

# Canadian-German Eureka Co-Chair

Programme  
2024/25

*#furthertogether*





The Canadian-German Eureka co-chair 2024/25 is jointly implemented by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) of Germany and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC). The implementation is supported by the Eureka office of the BMBF at the German Aerospace Center (DLR).



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research



National Research  
Council Canada

Conseil national de  
recherches Canada

# Welcome to the Canadian-German Eureka Co-Chair



**Bettina Stark-Watzinger**

Federal Minister of Education and Research, Germany

We live in a dynamic world ripe with challenges and opportunities. Technology transfer and innovation serve as a transformative pathway to addressing both. They are imperative in shaping the way we navigate towards a better future. Now more than ever, we need to work together with our trusted global partners to enhance innovation collaboration to find solutions that address the challenges of today and tomorrow: to counter climate change, to responsibly develop and apply artificial intelligence, to boost prosperity and competitiveness.

Eureka is an essential platform to help us achieve these goals. Germany and Canada are excited to lead the network as co-chairs in 2024-2025. Geographically, our two countries are separated by the Atlantic

Ocean. Yet, we are united by common values and a shared commitment to collective action on some of the world's most pressing issues. Our cooperation in research and innovation is exceptionally longstanding and profound – from earth observation to neurosciences to quantum and green energy technologies and much more. In 2021, we had the privilege of celebrating the 50th anniversary of our bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. Our Eureka co-chair is yet another important milestone – not only for our bilateral partnership, but also for the entire Eureka network: It is the first time in the history of Eureka that the chair is held by two countries.

Together with our partners, we have the opportunity to harness the power and possibilities offered through Eureka, to further build on each other's expertise, and leverage our innovation ecosystems. We know that when we work together, we can achieve greater impact.

Let's go #furthertogether!



**François-Philippe Champagne**

Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, Canada

## Further together



**Rudolf Hagenmüller**

Eureka President 2024/25

The motto of the Canadian-German Eureka co-chair in 2024-2025 is “Further together”. For me, this reflects exactly the values that Eureka stands for: Eureka is a global network that connects people from more than 45 countries who have been working together for decades in a spirit of mutual trust, cooperation, and partnership.

Since its foundation in 1985, Eureka has been dedicated to create innovations for the challenges of our times by bringing together public authorities, large companies, SMEs, universities, and research institutes. The focus has always been to support market oriented and applied innovations. In short, Eureka projects are bottom-up, industry-driven, and flexible. They are innovative and have a strong transnational and societal impact.

I have been involved in the Eureka network for many years. As past ITEA Chair (2005-2016), I have had close

contact with many Eureka projects and I have always been lastingly impressed by the trust and happiness I have perceived in the project consortia.

I am very honoured to serve Eureka as President in 2024-2025. The Canada-German co-chair team is committed to further strengthening the global Eureka community and its unique role as a network driving forward international collaborations between companies, research organisations and universities.

We will put all our energy and enthusiasm into advancing the Eureka network during the Canadian-German co-chair year. One of the main objectives is to better showcase and promote flagship projects and “success stories” in order to make the Eureka funding instruments even more visible on a global scale.

Let’s work together to push the boundaries of research and innovation to a new level!

## Canadian-German Eureka Co-Chair

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, Canada and Germany will co-chair Eureka. For the first time since its foundation in 1985, two countries will jointly lead the world's largest network for technological innovation. Based on its European roots, Eureka has developed into a global cooperation platform for technology development and its application. The co-chair offers the opportunity to further intensify the global cooperation between valued partners and to contribute to social and economic competitiveness and security.

## Political context

The Canadian-German Eureka co-chair takes place at a time of global turmoil. Technological change, especially digitalization, is impacting our everyday lives while simultaneously creating new opportunities for prosperity and competitiveness. At the same time, the challenges of climate change, security of supply, and environmental protection can only be met on the basis of new and sustainable technologies and business models.

Technological advancements are becoming increasingly important in geopolitical disputes. It has become crucial to foster technology-oriented research and innovation to reduce one-sided dependencies, and at the same time, expand the ability to help shape, secure and apply key technologies internationally with trusted partners. In particular, companies navigating this challenging landscape face barriers which Eureka, with its more than 45 member economies, helps them to overcome. It does so by offering an important platform for developing and implementing joint initiatives to build reliable, market-oriented technology partnerships with innovators across the globe.



**Melanie Rüter**

High Level Representative Germany,  
Deputy Director BMBF

“For almost 40 years, Eureka has provided us with the tools to advance the competitiveness in technological development and to create value for its members, their SMEs and industries. If Eureka didn't exist yet, we would have to invent it.”

## Objectives of the Co-Chair

The goal of the Canadian-German co-chair is to leverage the potential of the network to contribute to solving diverse transformative challenges and continue to create pathways to drive international industrial and research collaboration.

To achieve this, a pilot will be launched to further develop Eureka to also become an international innovation think tank that closely links innovation processes with the development and implementation of policies. The idea will be implemented with a focus on circular value creation. To strengthen synergies, we will work closely with the European Commission to drive forward the global expansion of the network. We will prioritize and promote the new long-term Eureka strategy and contribute to efficient and modern governance structures.



**Mitch Davies**

High Level Representative Canada, President NRC



Fostering international collaboration and cooperation among countries leads to better research and innovation outcomes, as well as more robust pathway to sustainable, resilient commercialization. Eureka is the world-leading innovation network that helps us accomplish our goals in this area, providing access for innovators to expertise, knowledge and partnerships that help them go farther, grow and reach new markets.”

