

# 8th International VDI Conference Smart Farming

April 29 and 30, 2026, Aschheim near Munich

- AgTech: From Technology Hype to Customer Impact
  - AgData Interoperability & AI
  - Safety & Security for Highly Automated Machinery
  - Operational Excellence: Applied Digital Farming Solutions
  - Reliable Field Robotics: From Prototype to Productive Deployment
- + **Interactive Round Table Discussions**

Meet international Experts from:



08:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

### 09:30 Welcome and Opening Address

Chair: Dipl.-Ing. Ralf Kalmar, Business Development Manager, Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE, Germany

## I. AgTech: From Technology Hype to Customer Impact

### 09:45 Empowering Smallholder Farmers in India: From Data Backbone to Digital Delivery

- Challenges and opportunities in digitally transforming India's millions of smallholder farmers
- The Indian government's vision implementing the AgriStack data backbone and Bharat VISTAAR's delivery layer under the Digital Agriculture Mission
- How digital public infrastructure enables commercialization, innovation, and deeper private sector participation across inputs, advisory, and Agri-services

Dr. T R Kesavan, Chairman, Steering Committee, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), India

### 10:15 Customer-centric Farming Innovations across AI, Autonomy, Robotics and Automation

- How to keep the customer at the center of innovation development
- Challenges of developing perception-based systems
- Latest advancements in AI, autonomy, robotics, and automation, with insights into future prospects

Eng. Michele Mantovani, Tractor Innovation Manager, CNH, Italy

10:45 ☕ Networking & Coffee Break

## II. AgData Interoperability & AI

### 11:30 Towards a Common European Agricultural Data Space

- Strategic goals of the European Commission
- Technological basis and infrastructure explained
- Use cases for the Agricultural Data Spaces and current status

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Dörr, Scientific Director, Fraunhofer IESE, Germany

### 12:00 Speed Networking – Expand Your Network

Make the most of this opportunity by joining quick and effective 1-to-1 interactions. Get to know other attendees and exchange contact information.

12:30 🍴 Lunch

### 14:00 Beyond Interoperability: Leveraging AI and Multi-Source Data Fusion for Autonomous Crop Prescription

- AI-driven data fusion for smart prescription maps
- Predictive yield & biomass modeling
- Automated sustainability intelligence: AI-powered MRV & ESG automation

Heloise le Bars, Director Germany, MyEasyFarm, France

### 14:30 Global Perspectives on Data-driven Agrifood Systems: Between Standards and Regional Needs

- Digitization challenges in value chains across geopolitical and socioeconomic contexts
- Internationally compatible standards and reference models
- Differences in maturity, digitization strategies, and ISO/TC 347 engagement
- Enabling global standards adaptable to regional needs

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Benjamin Weinert, Faculty of Management, Culture and Technology, University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück, Germany, co-author: R. Andres Ferreyra, PhD, Industry Data Standards & Collaborations Lead, Syngenta, USA

### 15:00 Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow: Stepwise Growth from Automation toward Full Autonomy

- Supporting the industry in addressing the challenges of Ag machine autonomy
- Establishing guidelines and technologies to ensure interoperability and compatibility between different brands
- Developing and documenting the needed system architecture for seamless integration

Norbert Schlingmann, General Manager, Agricultural Industry Electronics Foundation e.V., Germany

15:30 ☕ Networking & Coffee Break

## III. Safety & Security for Autonomous Vehicles

### 16:15 Standardized Safety Testing of Autonomous Agricultural Machinery: Challenges, Innovations, and Regulatory Outlook

- Current safety assessment practices: key testing methods & performance criteria
- Standards and limitations: existing frameworks and future improvement roadmap
- EU regulatory landscape: new Machinery Regulation and AI Act implications

Dr. Nicolas Chollet, Research Engineer – Agricultural Technologies, SHERPA Engineering & Agrotechnopôle, co-authors: Philippe Héritier, Director of the Agrotechnopole platform & Clement Moignard, Research Engineer, INRAE, France

### 16:45 Cybersecurity Evolution in Agriculture Machinery

- Demand for cybersecurity evolution of agriculture industry: lessons from automotive
- How to gear up as OEM and suppliers for this evolution?
- Important regulatory timelines and how to achieve it?
- Case study & insights: risk analysis, GenAI engineering, and product liability

Divith Bajaj, Senior Consultant, co-authors: Ashish Sridhar, Expert Consultant & Prathiba Prabhakaran, Consultant, Vector Consulting Services GmbH, Germany



### Get-together

Join us for informal networking with participants and speakers.

