

Canadian-German Eureka Co-Chair 2024–2025

Co-chair year
in review

#furthertogether



A year of shared leadership to advance sustainable innovation across borders

The Canadian-German Eureka co-chair marked a historic milestone: for the first time in the network's 40-year history, two countries had jointly led the network. This partnership reflected the deep trust and shared commitment between our nations – and it demonstrated the power of collaboration in advancing global research and innovation.

Together, we delivered great results. A highlight was our funding initiative on circular value creation, uniting 17 countries across Europe, North and South America, and Asia. By investing in innovative R&D projects that embed circularity into products, supply chains, and business strategies, we are shaping the future of value creation – to make it more sustainable, digital and resilient.

Our work as co-chairs also expanded Eureka's reach and impact with Brazil joining the network, and deepened the synergies with the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. This strengthened Eureka's role as a platform for addressing global challenges that no country can tackle alone.



We sincerely thank all Eureka partners and stakeholders whose dedication made this year a success. Canada and Germany remain strongly committed to advancing co-innovation and strengthening Eureka's mission to drive collaborative R&D across the globe.



Dorothee Bär

Federal Minister of Research,
Technology and Space, Germany



Mélanie Joly

Minister of Industry and Minister
responsible for Canada Economic
Development for Quebec Regions, Canada

Background

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, Canada and Germany chaired the Eureka network. The Canadian-German co-chair was jointly led by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) of Germany and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC). The implementation was supported by the Eureka office of the BMFTR at the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

“This year has set Eureka on an upward trajectory”

Rudolf Hagggenmüller and Brit Helle in conversation about the Canadian-German co-chair year

[Brit] Rudolf, you have a long and distinguished history with Eureka. In your view, how has Eureka evolved, and why is it still as relevant today as in 1985?

[Rudolf] *Eureka was built on lasting founding principles of fostering international collaboration and competitiveness that, to this day, reflect the needs of its economies and innovators. For 40 years, it has connected people through trust, cooperation and partnership; values that are, in these critical times, more vital than ever. These have remained constant even as we introduce new flexible programmes to support SMEs through every step of their innovation journey, and a geographic scope that no other network matches. This year alone, we were able to launch a Fast Track to the European Innovation Council Accelerator scheme for Eurostars alumni SMEs, welcome Brazil as a new country and renew Singapore and South Africa’s association to Eureka.*

[Brit] This year was the first time in Eureka’s history that two countries have formed a co-chair. What were some of the surprising benefits of the Canada and Germany alliance?

[Rudolf] *In the co-chair programme, we outlined ambitious activities that complemented each country’s strengths. We have had only good experiences in this endeavour thanks largely to the coherence between the two teams and the Eureka Secretariat. An unexpected benefit was learning about each other’s structures, people and funding processes; the teams in both countries have certainly leveraged that knowledge going forward. At Eureka-level and beyond, we have forged lasting relationships between Canada and Germany. At the opening of Hannover Messe, the message from our respective politicians was that we need to continue this cooperation beyond the co-chair and Eureka. And Brit, how have you experienced this co-chair period?*

[Brit] Canada and Germany leading Eureka in a co-chair sent a strong signal to our partners and the outside world of our relevance. Following this tenure, other countries see the benefit of taking on the chair in the coming years. Despite pressure on budgets everywhere, Eureka is growing. When it comes to project generation and impact, this year has set Eureka on an upward trajectory. Eureka’s network mobilised to launch more calls for projects in a single-year period than ever before. We are championing emerging technology areas thanks to several thematic calls on quantum and lightweighting technologies, disaster resilience, response and recovery solutions and the co-chair’s flagship circular value creation initiative. With all calls for projects together involving over 40 Eureka countries, we await impactful results. Another major achievement was the renewal of Eureka’s Clusters programme and five Clusters licenses for the next seven years. On consolidating this framework, we anticipate increased project generation and, ultimately, new Eureka Clusters in the future.

[Rudolf]

This year's events were truly impactful; none more so than the Global Innovation Summit. With Canada as a partner country at Hannover Messe in 2025, this could not have worked out better for Eureka. Brit, what other event highlights stood out for you?

