

Gaia-X SUMMIT 2025

DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS IN ACTION

Porto, Portugal | 20 & 21 November

Press Kit

Gaia-X European Association for Data and Cloud
November 2025

Gaia-X Summit 2025

Press Kit

What

Gaia-X Summit 2025 Press Conference

When

20 November 2025 at 08:30 – 09:30 (Porto Time)

Where

Meeting Room Biblioteca, 2nd Floor, Alfandega Congress Center, Porto, Portugal & Online

Why

Gather important information directly from the source on the data economy and data ecosystem

1. Press Conference Agenda

- ➔ 08:00 – 08:30 – Registration & Coffee
- ➔ 08:30 – 08:35 – Welcome & Moderation: Isabel Borges, Senior Consultant, TICE.PT
- ➔ 08:35 – 08:40 – Gaia-X Milestones 2025 & Road Ahead 2026: Ulrich Ahle, CEO, Gaia-X
- ➔ 08:40 – 08:45 – Summit Overview: Catherine Jestin, Gaia-X BoD Chairwoman
- ➔ 08:45 – 09:25 – Q&A Guests & Journalists

2. Gaia-X Invited Guests Stage



Catherine Jestin, Gaia-X BoD Chairwoman; Executive Vice President Digital and Information Management, Airbus

Executive Vice President Digital and Information Management at Airbus since 1 July 2021 and member of the Company's Executive Committee. Catherine has previously held the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Airbus since March 2020. In this role, she drove state-of-the-art Information Technology systems and solutions supporting Airbus employees, customers and suppliers. Prior to this position, Catherine was Chief Information Officer at Airbus Helicopters, a role she held from July 2013 to February 2020. Before joining Airbus, Catherine held various positions, between 2007 and 2013, at Rio Tinto in Montreal, Canada, in Information Systems & Technology (IS&T). Catherine also spent 17 years at Accenture and was nominated Partner in 2002, a position she held for five years.



Ulrich Ahle, CEO, Gaia-X

Ulrich is a reputed executive in the IT sector, formerly Vice President and leader of the Manufacturing and Industrie 4.0 System Integration business at Atos in Germany. He is also founder and member of the Board of the International Data Spaces Association in Germany and served 16 years on the Board of the prostep IVIP organisation until April 2018. After an apprenticeship as toolmaker at Hella KG, he studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Paderborn. In his career, Ahle held several positions as development engineer, Director of PLM services, sales director and Vice President. He has been part of Nixdorf a Computer AG, Siemens and Atos. From January 2017 to November 2023 Ulrich Ahle was Chief Executive Officer of the FIWARE Foundation headquartered in Berlin, Germany.



Christoph Strnadl, CTO, Gaia-X

Educated as a research scientist in Theoretical Physics, Dr Strnadl has over 30 years of consulting and management experience in IT and how to leverage it for businesses. After 10 years as a strategy consultant and business manager at Atos, he joined Software AG in 2005, where he held various technical leadership positions in Austria, central and eastern Europe, and finally, at the global level as Deputy CTO. His accountabilities centred around aligning technology solutions and products with business requirements and strategies with a pronounced focus on innovation and evangelisation. In this capacity, he has been responsible for Software AG's ecosystem engagements, such as Gaia-X or dataspaces, since 2019. Before joining the Gaia-X AISBL as CTO, he led the efforts of the IOTA Foundation, a Berlin blockchain/DLT association, to define and implement a technology adoption department in 2024. He is a recognised public speaker with over 300 appearances, a university lecturer for BPM technologies, and a co-author/contributor of six books.



Roland Fadrany, COO, Gaia-X

Roland is the COO of Gaia-X from May 2022 onwards. He establishes effective policies, processes and organisations that promote the Gaia-X vision and mission. With over 20 years of international management and consulting experience in the IT industry, he brings strong leadership and digitalisation knowledge to the team. He has led a global service line, successfully delivered complex, critical programs, and managed multinational development, delivery and partner organisations at companies like EDS, HP, A1 Telekom Austria, Microsoft and Detecon. Roland oversaw comprehensive innovation and transformation initiatives in various industries in Europe and the USA. He holds a master's degree in "Engineering Management" from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. He speaks English and German and lives in Vienna.