**09:00 IV. Interactive Round Tables**

This session features interactive Round Table discussions moderated by experts in agriculture. Engage with fellow participants to discuss sector-specific challenges, needs, and solutions. The focus is on the participants – choose which topic is of most interest to you and introduce your own experiences and questions.

The main topics of the Round Table discussions will be announced on our website prior to the event.

10:00  Networking & Coffee Break

**V. Operational Excellence: Applied Digital Farming Solutions****10:45 Data-Driven Forage Harvesting Through Real-Time Dry Matter Measurement at Mowing**

- Introduction of dry matter sensing on a mower
- Harvesting process improvement through real-time sensing
- Future potentials for process automation

**Dr. Max Bouten**, Product Director, Kverneland Group Mechatronics BV, The Netherlands

**11:15 Beyond the Visible, Imaging Radar Point Clouds**

- Different radar output variants, the pointcloud for maximum flexibility
- Pointcloud radar attributes (metadata), examples in ROS2 & Python
- Post-processing methods & filters, public available resources & open-source

**Dipl.-Ing. Camille Marbach**, Product Management Perception, co-author: MBA Carina Engelhart, Product Management Focus Marketing Off-Highway, Bosch Engineering GmbH, Germany

**11:45 Simulation as the Key to Reliable Autonomous Agricultural Machines**

- Challenges of testing agricultural machinery include costs, time, and variability
- Field tests have strong dependency on weather and plant growth
- High fidelity sensor simulation for development of AI-based perception applications
- Creating edge cases with a high variety of critical scenarios

**Timo Vullhorst, M.Sc.**, Field Application Engineer, dSPACE SE & Co. KG, Germany

12:15  Lunch

**VI. Reliable Field Robotics: From Prototype to Productive Deployment****13:45 Robust Autonomy & On-the-Go Field Planning for Any Terrain – Beyond GPS in Smart Farming**

- Integrated AI-powered field coverage & process planning for open fields, vegetables, orchards and vineyards
- Hybrid localization enables stable autonomy even with unreliable RTK-GPS
- Compliant by design with the EU Data Act, AI Act, and Machinery Regulation

**Dr. Sebastian Pütz**, CEO, Nature Robots GmbH, Germany

**14:15 Deploying AI Enabled Robots in the Real World**

- Engaging with customers and early adopters
- Challenges with field scale deployment of autonomous robots
- Feedback loops for future benefit

**James Miller C.Eng FIMechE**, CEO, Earth Rover Ltd, United Kingdom

**14:45 Lessons Learned from Autonomous Agricultural Field Robots**

- Autonomous robots vs. autonomous tractors
- Autonomy in agriculture
- Insights from development, field experience, and customer feedback

**Fridolin Schuler, M.Sc.**, Project Engineer, Research & Advanced Engineering Robotics, AGCO GmbH, Germany

**15:15 Closing Remarks**

15:30 End of Conference

**Supporting Experts**

**Dipl.-Ing. Ralf Kalmar**, Head of Business Development, Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering IESE, Germany

**James Miller C.Eng FIMechE**, Chief Executive Officer, Earth Rover, UK

**Rhett Schildroth B.Sc.**, Chief Technology Officer, Mach, USA

**Dan Danford**, Global Precision Technology Partner/Strategy Manager, CNH Industrial America, USA

11th International VDI Conference

## Connected Off-Highway Machines

### Date and venue:

April 29-30, 2026

Aschheim, near Munich, Germany

### Following topics will be discussed:

- Software-Defined Off-Highway Machines
- Autonomous Mobile Machines
- Simulation, Validation & Verification of Off-Highway Systems
- Standardization, Interoperability & Digital Data Ecosystems
- Functional Safety, Cybersecurity & Regulatory Compliance
- Safety-Critical and Defence-Oriented Off-Highway Applications
- + Interactive Round Table Discussions

