EXECUTIVE CLUB

14TH EDITION

EXECUTIVE INNOVATION Forum

21.10.2026 STARA ZAJEZDNIA CRACOW

EXECUTIVE CLUB

14TH EDITION, 21 OCTOBER 2026, STARA ZAJEZDNIA KRAKÓW

GOAL:

The aim of the conference is to highlight the role of innovation, artificial intelligence and digital transformation in the context of economic growth, improving the quality of life, as well as the competitiveness of the Polish economy. Innovative products and services make it possible to open up to new markets and strengthen the country's position on the international stage. Thanks to this Polish companies are able to acquire customers worldwide, which contributes to export growth and expansion. By investing in research and development, Polish companies are able to develop advanced technologies and solutions that allow them to compete on the global market. By organising the conference in cooperation with the Warsaw University of Technology, we want to show that Poland can attract more and more investors by building a strong innovation ecosystem. Innovation also allows the economy to develop towards a more sustainable future, reducing dependence on natural resources through the development of alternative energy sources and new materials. Digital transformation is nowadays the basis of a modern organisation. Without advanced tools and technologies, such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, the internet of things, companies lose competitiveness. Artificial intelligence (AI) is playing an increasingly important role in business, helping companies to optimise processes and increase efficiency. With the development of technology and widespread access to the internet, institutions are increasingly vulnerable to cyber-attacks, so we will also touch on the topic of cyber security as a key element in protecting systems and devices from threats. Executive Innovation Forum is an event that promotes a culture of innovation, creative thinking and entrepreneurship. We provide inspiration for entrepreneurs to create new companies that generate jobs and contribute to the economy.

MAIN TOPICS:

- Innovations in the energy sector
- AI and industrial automation
- Local content and technological independence
- Next-generation cybersecurity

TARGET GROUPS:

- Executives from a wide range of industries who aim to increase the competitiveness of their organisations through AI implementation, process automation, digitisation and technological innovation
- Managers and leaders responsible for innovation, product development and implementation of digital transformation strategies
- HR managers, CIOs, COOs, CTOs, systems architects and artificial intelligence specialists
- Academia, research institutes and those involved in education and the implementation of artificial intelligence technologies and digital platforms in education
- Innovative start-ups and private investors

The conference is accompanied by an evening award gala, the 'Innovation Diamonds'.

SELECTED GUESTS FROM PAST EDITIONS:

Nancy Giordano – one of the top futurists in the world, lector at Singularity University and curator of TEDx in Austin, **Peter Cochrane** – Professor at University College London, **Sony Kapoor** – Director and Re-Define think tank, CEO at Court Jesters Consulting, **Timothy Garton Ash**, profIT – historian, professor at Oxford University, **Guy Standing**, profIT – author, professor at University of London, **Eamon Gilmore** – former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland, **Pedro Videla**, profIT – IESE Business School, **Patrick Barwise**, profIT – London Business School, **Chris Lowney** – economist, author, former jesuit and Managing Director at J.P. Morgan, **Paddy Miller** – Managing professor at IESE school of business, **Giuliano Amato** – former Prime Minister of Italy, **José María Aznar** – former Prime Minister of Spain, **Pat Cox** – President of the European Parliament V term, **Joschka Fischer** – former Deputy Chancellor były Wicekanclerz, Minister of Foreign Affairs in Germany, 1998-2005, **Alfred Gusenbauer** – former Chancellor of Austria, **Horst Köhler** – President of Germany, 2004-2010, **Ivan Mikloš** – former Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia, **Charles Handy**, profIT – Irish theorist of managing, **Santiago de la Cierva and Mike Rosenberg** – professors at IESE Business School, **Tomáš Sedláček** – Charles University in Prague.

BEFORE PARTY BY NOWY STYL – EXECUTIVE INNOVATION FORUM

20.10.2026, OFFICE INSPIRATION CENTRE – NOWY STYL

19:00 – 19:30 **Guest registration**
19:30 – 19:45 **Formal welcome and short speech by Nowy Styl**
19:45 – 20:45 **Optional showroom tour**
20:45 – 23:00 **Networking banquet**

AGENDA

21.10.2026, STARA ZAJEZDNIA KRAKÓW

09:30 **Registration**
10:00 **Opening of the Conference**
10:15 **Inaugural Speech:** Piotr Arak, PhD – Chief Economist, VeloBank "Pawn, board, or player: Poland and Europe's place in the AI race"
10:30 **Case Study:** Agnieszka Hrynkiewicz-Sudnik – Consulting Director, Ayming Polska, and Wojciech Kosiński – Vice President of the Management Board, Euvic "How to Finance the Scaling of a Technology Company: From R&D Investment to Acquisitions"