[Brit]

The Bonn Conference was a great success; the engagement of high-level speakers has had a positive impact on our positioning. Similarly, our Brussels-based event, Innovative Europe: SMEs and their crucial role in driving European competitiveness, made waves in the policy bubble here. We presented convincing examples of project results and heard endorsements of Eureka's impact from OECD and European Commission speakers. Of course, we also travelled to Web Summit and the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCH-nology (SWITCH) with SME representatives. An impact analysis confirmed the strength of these international missions in facilitating contacts between innovators. The legacy of the Canada and Germany co-chair is a new tradition of sharing Eureka success stories at the start of our meetings. Of the projects presented this year, which did you find the most inspirational?

[Rudolf]

This is something I would look forward to ahead of all our meetings. For me, Eureka is about market-oriented projects that deliver tangible impact, and we learned a great deal about the variety and scale of successes Eureka has supported.

I was particularly interested in how AI is playing a role in Eureka innovations. One CELT-IC-NEXT project applied AI to monitor the usage of mobile networks. When piloting the project in Türkiye, the consortium achieved 10% energy savings. Another great example was a Portuguese startup that has developed an AI-powered fleet maintenance platform in a Eurostars project. The company has become a market leader in this area.

I often say that Eureka is about happiness, and without a doubt, these projects developing tangible successes and products, processes and services for the market demonstrate this.



Rudolf Haggemüller

Eureka President 2024/25



Brit Helle

Director-General, Eureka Network

Key achievements of the Canadian-German Co-Chair

Circular value creation:

Eureka as an international innovation think tank

Eureka is uniquely positioned to bring together stakeholders from the public sector, industry and research, to foster collaborative and technology-based solutions for challenges which transcend borders and continents. Canada and Germany aimed to leverage the network's full potential. Harnessing the global reach of Eureka, the co-chair launched a targeted international initiative to enable innovative R&D collaborations centred on circular value creation.

Design thinking across borders

A design thinking approach was applied to substantiate the pathways toward circular value creation, as well as the needs and requirements of businesses, innovators, and society. Over the course of the year, the co-chair held six design thinking workshops, involving around 50 international experts from 11 Eureka countries. Moreover, the co-chair organised and participated in 6 events in Canada and Germany including a space dedicated to discussions, expert sessions, pitches and networking focused on circular value creation at the Global Innovation Summit 2025.

A multilateral call to shape the future of value creation

This novel approach culminated in one of the key successes of the Canadian-German co-chair: a total of 17 countries from Europe, North and South America and Asia launched a multilateral Eureka call for collaborative R&D. Participating countries include Austria, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Portugal, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, and Ukraine. This marked a milestone for international co-innovation shaping the future of value creation – to be sustainable, digital and resilient.



Melanie Rütter

Eureka High Level Representative Germany,
Deputy Director BMFTR



Impactful innovations for the value creation of the future require cross-border cooperation in research and technology. Eureka has proven to be the ideal platform for this. Without the power of the network, a call for R&D projects with such international reach would not have been possible.”



More about
the Eureka call
on circular value
creation



Expanding Eureka's role within European and international innovation ecosystems

Canada and Germany focussed on strategically expanding and strengthening Eureka's position within the European and international landscape of ecosystems. During their co-chair period, they achieved significant results, including in particular:

International dimension of Eureka strengthened

Building on the excellent preparation of the preceding chairs of Portugal and Türkiye, the co-chair finalised the association of Brazil to the Eureka network. The association agreement was signed and celebrated on 2 December 2024 at the Canadian Embassy to Germany in Berlin. Partnering with the largest economy of South America was another milestone in the internationalisation of Eureka. Moreover, Singapore and South Africa were successfully re-associated in June 2025, thus ensuring their continuing involvement as valued Eureka countries and once again highlighting Eureka's significance as a truly global network.

