz, DMG MORI AGSebastian Zenz
17:15	Wrap-up Christian Hocken, Industrie 4.0 Maturity Center Gerrit Hoeborn, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen Max-Ferdinand Stroh, FIR e. V. an der RWTH Aachen
17:30	End of Event

Stand: 13.10.2025 | Subject to change.

Moderators



Christian Hocken
Managing Director,
Industrie 4.0
Maturity Center



Gerrit Hoeborn
Head of Department
Business Transformation,
FIR e. V.
an der RWTH Aachen



Max-Ferdinand Stroh
Head of Department
Information Management,
FIR e. V.
an der RWTH Aachen



Speakers 2025



Ivonne Appleyard
Senior Data Domain Owner,
Merck KGaA



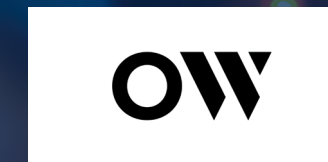
Dr. Martin Baier
LANXESS Deutschland
GmbH



**Prof. Dr.-Ing.
Wolfgang Boos**
Managing Director,
FIR e. V. an der
RWTH Aachen



**Dr.-Ing. Jacques
Engländer**
Senior Expert,
Onward GmbH



Gritli Heitbrink
Sustainability Manager
D/A/CH,
Interface Deutschland GmbH



Christian Hocken
Managing Director,
Industrie 4.0 Maturity
Center



Frank Kuckelkorn
Head of Sales,
interface projects GmbH



Dominik Malek
Program Lead
Smart Factory,
Hirschvogel Holding GmbH



Dr. Max Schumm
Senior Manager AI & Digital
Transformation,
RWE AG



John Siepeling
Global Digital
Transformation Leader,
KURARAY CO., LTD.



Dr. Biljana Visnjicki
Director Global 4IR/
Digital Transformation,
Henkel Consumer Brands
Supply Chain,
Henkel AG & Co. KGaA



Dr. Tobias Wissing
Customer Success
Lead EMEA,
Tulip Interfaces



Sebastian Zenz
Director Product Cost
Optimization,
DMG MORI AG



CDO-Partners 2025

Well-known key players of the industry present themselves as partners of the CDO Aachen and introduce their companies and service portfolios to you. Find out about products, software and solutions for the implementation of digital solutions in the company pitches and in the individual online rooms of our partners. Exchange ideas on your individual questions and get advice.

Would you like to present your range of services to a broad professional audience as a partner of CDO Aachen? In our partner brochure you will find all information about the possibilities of a partnership – from BASIC to PREMIUM to EXCLUSIVE. Choose the partnership package that suits you best and feel free to contact us.

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Read Our Free Bilingual FIR Journal
"UdZ – The Data-driven Enterprise"!

All Issues can be found at:

unternehmen-der-zukunft.de



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RWTH Aachen

Registration & Contact

Contact

You have any questions? Please feel free to contact us personally or via the following email address:
cdo-aachen@fir.rwth-aachen.de



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Registration

Simply register free of charge online at:

» registration.cdo-aachen.de

Current information can be found at: cdo-aachen.de/en



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#CDO2025

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Save the date:
16. + 17. Juni 2026 – CBA Aachen 2026

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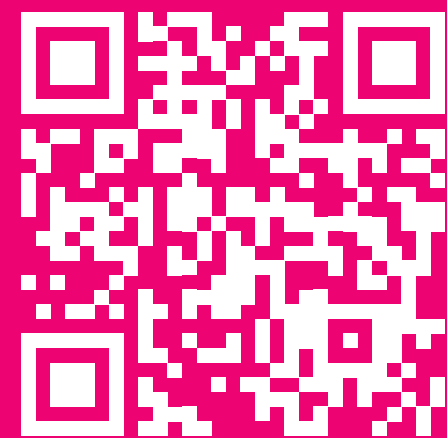
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