[www.vdi-international.com/01K0902026](http://www.vdi-international.com/01K0902026)

Parallel  
Conferences



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9th International VDI Conference

## Autonomous Trucks

### Date and venue:

April 29-30, 2026

Aschheim, near Munich, Germany

### Renowned speakers will present their results on the following topics:

- Autonomous Trucking Ecosystems
- Commercial Deployment & Scaling
- AI, Data & Simulation
- Sensor Technology & LiDAR
- Software-Defined Vehicles (SDV)
- + Panel Discussion
- + OEM Presentations

[www.vdi-international.com/01K0915026](http://www.vdi-international.com/01K0915026)



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Smart Farming

## Exhibition / Sponsoring

If you want to meet with and reach out to the first-rate experts attending this VDI conference and to powerfully present your products and services to the well-informed community of conference participants, please contact:

### Vanessa Ulbrich

Project Consultant  
Exhibitions & Sponsoring  
Phone: +49 211 6214-918  
Email: [ulbrich@vdi.de](mailto:ulbrich@vdi.de)

### Exhibitor List:

dSPACE Group SE & Co. KG  
MobileTronics GmbH



## Become a speaker

Become a speaker at our international VDI Automotive Conferences. Make yourself known in the industry and discuss best practice examples with other international experts. We are looking for speakers on: Automation & Robotics in Agriculture, Electrics/Electronics for Mobile Machines, Sensor & HMI Technologies for the Off-Highway Industry.

Please submit your topic to:

**Dr. Maria Georgiou-Smith**

Product Manager International Business

Agricultural Engineering

Phone: +49 211 6214-467

Email: [georgiou-smith@vdi.de](mailto:georgiou-smith@vdi.de)

# Registration

## Terms and Conditions

**Registrations:** Registrations for conference attendance must be made in writing. Confirmation of your registration and the associated invoice will be mailed to you. Please do not pay your conference attendance fee until you have received our invoice and its invoice number to be stated for transfer. German VAT directives apply. Please state your VAT-ID with your registration.

### Conference venue

NH München Ost Conference Center  
Einsteinring 20  
85609 Aschheim, Germany  
Phone: +49 89 940096-0  
Email: [nhmuenchenost@nh-hotels.com](mailto:nhmuenchenost@nh-hotels.com)



You will find more hotels  
close to the venue at  
[www.vdi-wissensforum.de/hrs](http://www.vdi-wissensforum.de/hrs)

**Hotel room reservation:** A limited number of rooms has been reserved for the benefit of the conference participants at the conference hotel. Please refer to "VDI Conference".

**VDI Wissensforum service package:** The conference package includes the conference documents (online), beverages during breaks, lunch and the get-together on April 29, 2026.

**Conference attendance conditions and terms** can be found on our website:  
[www.vdi-wissensforum.de/en/terms-and-conditions/](http://www.vdi-wissensforum.de/en/terms-and-conditions/)

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## Upcoming Events

### International VDI Conference

**Electrics/Electronics for Mobile Machines 2026**

October 14–15, 2026 in Baden-Baden, Germany

### International Conference Agricultural Engineering

**LAND. TECHNIK AgEng 2026**

November 10–11, 2026 in Dresden, Germany

## Register online!

[www.vdi-international.com/12K0100026](http://www.vdi-international.com/12K0100026)



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Yes, I will participate as follows:

**Participation Fee + VAT**

**VDI Conference 29.-30.04.2026**  
(12K0100026) € 1990

I am interested in sponsoring and/or exhibition

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Please register at [www.vdi-international.com](http://www.vdi-international.com). Your credit card information will be transmitted encrypted to guarantee the security of your data.