Cross-border innovation partnerships forged at the Global Innovation Summit

A key highlight of the co-chair year was the Global Innovation Summit (GIS), held from 1–2 April 2025 during Hannover Messe, one of the world's largest industrial fairs. GIS2025 attracted more than 900 participants from over 50 countries, including government ministers, industry leaders, and R&D experts – all with an interest in international collaboration and co-innovation. Focused on cross-border matchmaking and B2B engagement, the GIS2025 programme featured plenary sessions with global leaders in co-innovation, technology and circular value creation, over 110 pitching sessions, the Eureka Korea Day, a dedicated track on circular value creation and companies from around the world, including delegations from several Eureka member countries.



Mitch Davies

Eureka High Level Representative Canada,
President of the National Research Council of Canada



Our partnership with Germany has shown what we can achieve through shared leadership, mutual respect, and a common vision – we truly do go further together. Our goals were always clear: to intensify global cooperation, enhance competitiveness for all our members, and contribute meaningfully to ground-up innovation across our nations.”



Celebrating the association of Brazil



Networking at GIS2025



Closing ceremony of the GIS2025



Key note by Manuel Heitor at Bonn Conference



Bonn Conference in the former plenary hall of the German Bundestag

Ensuring a sustainable strategy and governance of the network

Canada and Germany were committed to shaping the strategic priorities and the efficient functioning of Eureka. Significant accomplishments in this regard include:

New Eureka long-term strategy

During the co-chair period, a dedicated working group developed a new long-term strategy for the Eureka network with five key objectives: providing effective instruments, strengthening Eureka's position, developing the Eureka network, reaching out to partner organisations, and pursuing operational excellence. Moreover, the working group introduced a roadmap 2025–2029 as an important planning and implementation tool that will be updated on an annual basis. The new Eureka long-term strategy and the roadmap were adopted at the network meetings in Montréal (June 2025).

Troika format re-vitalised

In order to ensure strategic continuity, the Canadian-German co-chair worked closely with both the preceding chair of Türkiye and the upcoming Swiss chair, within the framework of the Troika. During the co-chair year, Canada and Germany organised three in-person meetings of the Troika including the Eureka Secretariat and established the practice of holding these meetings on the day before the regular meetings of Eureka's Executive Board.

Ensuring financial stability

The Canadian-German co-chair year brought significant accomplishments to sustainably ensure the financial stability of Eureka. Two key results were the strengthened role of the Risk & Audit Committee and the establishment of a reserve fund. Moreover, the financial reporting and the membership fee calculation were adjusted.

New meeting formats for better outcomes

Eureka network meetings are essential governance mechanisms that bring together delegates from the entire "Eureka family" to make key strategic decisions, such as setting the programme direction, new calls and partnerships.

Under the leadership of Canada and Germany, these meetings were further enhanced through the introduction of innovative and engaging formats. This included in particular the "NPC Open Hour" as a new open discussion space for the National Projects Coordinators of Eureka countries and a new tradition of opening all meeting with engaging pitches on recent success stories.

The Canadian-German co-chair organised three Eureka network meetings in Berlin (3–5 December 2024), Bonn (5–7 March 2025) and Montréal (11–13 June 2025). The Montréal meetings were a historic milestone, marking the first time the network meetings have taken place outside Europe.





Eureka in action 2024/25

Eureka's mission is to stimulate cross-border innovation that boosts sustainable growth, creates jobs and strengthens competitiveness. To achieve this, the network runs a unique portfolio of funding and support programmes tailored to the needs of organisations at every stage of their innovation journey. During the Canadian-German co-chair year, Eureka delivered strong results across all of these programmes, reinforcing its role as a key enabler of international collaboration and innovation impact.

Network Projects

Network Projects is Eureka's original bottom-up cooperation programme. Participants are free to decide their technological focus, and applications are accepted year-round. The programme model is also used as an efficient platform for ministries and funding agencies to launch bilateral and multilateral calls for projects with dedicated funds.

During the co-chair period, there were seven bilateral calls for projects as well as five multilateral calls with a focus on quantum technologies, lightweighting, disaster resilience, circular value creation, and for linking up Eureka countries. These calls for Network Projects involved a total of 26 Eureka countries.