3. Invited Guests Audience: Gaia-X Board of Directors and Management Team



Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)
Helmut Leopold, Gaia-X BoD; Head of Centre for Digital Safety & Security
Austria



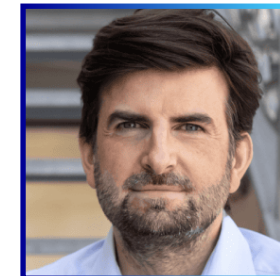
Atos
Frederic Lelong, Gaia-X BoD, Executive Vice President, Global Delivery Centre
France



Bitkom
Susanne Dehmel, Gaia-X BoD, Member of Bitkom's Executive Board & Management Team, responsible for Legal, Security and AI & Data business units
Germany



Crédit Agricole (CA)
Jérôme Léger, Gaia-X BoD; Enterprise Architecture and Design Authorities
France



DAWEX
Laurent Lafaye, Gaia-X BoD, Co-Chief Executive Officer (CEO),
France



deltaDAO AG
Kai Meinke, Gaia-X BoD, Co-Founder and Member of the Board of deltaDAO AG
Lead of the Gaia-X Open-Source Software Community, Gaia-X Evangelist,
Gaia-X Functional and Technical Advisor
Germany



DIGITALEUROPE
Alberto Di Felice, Gaia-X BoD, Policy and Legal Counsel
Belgium



Dynamo
Mauro Brambilla, Gaia-X BoD; Chief Operating Officer (COO)
Italy



Eclipse Foundation AISBL
Gaël Blondelle, Gaia-X BoD; Chief Membership Officer
Belgium



Électricité de France (EDF)
Martine Gouriet, Director of Digital Transformation
Digital Usages and Innovation
France



FIWARE
Chandra Challagonda, Gaia-X BoD, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Germany



Fraunhofer ISST
Boris Otto, Gaia-X BoD, Professor for Industrial Information Management at
TU Dortmund University and Director of Fraunhofer ISST
Germany



Instituto Tecnológico de Informática (ITI)
Daniel Saez, Gaia-X BoD, Strategic Intelligence Director,
President of Gaia-X Spain Hub
Spain



Luxembourg National Data Service (LNDS)
Bert Verdonck, Gaia-X BoD, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Luxembourg



Orange
Emmanuel Cacheux, Gaia-X BoD, Chief Trust Officer (CTO)
France



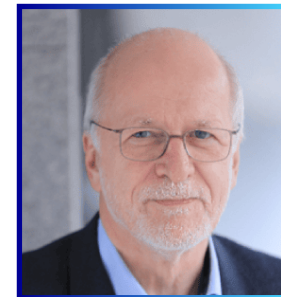
OVHcloud
Dominique Michiels, Gaia-X BoD, Chief Service Delivery Officer
France



Proximus
Antonietta Mastroianni, Gaia-X BoD, Chief Digital & IT Officer
Belgium



SAP
Mark Kühner, Gaia-X BoD, VP SAP Industries and Experience
Germany



Siemens
Thomas Hahn, Gaia-X BoD, Siemens Fellow
Germany



Sopra Steria
Benoit Spolidor, Gaia-X BoD, Aeroline CTO
France



TECNALIA
Joseba Laka, Gaia-X BoD, Digital Director
Spain

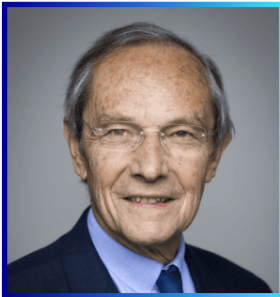


TICE.PT
António Pedro Harrisson Salvado, Gaia-X BoD, Project Manager
Portugal



TNO
Berry Vetjens, Gaia-X BoD, Director Digital Innovations
Netherlands

Independent BoD Members



Hubert Tardieu, Independent Board Member, Gaia-X
France



Mario Campolargo, Independent Board Member, Gaia-X
Portugal

Gaia-X Management: Summit Moderators & Speakers



Alberto Palomo, CSO, Gaia-X



Pierre Gronlier, CINO, Gaia-X



Alberto Curatolo, CFO, Gaia-X

4. Ready to use quotes

Attendees will learn how Gaia-X enables two sets of interoperability: Legal and Organisational, governed by the Gaia-X Compliance Document and Semantic and Technical, governed by the Gaia-X Architecture Document. “Gaia-X has entered its execution phase. The deliverables we are presenting in Porto show how trust and interoperability can be automated at scale. We are moving from principles to practice, giving governments and businesses the operational means to build, govern, and grow their own digital ecosystems with confidence”, added **Roland Fadrany**, COO of Gaia-X.

