Invitation to the

1st ITG Future Forum on AI-powered Networks and Networking for AI



2026
November 25th
Berlin

VDE ITG

We are delighted to invite you to the first ITG Future Forum, a new one-day event for ITG members and guests to discuss emerging interdisciplinary challenges and opportunities.

This first edition, »AI-powered Networks and Networking for AI«, turns the spotlight on the interplay between AI and networking. Artificial Intelligence is transforming how communication networks are designed and operated. At the same time, it is introducing new demands on networking infrastructures.

AI enables intelligent, automated network operations, yet AI systems themselves rely on robust networking for distributed training, large-scale data exchange, and real-time inference. The vision of autonomous networking requires collaboration across domains, just as modern digital services depend on the integration of communication networks, cloud/edge infrastructures, and AI systems.

We look forward to welcoming you to a day of expert talks and panel discussions from leading researchers and industry practitioners, organized into three sessions – AI for Networks, Networks for AI, and AI in Research and Development – complemented by networking breaks and a live demo zone

Speakers will address topics such as:

- **AI-native network architectures**
- **Data-driven network automation**
- **Edge and cloud intelligence for communication systems**
- **Networking challenges for AI workloads**
- **AI robustness, security, and trust in networks**
- **Demo Session** *(see page below)*

This one-day event will bring together representatives from various ITG communities and guests to discuss emerging interdisciplinary challenges and opportunities.

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1st ITG Future Forum on AI-powered Networks and Networking for AI

November 25th, 2026 · 9:00 – 15:30
HHI Fraunhofer Institute
Einsteinufer 37 · 10587 Berlin

VERANSTALTER

Informationstechnische Gesellschaft (ITG) im VDE e.V.

ANMELDUNG UND WEITERE INFORMATIONEN

Registration Fee

Regular	150 €
Student	50 €

https://www.vde.com/networking-ai

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AI-powered Networks and Networking for AI
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HHI Fraunhofer Institute, Einsteinufer 37 · 10587 Berlin

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Program

08:00
Registration & morning coffee

09:00 Welcome

Jörg-Peter Elbers
VDE ITG Chair
Damian Dudek
VDE ITG Managing Director

09:15 Session 1 AI for Networks

10:45 Coffee & networking break

Session Chair: **Andreas Gladisch**



Ruben Merz
Principal Solutions Architect, AWS

Trustworthy AI for Network Systems: From Automated Reasoning to Autonomous Action



Slawomir Stanczak
Head of Communications and Networks Division, Fraunhofer HHI

Research Perspectives on Key Technology Trends for 6G and Beyond



Achim Autenrieth
Senior Director Advanced Technology, Adtran Networks

Intelligent Agents for Optical Networks: Building AI-Powered Optical Transport Networks for the AI Era



Alex Palaios
Research Manager, Ericsson

Enabling an AI-Native 6G RAN

11:15 Session 2 Networks for AI

12:45 Lunch, networking & demo break (including demo pitches)

Session Chair: **Jörg-Peter Elbers**



Guiseppe Rizzelli
Manager,
Network Engineering,
Meta

Scaling the Backbone for the AI era



Jeremy Witzens
Associate Vice President,
Optical Connectivity,
Astera Labs

Scaling AI Networks with Hybrid Copper and Optical Interconnects



Thomas Peters
Vice President
Government Security,
SAP

Sovereign Cloud and the requirements of AI – regulation and security



Andreas Blenk
Portfolio Project Manager
& Senior Research
Scientist, Siemens

Networking for Industrial AI: Lessons Learned from Breaking Applications and What Knowledge is Needed

14:00 Session 3 AI in research and development

15:30 End

Session Chair: **Damian Dudek**



Hans Schotten
Head of the Research
Department Intelligent
Networks, DFKI

When the RAN Starts Thinking: Innovation Engine – or Sovereignty Trap?



Jakob Hoydis
Research Scientist,
NVIDIA

Wireless Research with Agentic AI



Tim Polzehl
Senior AI R&D @DFKI
Berlin, Founder and CEO
Gretchen AI

AI requires computing power. Trust as well. ICT infrastructure for generative AI, deepfake detection, and fact-checking.