Eurostars

Eurostars amplifies the growth of innovative SMEs through its support of SME-led international R&D projects with close-to-market results. The programme is part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs, which is co-funded by 37 countries and the European Union through Horizon Europe.

During the co-chair period, two Eurostars calls were launched with a total of 1,236 applications for cross-border projects. Moreover, the Eureka Secretariat prepared a compilation of 12 company profiles demonstrating the impact of participating in both Eurostars and EIC Accelerator projects, as well as the synergies between these key European innovation funding programmes. The company profiles featured organisations based in eight countries and innovating in areas including ICT, medical technology, new materials, food technology, and agriculture.

Globalstars

Based on the simple mechanism of the Network Projects programme, the Globalstars initiative has proven to be an efficient system for global cooperation. Globalstars enables ministries and funding agencies to coordinate and dedicate funds for bilateral or multilateral calls for projects with countries or regions outside the Eureka network.

During the co-chair period, three successful Globalstars calls for projects were launched with the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) in Japan, the National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII) in Uruguay, and the Department of Industrial Technology (DoIT) in Taiwan.

Innowwide

Innowwide funds innovative SMEs to assess the viability of their commercial or research ambitions for internationalisation in a target country. Over a six-month period, SMEs work with local organisations to conduct feasibility studies for their innovative solutions. Innowwide is funded by the European Union as part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs. In the co-chair period, Eureka launched one of its annual Innowwide calls for projects, funding 70 projects.

Eureka Clusters

Eureka Clusters are industry-led international communities of large companies, SMEs, research organisations, universities, and end-users. They promote R&D and innovation in strategic technology areas that aim to meet market needs and solve economic, technological, and societal challenges. Clusters support participants to develop project ideas, build consortia, access funding, and offer regular and individual coaching and mentoring.

During the co-chair year, the five clusters (CELTIC-NEXT, Eurogia, ITEA, SMART, and Xecs) launched seven calls for projects and organised highly successful brokerage events for each of the calls. As a particular highlight, the CELTIC-NEXT celebrated its 21st anniversary at the 6G Conference in Berlin (2-4 July 2024) with high-level attendance from Germany and Canada.

Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator

During the co-chair year, the first-ever call of the Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator was launched in the second half of 2024. Eurostars-3 alumni SMEs can apply to skip step one of the EIC Accelerator application process, receive a no-risk evaluation of their project idea and expert feedback, and practice pitching live to a panel of expert evaluators. In late 2024 and early 2025, Eureka launched two further Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator calls, resulting in nine of the 24 companies that applied being recommended to progress in the process.

The Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator is part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs. The partnership is co-funded by the European Union through Horizon Europe.

Investment Readiness programme

Eureka implements investment readiness activities devised to help SMEs explore partnerships and investment opportunities with large corporates and corporate venture teams, and to introduce them to a new startup ecosystem or investors around the world. These activities are a combination of online sessions with corporates and sponsored participation in major international events.

Eureka hosted 14 online sessions with corporates during the co-chair period. The sessions led to selected SMEs pitching their solutions to challenges in one-to-one meetings with the corporates with the aim of establishing long-term partnerships. Moreover, five new corporates and venture capitalists joined the Investment Readiness programme: Alfa Laval, Eksim Ventures, İnci Holding, Infineon, and ZEISS Ventures. With these partnerships established, Eureka can facilitate more research and business connections for startups and scaleups.

Regarding international missions, Eureka sponsored the participation of SMEs and startups at two major events:

- Web Summit (Lisbon, 11 November 2024): 39 small and medium-sized enterprises from 15 countries and 15 women innovators attended Web Summit as part of Eureka's delegation. This was a great opportunity for the company representatives to benefit from networking with the global innovation ecosystem players the event attracts each year.
- Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH) (Singapore, 28 October 2024): In close cooperation with Eureka's Singaporean member, Enterprise Singapore, 40 companies were selected to attend SWITCH as part of Eureka's delegation. The companies connected with potential business and research and development project partners, venture capitalists, and investors.