In the Gaia-X Trust Framework session, **Pierre Gronlier**, Chief Innovation Officer (CInO) of Gaia-X, will discuss how “Innovation within Gaia-X is now measured by impact. From generative AI solving semantic interoperability challenges to open-source tools supporting real-world data spaces, we are equipping communities to build trustworthy digital ecosystems. The Summit in Porto shows that Gaia-X is not just defining standards but also enables transformation across industries.”

“Gaia-X Hubs are the engines driving regional adoption of the Trust Framework, a baseline for innovation across Europe and also internationally. I’m looking forward to moderating the Hubs Focus session and sharing the latest updates on how these are shaping trusted digital ecosystems!”, highlighted **Alberto Palomo**, CSO of Gaia-X.

“With this Summit, Gaia-X demonstrates that digital sovereignty, artificial intelligence, and innovation go hand-in-hand. What began as a European vision is now a tangible reality as ecosystems, tools, and governance models are ready for deployment. ‘Digital Ecosystems in Action’ is not just our theme, it’s our progress made visible: trusted, interoperable, and scalable digital infrastructures that empower Europe and its partners worldwide, and provide the foundation for a truly sovereign and trustworthy AI.” stated **Ulrich Ahle**, CEO of Gaia-X.

During the Summit, participants can explore three dedicated theatres: Economic Theater, Tech Theater, and Partners Theater, each offering focused sessions for deeper engagement with Gaia-X’s various dimensions. Featured at the Tech Theater, “The ‘Danube’ Release marks a new era of technical maturity for Gaia-X. It introduces the extensibility mechanisms that make governance programmable, enabling

domain-specific, regional, or even global expansion without losing trust or interoperability. This is how we build a digital infrastructure that is open, verifiable, and future-proof.” emphasised **Christoph F. Strnadl**, CTO of Gaia-X.

5. Summit key messages

Summit Theme & Vision

- **“Digital Ecosystems in Action”**– The official tagline highlighting the real-world impact of data spaces and digital collaboration.
- **“AI Meets Trust”**– A guiding narrative for #GaiaXSummit25 discussions, emphasising trust as the foundation for AI innovation across Europe and beyond.

AI & Data Interoperability

- **Pioneering Data Space Projects:** Two strategic sectors — aerospace and nuclear — are building their digital future on the Gaia-X Trust Framework.
- **Generative AI for data interoperability:** Showcasing the first approaches of AI’s contribution to solving the semantic interoperability challenges within data spaces (Gaia-X Institute).
- **Tools for Data Spaces & Digital Ecosystems:** A comprehensive set of tools available to build and scale digital ecosystems and data spaces.

Trust & Governance

- **Gaia-X Trust Framework 3.0 – “Danube” Release:** Introduction of the first extensibility mechanisms for domain and geographic expansion, allowing the automation of arbitrary ecosystem rulebooks in a technically compatible manner.
- **Gaia-X Catalogue of Catalogues:** A live showcase of navigating Gaia-X-compliant ecosystems and their services currently on the market.

European & Global Collaboration

- **Driving internationalisation** through the identification of region-specific regulations, opportunities, and best practices.
- **Portuguese Projects Spotlight:** Featuring national success stories contributing to the European data ecosystem.
- **Gaia-X Hubs Focus:** Updates from national hubs advancing regional implementation.

Strategic & Economic Outlook

- **Data Spaces Ready to Deliver:** Demonstrating operational readiness across sectors.
- Evaluate your data-sharing project through the economic model developed by Paris Dauphine University, which distinguishes between the **roles of participants and orchestrators** within data-sharing ecosystems.

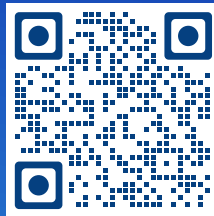
Looking Ahead

- **Eyes on Tomorrow:** A visionary keynote to close the summit, setting direction for the future of digital ecosystems — delivered by **Catherine Jestin** (Gaia-X Chairwoman, Airbus) and **Mario Campolargo** (Gaia-X Independent Board).

