

01:30

01:30 PM
Opening & Welcome Remarks
Harald Holzer, *Managing Director, HIGHEST Innovation and Startup Center*
Prof. Dr. Tanja Brühl, *President of TU Darmstadt*
Kaweh Mansoori, *Minister of Economic Affairs of Hesse (video message)*
Holger Follmann, *Startup Representative for the State of Hesse*
Hanno Benz, *Mayor, Darmstadt—City of Science*

02:00

02:00 PM · Workshop
From Prototype to the Global Market: The EIC Accelerator as a Growth Booster for Startups and Deep Tech Spin-offs
Matthias Wurch, *National Contact Point for the EIC Accelerator*
Dagmar Heidenreiter-Gelov & Stephan Dillenberger, *EU Funding Program Consultants, Innovation Enterprise Europe Network Hessen / Hessen Trade & Invest GmbH*
Room 2.08 platinum

02:30 PM
Start-up Elevator Pitches

02:45 PM · Live-Podcast
Technology Reaches Market: How Cutting-Edge Research Becomes a Successful Deep-Tech Company
Prof. Dr. Tanja Brühl, *President of TU Darmstadt*
Prof. Dr. Markus Roth, *Co-Founder & Chief Scientific Officer, Focused Energy*

03:00

03:00 PM · Workshop
Eureka! Now What? – From Invention to Successful Tech Startup
Dr. Maximilian Knaus, *WSL Patent Attorneys*
Room 2.06 argentum

03:30 PM
Presentation of the TU Darmstadt xchange Award for Knowledge and Technology Transfer
Prof. Dr. Thomas Walther, *Vice President for Innovation & International Affairs, TU Darmstadt*

03:45 PM · Funding Spotlight
A Quick Overview of Funding Programs
with Hessen Ideen, Exist, ESA/BIC, Startup Secure, hessian.ai, EEN, push!, and others

04:00

04:00 PM · Internationale Keynote (Englisch)
Starting Is Easy. Scaling Is Hard. Why Deep Tech Is Different.
Rutvika Acharya Oloffson, *Co-Founder & CEO, caplyzer*

04:00 PM · Workshop
Beyond the Pitch – Your Cap Table Looks Great. Your Bank Cares About Something Else.
Mathias Krätzer and Sherwin Hilken, *ODDO BHF*
Room 2.08 platinum

04:30 PM
From Science to Scalable Startups – HIGHEST & FUTURY Company Builder Batch 1
Harald Holzer, *Managing Director, HIGHEST Innovation and Startup Center*
Thomas Glaser, *Futury GmbH*

04:40 PM
Female Founders Talk „Ask me anything” (women only)
Rutvika Acharya Oloffson, *Co-Founder & CEO, caplyzer*
Caro Wagner, *Futury und Female Founders Alliance*
Simone Lühl, *Female Founders @ HIGHEST*
Wine Bar

04:50 PM · Investors Talk
Why we invested in...?
Carmen Rommel, *Co-Founder & COO, Biovox GmbH*
Tilman Petersen, *Investment Manager, HTGF*
in conversation with Harald Holzer, *Managing Director, HIGHEST*

05:00

05:10 PM · Interview
10 Years of INNODAY. What We’ve Accomplished. What We’ll Accomplish.
Prof. Dr. Peter Buxmann, *Unipreneur 2026, Chair of Business Informatics, TU DA*
Harald Holzer, *Managing Director, HIGHEST Innovation and Startup Center, TU Darmstadt*
Prof. Dr. Thomas Walther, *Vice President for Innovation & International Affairs, TU Darmstadt*
Melissa Ott, *Managing Director, Futury*

05:30 PM
Finals and Awards Ceremony for the TU Idea Competition
1-minute pitches by all finalists
Awards ceremony for the “Students” and “Researchers” categories, as well as special prizes from Merck, the Weiland Foundation, and hessian.ai

Mainstage

Pitch Corner

Workshops