# Canadian-German Co-Chair priorities

## 1 Development of the Eureka network into an international innovation think tank and policy incubator

It is Eureka's unique strength to bring together stakeholders from the public sector and industry to jointly identify technology potential and exploit it with joint programmes that stimulate and support industrial collaborations across the network. We want to build on this strength and additionally create space for exchange on tangible innovation policy issues that address the many common challenges which transcend national and/or EU borders.

As a pilot project, we will focus on circular value creation as an excellent example of technology-based innovation that not only delivers towards the goal of sustainability but also supports international competitiveness and strategic autonomy of critical technological sectors. A design thinking approach will be used to develop and substantiate ideas to promote the transition to circular value creation. Like all Eureka instruments, the approach will be bottom-up and will focus on the relevant stakeholders from the Eureka network: business, science, politics, and society. Workshops will be organized as part of the Eureka network meetings to discuss the needs,

the possibilities of technologies and innovations, and the requirements for successful implementation – culminating in a potential call for project proposals. The Eureka innovation process thus becomes an incubator for new calls as well as a stipulator for new policies.

## 2 Increasing synergies with European and international innovation ecosystems

The focus of this priority is the strategic growth of Eureka and its positioning within the European and international landscape of innovation ecosystems. Building on the European roots, a close and trusting relationship with the European Commission is of continuing importance to us. On the basis of the review of cooperation between Eureka and the EU, we will agree on a joint action plan that includes both medium and long-term planning. A high-level conference will be organized to discuss Eureka's role and function for international RDI cooperation in the next Framework programme (FP10), including the further development of the SME funding programmes Eurostars and Innowwide. We will seek to energize less active members in Europe.

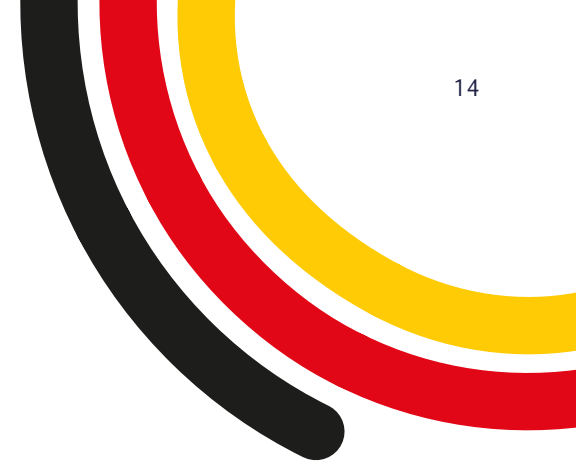
Likewise, the participation of strategic partners outside the European Union is of great value to the network. We will facilitate and champion re-association of South Africa and Singapore. We will foster the onboarding of any new associate members to successfully engage in Eureka.

For all members, we will prioritize the continuation of Network calls while also encouraging GlobalStars calls that expand global outreach to target economies. Further, recognizing their intrinsic value to Eureka, we will continue a strong focus on Eureka Clusters and prepare the next Multi-Annual Plan.



### 3 Ensuring a sustainable strategy and governance of the network

The Canadian-German Eureka co-chair will work on Eureka's strategic priorities. To this end, we will develop the new Eureka long-term strategy and support its implementation. In order to ensure strategic continuity, we will work closely with the current Turkish Presidency and the future Swiss Eureka Chair within the framework of the Troika. The functioning of the network is directly linked to a well-organized Eureka Secretariat. We will, therefore, support the Eureka Secretariat in its further development and ensure an efficient and modern administration.







Berlin City



Skyline of Toronto

Cherry Blossoms in  
Bonn

La Grande Roue de Montréal



Hannover Messe

## Meetings and Events

Date	Event	Location
<b>2024</b>		
Jul 2-4	Co-Chair @ 6G Conference/ 21 years of Celtic-NEXT	Berlin
Oct 8-9	1 <sup>st</sup> EG/EB meeting	Berlin + virtual
Dec 2	Further Together: Co-Chair Reception 2024	Berlin
Dec 3-5	1 <sup>st</sup> network meeting <i>(incl. thematic workshop)</i>	Berlin + virtual
<b>2025</b>		
Feb 11-12	2 <sup>nd</sup> EG/EB meeting	Brussels + virtual
Mar 5-7	2 <sup>nd</sup> network meeting <i>(incl. high-level conference on FP10 and thematic workshop)</i>	Bonn + virtual
Apr 1-2	Global Innovation Summit 2025 at Hannover Messe	Hannover + virtual
May 13-14	3 <sup>rd</sup> EG/EB meeting	Toronto + virtual
Jun 11-13	3 <sup>rd</sup> network meeting <i>(incl. thematic workshop)</i>	Montréal + virtual

**Chair Persons**



**Rudolf Haggemüller**  
Eureka President



**David Lisk**  
Eureka Vice President



**Antonio Schmandke**  
Eureka Vice President



**Barbara Betz**  
NPC Chair



**Sonia Nour**  
NPC Co-Chair

**High Level Representatives**



**Melanie Rüter**  
HLR | Deputy Director BMBF



**Mitch Davies**  
HLR | President NRC



**Sandra Gundlach**  
Deputy HLR | BMBF



**Melanie Cullins**  
Deputy HLR | NRC

**National Project Coordinators**



**Eric Holdrinet**  
NPC Eureka & Eurostars



**Stefanie Bartels-Schmies**  
NPC Eurostars



**Michaela Holz**  
NPC Eureka

**Chair Team**



**Alexandra Pohl**  
Head of Chair Team



**Ryan Hordy**  
Head of Chair Team



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[eureka2024-25.com](http://eureka2024-25.com)

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