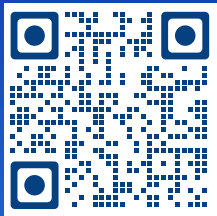
6. Summit Agenda



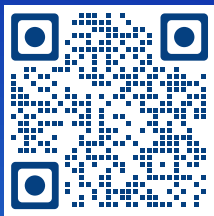
7. Useful Graphics & Links



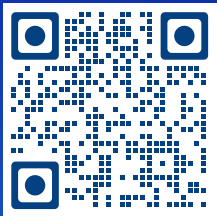
Gaia-X Website



Summit Website



Summit Banner



Summit Promo Video

8. Gaia-X Pre-Event Press Release

Gaia-X Summit 2025 Showcases the Next Phase of Trusted Digital Ecosystems

6 November 2025 – Brussels, Belgium – Gaia-X announces its 2025 Summit, set for 20–21 November in Porto, Portugal, themed “Digital Ecosystems in Action.”

This year’s Summit is hosted in partnership with [Gaia-X Hub Portugal](#), led by [TICE.PT](#), and [Porto Digital](#). The event will unite leading policymakers, innovators, researchers, and industry pioneers to explore how trusted digital ecosystems are shaping the future of AI, interoperability, and collaboration.

“Gaia-X has moved from concept to implementation,” stated **Ulrich Ahle**, CEO of Gaia-X. “This year’s Summit will showcase how trust, interoperability, and innovation are no longer theoretical pillars but the operational foundation of real, functioning digital ecosystems that enable data spaces to power the development of transparent, responsible, and sovereign AI across Europe.

The Summit will open with high-level addresses from **Catherine Jestin**, Gaia-X Chairwoman and Executive Vice President Digital & Information Management at Airbus, **Bernardo Correia**, Secretary of State for Digitalisation of Portugal, and **Thomas Jarzombek**, Parliamentary Secretary of State for Germany’s Ministry of Digitalisation. The discussions will set the stage for two days of keynotes, live demonstrations, and showcases highlighting the strategic, technological, and economic progress of the Gaia-X initiative.

“Gaia-X stands at the intersection of trust and innovation. This year’s Summit shows how our collective vision, built on openness, transparency, and European values, is turning into real, functioning digital ecosystems. Our work on Dataspaces and Trust captures the essence of where we are heading: a future where we can operate within a trusted framework, empowering people, industries, and societies to col-

laborate confidently across borders.”, stated **Catherine Jestin**.

The Parliamentary Secretary of State for Germany’s Ministry of Digitalisation, **Thomas Jarzombek**, stated, “The purpose of Gaia-X is now more relevant than ever: The companies and organisations participating in the Gaia-X ecosystem can deliver a valuable contribution to moving us forward on our path towards digital sovereignty and competitiveness in Europe. I am eager to learn about the contributions on AI and data sovereignty that this year’s Summit places at its centre.”

A major highlight of this year’s program is the unveiling of the Gaia-X Trust Framework 3.0 – “Danube” Release, presented by **Christoph Strnadl**, CTO of Gaia-X, and **Roland Fadrany**, COO of Gaia-X. The new release introduces extensibility mechanisms that enable the automation of compliance and interoperability across sectors and geographies, which is a critical step towards scalable, federated digital ecosystems. “This release demonstrates that establishing trust – within and, even more importantly, between different ecosystems – no longer is a manual process. With Danube, we can automate governance rules and compliance frameworks in an extensible way, allowing for domain and regional adaptation while maintaining full interoperability,” explained **Christoph Strnadl**. Furthermore, **Roland Fadrany** added that “With the ‘Danube’ Release, Gaia-X takes a decisive step toward scaling trust across domains and regions. The introduction of domain and geographic extensions means that ecosystems can now adapt the Gaia-X Trust Framework to their specific sectoral or regional needs while remaining interoperable. BYOR – Bring Your Own Rules: This flexibility is what transforms Gaia-X from a European initiative into a truly global architecture for trusted digital collaboration across multiple ecosystems.”