10:45 **Panel 1: Innovations in the energy sector**

- The energy sector as the foundation of Europe's competitiveness. How will the availability of affordable, stable and green energy affect industrial development, investment and Europe's position in relation to the US and China?
- Can the development of AI become a catalyst for innovation in the energy sector? How can automated grid management and predictive systems optimise energy consumption in industry? Collaboration between Big Tech and energy suppliers.
- Innovations in financing the energy transition. How can new energy technologies be effectively financed given high capital costs and regulatory uncertainty? The role of banks, funds, investors and public funding.
- Energy storage and system flexibility. Will the development of battery-based storage, hydrogen technologies and dispersed sources change the current model of the energy market?
- Energy you don't have to buy. How can new energy efficiency and energy management requirements reduce business operating costs?

Moderator: Grzegorz Żarski – CEO, Voltia Insights
Speakers:

- Tomasz Bendlewski – Vice President of the Management Board, Asseco Poland
- Tomasz Burzyński – President of the Management Board, Ekoenergia
- Aleksandra Kiedrzyńska, PhD, Eng – Expert in the Strategic Management Department, National Centre for Research and Development
- Henryk Kubiczek – President of the Management Board, TAURON Nowa Energia
- Paweł Rychlewicz – Project Manager, Energy Efficiency Department, National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE)

11:45 **Networking break**
12:15 **Case study:** Daniel Hutyra – Technical Team Lead, Data Platform, IBM Polska "From Scattered Knowledge to Answers in Minutes: How to Leverage AI in the Security Questionnaire Process?"

12:30 **Panel 2: AI and industrial automation**

- Which technologies will shape industry and the economy between 2030 and 2040? Will artificial intelligence, robotisation and data analytics become the cornerstone of competitiveness for modern enterprises?
- The reindustrialisation of Europe. Does Poland have a chance to become a hub for modern, automated and low-carbon industry? How can high energy costs, regulatory pressure and global competition be reconciled with the need to rebuild manufacturing capacity?
- AI and automation in practice. Which implementations are already delivering the greatest business value to enterprises today? How are new technologies transforming models of production management, supply chains and operational efficiency?
- Strategic technologies and digital sovereignty. Is Europe capable of building its own global technological and industrial platforms, or will it remain dependent on solutions from the US and Asia? What industrial, energy and regulatory policies does the European economy need today?

Moderator: Piotr Dardziński,PhD – Director of the Innovation Center, Warsaw University of Technology
Speakers:

- Tomasz Dziki – Vice President of the Management Board, Britenet
- Zsolt Fekete – President of the Management Board, Algotech Polska
- Wiesław Jan Hałucha, PhD – President of the Management Board, Alventa
- Sławomir Kumka – Executive Director of Software Development (Financial Transactions & Insight), Managing Director, IBM Poland R&D Labs
- Marcin Kruk, PhD – R&D, Chief Medical Office, Pfizer
- Borys Skraba – CEO, Strix Poland
- Andrzej Szałek, PhD, DSc, Eng – Advisor to the Management Board, Toyota Central Europe

13:45 **Lunch**
14:45 **Case study:** Gabriel Krynicki – Head of AI, BPX "One-person team – Five AI models, a production system in 30 days, the AI-First methodology in practice"
15:00 **Case study:** Bartłomiej Stempień – Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, BLACKFISH "Two technologies, one goal: protecting people and infrastructure. Modular shelters and an anti-drone system – a BLACKFISH DEFENCE case study"

15:15 **Panel 3: Local content and technological independence**

- Is local content an opportunity to build Poland's technological advantage? How can we leverage the presence of international corporations to develop local competencies, suppliers, and technological resources without limiting access to global know-how?
- Technologies and know-how are coming to Poland. How can they be retained? How can investments combining foreign capital with Polish manufacturing lead to a sustainable improvement in technological competencies and market development?
- Can local content be a two-way investment in competencies? What conditions must be met for the presence of global companies in Poland to translate not only into production and jobs, but also into knowledge transfer?
- Large-scale public investments as a catalyst for innovation and the development of national competencies. How can public procurement be designed to promote new technologies, the development of local supply chains, and the transfer of know-how?

