

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.

VDE ITG

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>



08:00

Registration & morning coffee

09:00 Welcome

Jörg-Peter Elbers

VDE ITG Chair

Damian Dudek

VDE ITG Managing Director

1st ITG Future Forum on

AI-powered Networks and Networking for AI

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HHI Fraunhofer Institute, Einsteinufer 37 · 10587 Berlin

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Preliminary Program

09:15 Session 1 AI for Networks

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 Palaos

Line Manager,
Ericsson Research

tba



10:45 Coffee & networking break

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.**

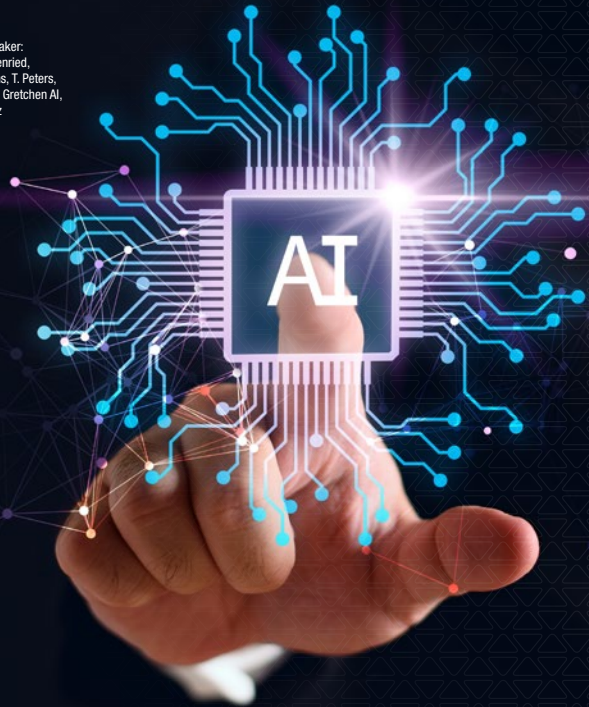


Yvonne Weitsch
Market Segment Manager
Aerospace & Defense,
Rohde & Schwarz

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

IMAGE CREDITS

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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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