Yvonne Weitsch
Market Segment Manager
Aerospace & Defense,
Rohde & Schwarz

From Measurement Data to Intelligent Network Awareness: AI-Driven Test & Measurement for 6G and Beyond

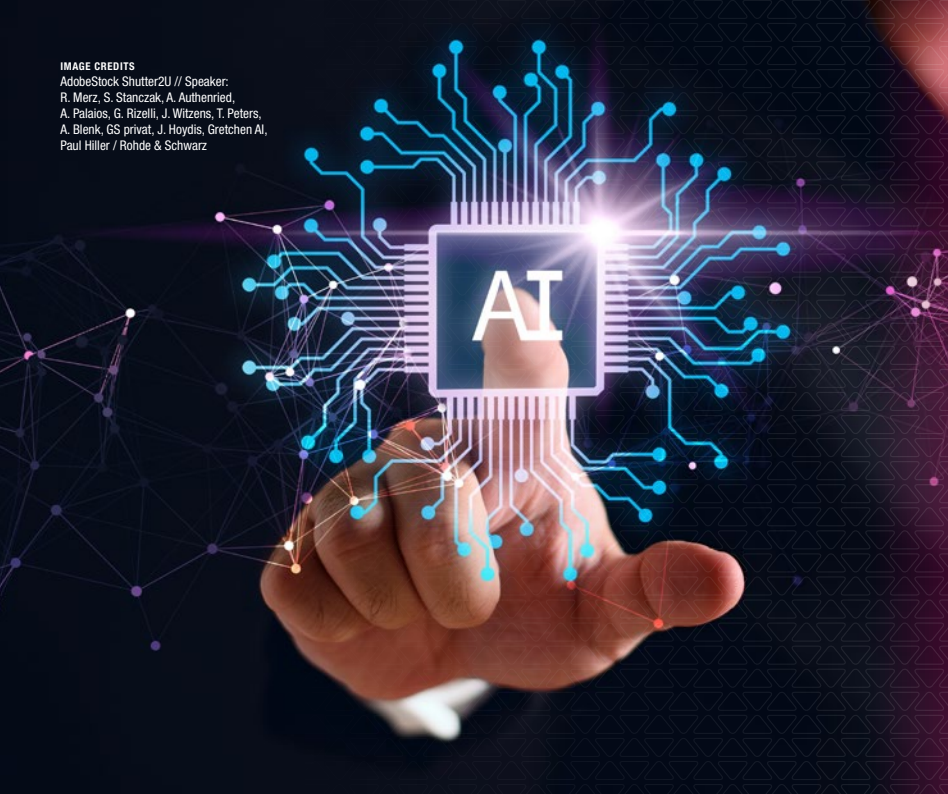


IMAGE CREDITS
AdobeStock Shutter2U // Speaker:
R. Merz, S. Stanczak, A. Authenried,
A. Palaios, G. Rizelli, J. Witzens, T. Peters,
A. Blenk, GS privat, J. Hoydis, Gretchen Al,
Paul Hiller / Rohde & Schwarz

Call for Demos

AI for Networks: Show us AI in Action!

Got an idea for how AI can transform networks – and want to show it off live? The Demo Zone is your stage. We're looking for bold, hands-on demonstrations that put AI to work in real network applications – and let attendees jump in and interact, not just watch. The best demo wins bragging rights: every presenter gets a short pitch slot to make the case for why their demo deserves the vote, then attendees vote live – so bring something that will turn heads. This is a research showcase, not a sales pitch – proposals must be research-centric; product demonstrations or commercial solutions are not eligible.

Ready to bring your demo to life?
Submit a short proposal – just one A4 page – covering:

1. **Abstract:** Title, Presenter & Contributors, Affiliation, 35-word abstract
2. **Context:** What problem does your demo tackle?
3. **Content:** What will attendees see, and what makes it new?
4. **Relevance:** Why will this excite the ITG Future Forum audience?
5. **Interaction:** How do attendees get hands-on with it?

Submit your one-page proposal (PDF) to: itg@vde.com

Submission deadline: Monday, Oct.12, 2026

Notification of acceptance: Friday, Oct. 16, 2026

Equipment Provided for Accepted Demos:
A table of 160 x 80 cm, 1 power outlet strip, WLAN on a best-effort basis

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