Throughout the two days, participants can explore three parallel theatres. The Tech Theatre, Economic Theatre, and Partners Theatre, which offer deep-dive sessions into the technical, economic, and strategic dimensions of Gaia-X. The Tech Theatre will feature workshops on the Danube and Loire releases, open-source innovation, and interoperability mechanisms, while the Economic Theatre, hosted by Paris Dauphine University and the Gaia-X Institute, will invite data space projects to have their economic models evaluated by leading economists. Partners Theatre will feature collaborative discussions between Gaia-X and its key partners, like [Cloud Temple](#), [deltaDAO](#), [neusta aerospace](#), [IRT SystemX](#).

Sébastien Lescop, CEO, Cloud Temple, has declared that “Europe has moved beyond proving that digital sovereignty is possible. Now we must demonstrate its power to drive growth and innovation. Gaia-X Label level 3 is that proof. It enables secure, high-performance cloud services that empower European businesses to compete globally, free from dependence on non-European legal frameworks, yet fully open and interoperable. By turning trust into a tangible competitive advantage, Gaia-X is making European digital sovereignty an industrial reality.”

Highlights of the Gaia-X Summit 2025:

- Gaia-X Trust Framework 3.0 – “Danube” Release: Introduction of the first extensibility mechanisms for domain and geographic expansion, allowing the automation of arbitrary ecosystem rulebooks in a technically compatible manner.
- Pioneering Data Space Projects: Two strategic sectors — aerospace and nuclear — are building their digital future on the Gaia-X Trust Framework.
- Gaia-X Catalogue of Catalogues: A live showcase of navigating Gaia-X-compliant ecosystems and their services currently on the market.
- Portuguese Projects Spotlight: Featuring national success stories contributing to the European data ecosystem.
- Gaia-X Hubs Focus: Updates from national hubs advancing regional implementation.
- Tech, Economic, and Partners Theatres: interactive sessions, open-source demonstrations, and expert panels.
- Visionary closing session “Eyes on Tomorrow” with Catherine Jestin and Mario Campolargo.

[Register now](#) to join a global community of policymakers, innovators, and digital leaders in Porto to experience how Digital Ecosystems in Action are shaping a trusted, intelligent, and interoperable future for Europe and beyond.

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9. Proposed questions to ask our invited guests

- What is the Danube release?
- What are the main innovations introduced with the Gaia-X Trust Framework 3.0 – “Danube” Release?
- How do the new extensibility mechanisms in “Danube” support domain and geographic expansion within Gaia-X ecosystems?
- How is AI being integrated into the Gaia-X ecosystem to address semantic interoperability challenges?
- What is the significance of the Gaia-X Catalogue of Catalogues, and how does it help users navigate Gaia-X-compliant services and data spaces?
- Who can run a Gaia-X Digital Clearing House (GXDCH)?
- What opportunities arise from Gaia-X’s international collaborations, particularly with partners from Japan and Canada?
- How does Gaia-X enable a balance between innovation, regulation, and trust in AI-driven data ecosystems?
- What is the economic model developed by Paris Dauphine University?
- How do the Data Spaces Business Committee (DSBA), Data Spaces Support Centre (DSSC), and Simpl collaborate to create a unified framework for Data Spaces through standards convergence?
- Gaia-X AISBL is a privately funded association, but how does it collaborate with the EU Institutions?
- How do cloud service providers and their customers profit from Gaia-X standards and ecosystems?
- Can Gaia-X support cloud service providers in complying with the European Data Act?
- How does Gaia-X help to make data more accessible?
- How does the Gaia-X mission support the European Data Strategy?
- What are your expectations in terms of market share of Level-3 services?
- Looking ahead to 2026, what will be the strategic priorities for Gaia-X as digital ecosystems move toward large-scale operationalisation?
- What are the main deliverables from the Gaia-X AISBL?

10. Ready to use hashtags

#GaiaX #GaiaXSummit25

11. Annexes



Gaia-X Brochure (Mission & Vision;
Strategy; Roadmap 2025)



Gaia-X Label: Marketing Summary



Gaia-X Trust Framework:
Marketing Summary



Gaia-X Compliance Document:
Marketing Summary



Gaia-X Architecture:
Marketing Summary

TOGETHER TOWARDS A
FEDERATED AND SECURE
DATA INFRASTRUCTURE



Gaia-X

European Association
for Data and Cloud AISBL

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