Moderator: Andrzej Szarata, PhD, DSc, Eng – Professor, Rector, Cracow University of Technology
Speakers:

- Andrzej Bułka – President of the Management Board, Fracht FWO Polska
- Piotr Frankowski – Managing Director, Ayming Polska
- Paweł Śmigla – Member of the Management Board, Commercial Director, Mostostal Kraków
- Jarosław Tokarczuk – Management Board Representative for Local Content, Enea
- Patryk Świrski – Member of the Management Board for Operations, Fabryka Kotłów "SEFAKO"

16:15 **Networking break**
16:30 **Case study:** Anna Sierakowska – CCO, Kastell "ROBOTIZATION, IoT, and EFFICIENCY in your company. How new technologies are transforming the economics of cleaning operations"

16:45 **Panel 4: Next-generation cybersecurity**

- How can companies defend themselves against cyberattacks? Threat detection systems (SIEM, IDS/IPS), real-time monitoring of networks and machines, in-house SOC teams or outsourcing.
- Data security and business continuity. How do data centers, cloud solutions and backups help mitigate the impact of cyberattacks and quickly restore systems?
- Cyber insurance as part of a company's resilience strategy. Can an insurance policy effectively mitigate the financial impact of a cyberattack? How can companies assess risk and tailor coverage to their level of cybersecurity?
- Digitized civil defense and protective infrastructure. How can modular shelters, autonomous systems and anti-drone technologies strengthen the resilience of communities, industry and critical infrastructure?

Moderator: Tomasz Jaworski – Cybersecurity and Digital Transformation Expert, Palo Alto Networks
Speakers:

- Mateusz Bartoszcze – Attorney-at-law, Deputy Director of the Kraków Branch, EIB
- Grzegorz Łazęcki – President of the Management Board, IT Systems and Solutions
- Andrzej Majczyk – Co-founder and Managing Director, BLACKFISH
- Michał Popiół – Head of Cloud Center of Excellence, APN Promise
- Radosław Potera – CTO, Atman

EVENING GALA "INNOVATION DIAMONDS"
19:30 **Registration for the Gala and Networking Cocktail**
20:00 **Grand Opening of the Gala**
20:10 **Speech:** Rafał Ohme – Vice-Chairman of the Executive Club Council, Professor, Stellenbosch Business School in Cape Town, Chairman, Future Ready Mindset "Innovative Mindset of Future Leaders"
20:25 **Awards Ceremony**
21:15 – 24:00 **Evening Banquet**

* The Organizer reserves the right to make changes in the Agenda

EXECUTIVE INNOVATION
Forum 2026

PRELEGENTS



PIOTR ARAK, PhD
Chief Economist,
VeloBank
SPEECH



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Asseco Poland



ANDRZEJ BUŁKA
President of the Management Board,
Fracht FWO Polska



TOMASZ BURZYŃSKI
President of the Management Board,
Ekoenergia



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Director of the Innovation Center,
Warsaw University of Technology
MODERATOR



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Managing Director,
Ayming Polska



WIESŁAW JAN HAŁUCHA, PhD
President of the Management Board,
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Ayming Poland
SPEECH



TOMASZ JAWORSKI
Cybersecurity Director, Healthcare Sector,
Paloalto Networks
MODERATOR



DANIEL HUTYRA
Data Technical Sales Leader,
IBM Polska
SPEECH



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Expert in the Strategic
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National Centre for Research
and Development



WOJCIECH KOSIŃSKI
Vice President of the Management Board,
Euvic
SPEECH



GABRIEL KRYNICKI
Head of AI,
BPX
SPEECH



MARCIN KRUK, PhD
R&D, Chief Medical Office,
Pfizer



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Managing Director,
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GRZEGORZ ŁAZĘCKI
President of the Management Board,
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EXECUTIVE INNOVATION
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PRELEGENTS



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Co-founder and Managing Director,
BLACKFISH



prof. RAFAŁ OHME
Vice-Chairman of the Executive Club Council,
Professor at Stellenbosch Business School in Cape Town,
Chairman of FirmMindset and iCode

SPEECH



MICHAŁ POPIÓŁ
Head of Cloud Center of Excellence,
APN Promise



RADOSŁAW POTERA
CTO,
Atman



PAWEŁ RYCHLEWICZ
Project Manager,
Energy Efficiency Department,
National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE)



ANNA SIERAKOWSKA
CCO,
Kastell

SPEECH



BARTŁOMIEJ STEMPIEŃ
Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer,
BLACKFISH

SPEECH



BORYS SKRABA
CEO,
Strix Poland



prof. ANDRZEJ SZARATA, Ph.D., Eng
Rector, Cracow University of Technology

MODERATOR



ANDRZEJ SZAŁEK, DSc, Eng
Advisor to the Management Board,
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PAWEŁ ŚMIGLA
Członek Zarządu,
Dyrektor Pionu Handlowego,
Mostostal Kraków



PATRYK ŚWIRSKI
Member of the management board for operations,
Fabryka Kotłów "SEFAKO"



JAROSŁAW TOKARCZUK
Pełnomocnik Zarządu ds.
Local Content,
Enea



GRZEGORZ ŻARSKI
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MODERATOR

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