

PRESS RELEASE

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## Taking German-Canadian Cooperation to the Ocean

### Transatlantic conference 'German-Canadian Concourse' boosting innovative collaboration on Ocean Data Analytics

On 17 November, the transatlantic conference German Canadian Concourse (GCC) will bring together thought leaders from various maritime sectors and related industries to look into the opportunities of ocean data analytics from a German-Canadian perspective. Titled "Across the Data Pond – Analyzing a Sea of Ocean Data: Germany's and Canada's deep dive into Ocean Analytics and its potential for spurring a new industry niche", the GCC 2016 will explore the use of combining and analyzing ocean data and how to couple its scientific research with local and international business eco-systems.

Confirmed program contributors include Airbus Defence and Space and Schottel Hydro as major industry players, as well as research-based entities such as the Institute for Ocean Research Enterprise and Dalhousie University in Halifax, the GEOMAR Ocean Research and the GFZ Geo Research Helmholtz Centres in Kiel and Potsdam. Further contributions will come from service providers active in the field of analyzing ocean data, as well as from academic institutions and the public sector. "Ocean surveillance from space is a key element to ensure an up-to-date maritime situational awareness. Earth observation data provide reliable information on objects and environmental risks in offshore areas. Airbus Defence and Space is offering satellite imagery and value-added services like ship and oil-spill detection used for strategic and tactical decision making," says **Dr. Oliver Lang**, Head of the satellite-borne radar monitoring services at Airbus Defence and Space, as an introduction to his program contribution during a GCC Field Trip to Airbus' Potsdam offices.

Canada and Germany, in particular Atlantic Canada and the maritime states of Germany, are predestined partners in the maritime sector. As such, they have been collaborating in various ways in ocean research such as educational exchange programs, shared scientific assets and international R&D programs. The GCC 2016 will investigate the existing transatlantic collaboration surrounding ocean analytics, while discovering new approaches and maritime opportunities. Germany's hanseatic state of Bremen, through its business development arm Bremeninvest, takes a stake at this year's marine-oriented GCC by hosting a networking reception.

2016 marks the 45th anniversary of the Bilateral Science and Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreement signed by Canada and Germany in 1971. With the two countries already looking back on a long track record of collaboration and with German-Canadian exchange also expected to be boosted by newly-signed CETA, the GCC aims to expand its platform for showcasing successful examples of German-Canadian cooperation and for launching further collaboration between the two countries. "This year's Concourse on Ocean Data Analytics implements, once more, the spirit of the recent declaration by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and Canada's National Research Council (NRC) on strengthening German-Canadian cooperation on innovative projects. The GCC is an established format to boost the process of connecting Canadian and German initiatives," says GCC's Chairman **Dr. Matthias Mück**.

The central part of this day-long event taking place simultaneously in Halifax and Berlin is a conference session interlinking the conference venues via video-conference for a true transatlantic discussion, the Transatlantic Symposium. So-called Field Trips organized as satellite events by partner organizations on both sides of the Atlantic allow for a practical insight into the subject-matter and stimulate the exchange on the Concourse topic. The GCC further features a custom match-making service built into the conference. As part of this service, participant profiles generated during the registration are used to connect matched parties through ad-hoc video booths to bridge the Atlantic whenever required. Participants are offered the option to have their personal profiles included into a follow-up on potential transatlantic opportunities.

This year's conference invites stakeholders in the fields such as (Remote) Sensing and Information Technology as well as application sectors as Marine Tourism, Energy, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Marine Transportation and Marine Defence & Security to attend. Registration to the event is required under [www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/registration](http://www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/registration). The conference will be held in English.

The German Canadian Concourse is held under the patronage of Marie Gervais-Vidricaire, Ambassador of Canada to Germany and Werner Wnendt, Ambassador of Germany to Canada. It is organized by the Canada Meets Germany Network, a not-for-profit association aimed at fostering German-Canadian relations.

**Further information and registration:**

Registration (open until 10 November 2016): [www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/registration](http://www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/registration)  
Newsletter subscription: [www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/newsletter](http://www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/newsletter)  
Follow us: [www.linkedin.com/company/german-canadian-concourse](http://www.linkedin.com/company/german-canadian-concourse)  
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#GCC2016

The detailed event program is published under [www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/gcc2016](http://www.GermanCanadianConcourse.org/gcc2016). The number of participants is limited.

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