Events

Eureka regularly hosts and attends policy and networking events for both stakeholders and beneficiaries. Key events during the Canadian-German co-chair period include:

Eureka goes Vilnius (Vilnius, 26 February 2025)

Over 100 researchers and innovators attended the Research Council of Lithuania's "Eureka goes Vilnius" event, giving more exposure to Eureka's programmes in the Baltic region. The success of this event evidenced an effective model for future Eureka events hosted by network ministries and funding agencies.

Science Business annual conference (Brussels, 5 February 2025)

At Science Business' annual conference, we reiterated Eureka's continued dedication to competitiveness through simplifying access to international collaboration and offering startups and scaleups support throughout their growth trajectory. Following the event, we established new connections with relevant policymakers and leading sustainability corporates.

European Partnership Stakeholder Forum (Brussels, 4-5 December 2024)

The community of European partnerships convened to discuss achievements, challenges, and strategic direction. The European Partnership on Innovative SMEs' objectives and outcomes were exhibited at this event, which welcomed over 250 participants from other partnerships.

Innovative Europe: SMEs and their crucial role in driving European competitiveness (Brussels, 5 November 2024)

At this biennial policy event, Eureka engaged over 100 actors at international and national level in discussions on SME growth, innovation networks, and Horizon Europe partnerships. We demonstrated the value Eureka brings to the European Innovation Ecosystems and strengthened relationships with other partnerships and Brussels-based associations.



Eureka at a glance



Eureka is the world's largest intergovernmental network of countries supporting international research, development, and innovation. The network of ministries and funding agencies, spanning 47 countries, provides companies of all sizes, universities, and research institutes with access to funding, business acceleration tools, and expert advice. This is aimed at stimulating innovation excellence and boosting economic growth, job creation, and competitiveness.



40

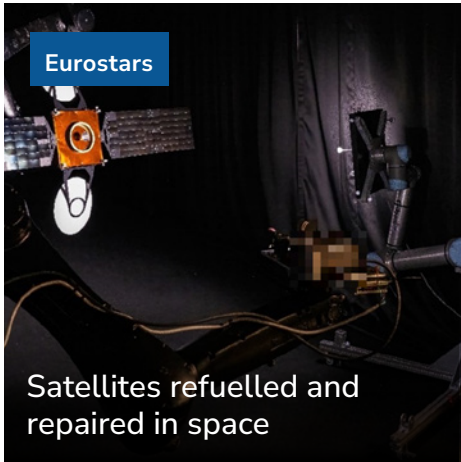
Billion euros public-private
investment mobilised

Explore



Success stories

Eurostars



Satellites refuelled and
repaired in space

Eureka Clusters



Saving energy with
artificial intelligence

Innowide



Recycling plastic waste
one river at a time

Greetings from the Canadian-German Co-Chair

We are reflecting on a co-chair year full of remarkable achievements.

Special thanks to our friends and partners in Canada and Germany, the dedicated and supportive Eureka Secretariat, and the fantastic colleagues throughout the Eureka family!





Federal Ministry
of Research, Technology
and Space



National Research
Council Canada

Conseil national de
recherches Canada

The Canadian-German co-chair 2024/25 was led by the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) of Germany and the National Research Council of Canada (NRC).

PICTURE CREDITS:

- page 2: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space
- page 3: Government of Canada
- page 4: Jens Schicke
- page 5: Jens Schicke
- page 6: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space - Uwe Voelkner (bundesfoto GbR)
- page 7: Photovision-DH GmbH; Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space - Uwe Voelkner (bundesfoto GbR)
- page 8: National Research Council of Canada
- page 9: Jens Schicke; Photovision-DH GmbH; Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space - Uwe Voelkner (bundesfoto GbR)
- page 11: Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space - Laurin Schmid (bundesfoto GbR); Frank Desgagnés, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space - Uwe Voelkner (bundesfoto GbR)
- page 15: Eureka Secretariat
- page 17: Blackswan Space, Unsplash - Luke Jones, RiverRecycle
- page 18: Frank Desgagnés



Σ eureka
Germany | Canada

