

# Conference *Agenda*

GSIS is not just another conference. At its core lies a dynamic agenda that spotlights breakthrough technologies and their transformative impact on security policy and practice. Carefully curated, it presents a high-level, forward-looking program uniting global experts at the intersection of innovation and security. From AI and cybersecurity to critical infrastructure and strategic financing, the agenda tackles the key challenges and cutting-edge solutions shaping tomorrow's geopolitical and technological landscape.



## ➤ Tuesday 21 October 2025

19:00–22:00	Pre-Opening Dinner (by invitation only)
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## ➤ Wednesday 22 October 2025

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast	<b>Private equity for innovation</b> A focused exchange on the role of private capital in driving breakthrough technologies and strategic resilience. What's the future of innovation when venture capital meets national interest?
08:45 – 09:00	Opening of the Summit	<b>Official welcome to GSIS 2025</b> Setting the tone for a strategic, cross-sector dialogue at the intersection of innovation and global security.
09:00 – 09:30	Keynote	<b>Innovation and Competitiveness in a Contested World</b> A high-level address on why innovation is now a geopolitical necessity. What defines competitiveness in a fragmented world and how do we stay ahead?
09:30 – 10:30	Plenary 1	<b>World Order Disrupted</b> What happens when global order erodes? This session explores the new landscape of power, risk, and innovation strategy in a multipolar era.
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary 2	<b>The Race for Critical Minerals</b> Who controls the inputs of tomorrow's economy? A deep dive into the geopolitical scramble for re-sources and the quest for secure, resilient supply chains.
13:30 – 14:30	Plenary 3	<b>AI-Driven Defence Solutions</b> Autonomy, speed, and control: how artificial intelligence is transforming defence and the ethical, legal and strategic challenges that come with it.
14:30 – 15:30	Plenary 4	<b>Cybersecurity and Digital Sovereignty</b> How can nations and businesses reduce digital dependencies and secure their assets in a hostile cyber environment? This session connects policy, tech, and sovereignty.
16:00 –17:00	Plenary 5	<b>Powering Hyperscale Data Centres</b> Big Data needs big energy. As digital infrastructure grows, so does the pressure on energy systems. This session looks at how to keep the lights on in a data-driven world.
17:30 – 19:00	GSIS Accelerator Pitch	<b>Strategic Innovation on Stage</b> Europe's most forward-looking innovators present their breakthrough technologies in the fields of security, resilience, and strategic infrastructure. As finalists of the GSIS Accelerator programme, they pitch live to a jury of senior investors, policymakers, and experts. This session offers a glimpse into the ideas that could shape tomorrow's capabilities – and into the minds behind them.

## ➤ Thursday 23 October 2025

07:30 – 08:30	Breakfast	<b>Public Capital and Strategic Statecraft</b> How are governments using public investment to shape markets and secure sovereignty in key sectors? A timely discussion on statecraft in the age of industrial policy.
08:45 – 09:30	GSIS Decision Room	<b>Leadership in a Time of Upheaval</b> A personal, in-depth conversation with a global leader on what it means to lead under pressure. The GSIS Decision Room reveals the mindset behind real-world decisions.
09:30–10:30	Plenary 6	<b>Resilient Infrastructure and Civil Defence</b> What does resilience look like in the 21st century? This session explores how states can protect critical infrastructure and societies from hybrid threats and system shocks.
11:00–12:00	Plenary 7	<b>Biotechnology and National Security</b> Biotech is now a key arena of power. From pandemic resilience to biosecurity threats, this session investigates the intersection of life sciences and national strategy.
12:00–13:00	Special Innovation Address	A thought-provoking keynote from a visionary thinker at the frontier of technology, policy, and imagination.
14:30–15:30	Plenary 8	<b>Global Cloud Competition</b> Cloud infrastructure is the new territory of power. Who controls the platforms, data flows and stan-dards and what does it mean for sovereignty?
16:00–17:00	Plenary 9	<b>Securing Smart Ports and Smart Cities</b> As urban systems become more intelligent, they also become more vulnerable. This session explores how to protect the connected backbone of our economies.
17:00–18:00	Concluding Plenary	<b>Strategic Financing for Innovation and Security</b> The final word on the capital behind the transformation. How do we finance innovation and resilience in an age of instability?

Because innovation doesn't stand still, neither does our agenda.New topics and formats are added on a rolling basis.

All events will take place at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg,  
Congressplatz 1, 20355 Hamburg, Germany  
Except for the pre-opening dinner on Tuesday evening.  
All sessions will be on-the-record.

organised by:

