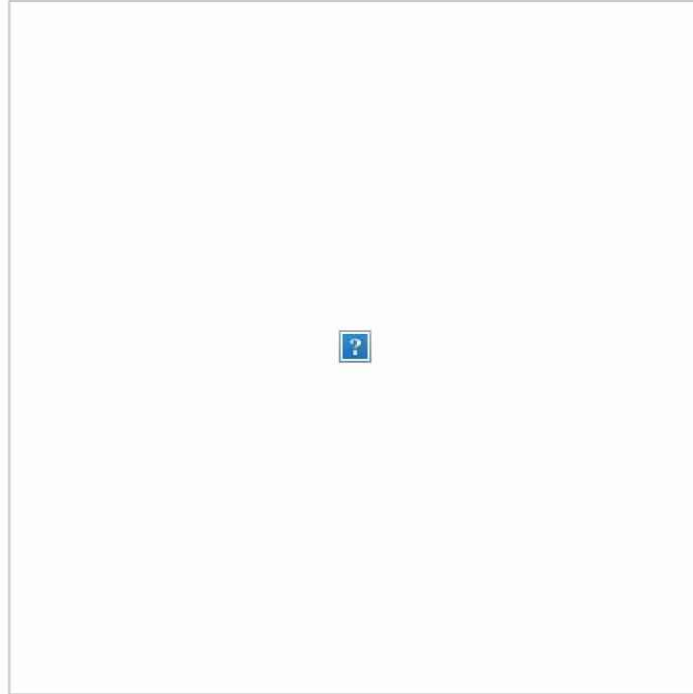
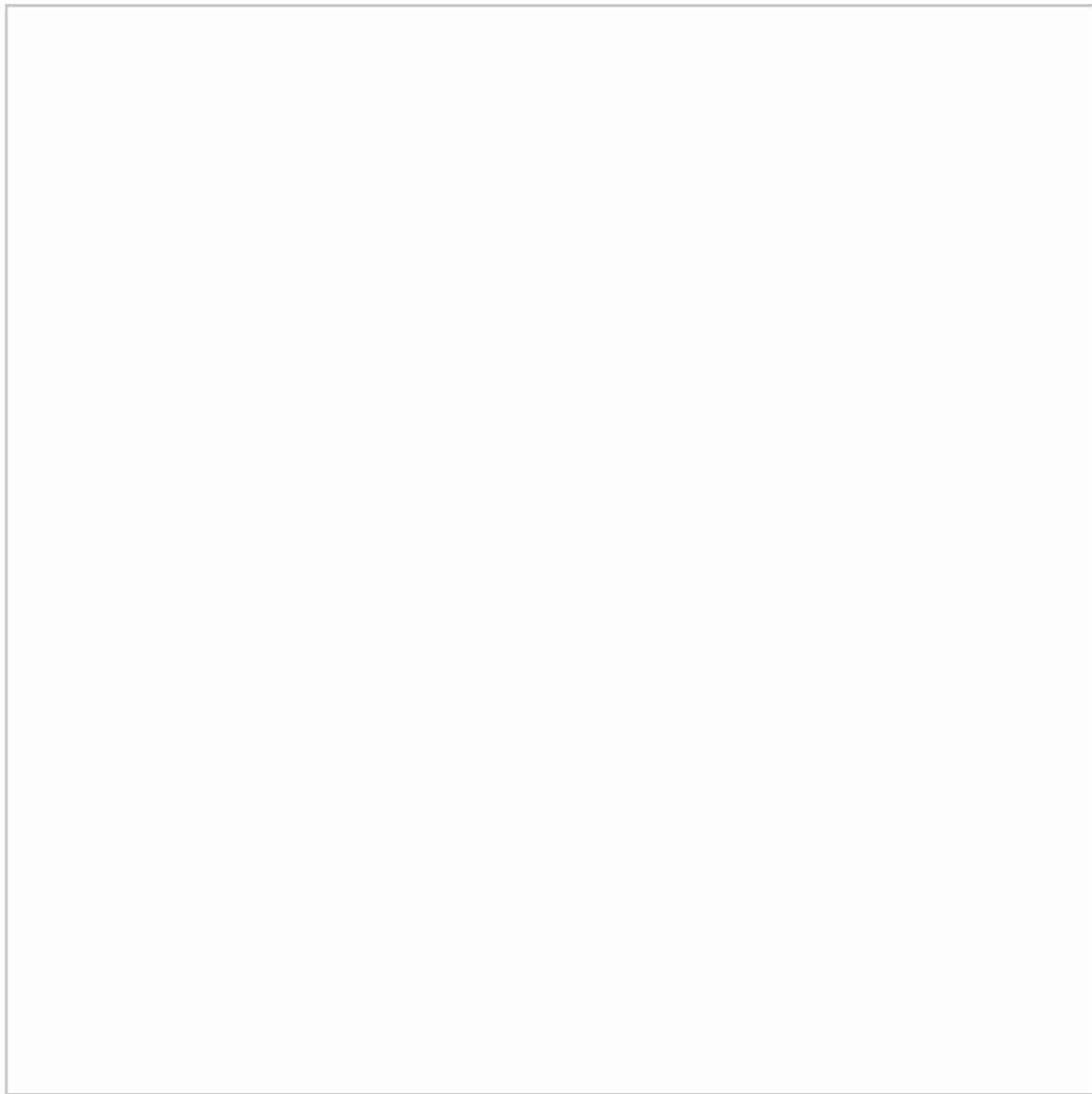


**From:** [Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Washington, DC](#)  
**To:** [Jayne Peters](#)  
**Subject:** The Delegation Debrief | January Edition  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026 10:00:55 AM

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**Dear DGIC Friends,**

**In the first Delegation Debrief of the year, we kick off 2026 with a look at key developments shaping the transatlantic business landscape. This month, we cover the latest tariff updates, share insights from the World Economic Forum 2026, and highlight emerging opportunities for German companies in the U.S. defense sector. We're also excited to share a brief update on DGIC's recent office move as we settle into a new space.**

## Focus on Greater Washington

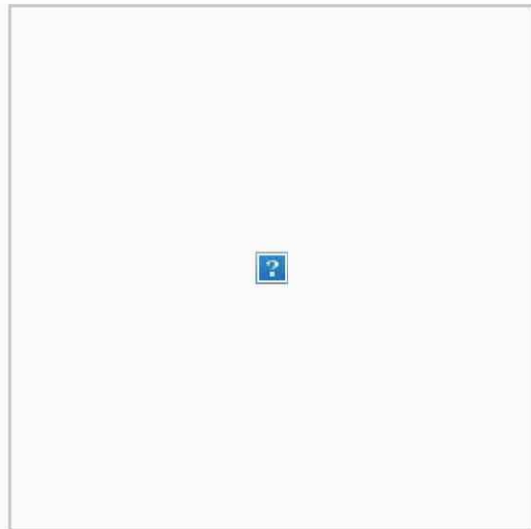
**Maryland's M4 Grants  
Strengthen  
Manufacturers Statewide**

A recent impact report highlighted

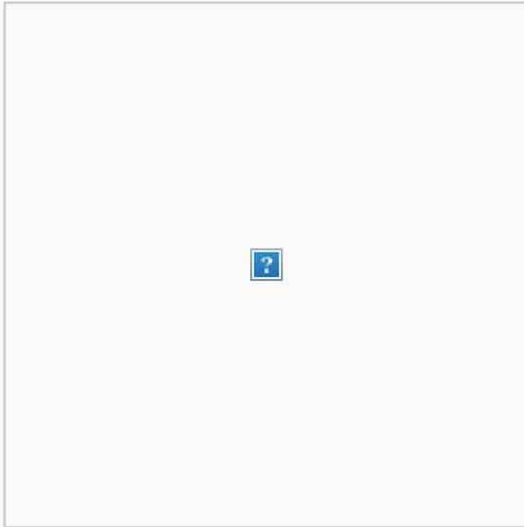
Maryland's Manufacturing (M4) Grant Program as a key driver of the state's manufacturing growth. Launched in 2023, the M4 Grant Program supports small and mid-sized manufacturers in upgrading and modernizing their operations, guaranteeing at least \$1 million in annual funding through FY2028. In FY25 alone, \$5 million was awarded to 43 manufacturers.

[Read more from Business Maryland](#)

*Image courtesy of unsplash.com | PTTI EDU*



## Economic Policy Highlights



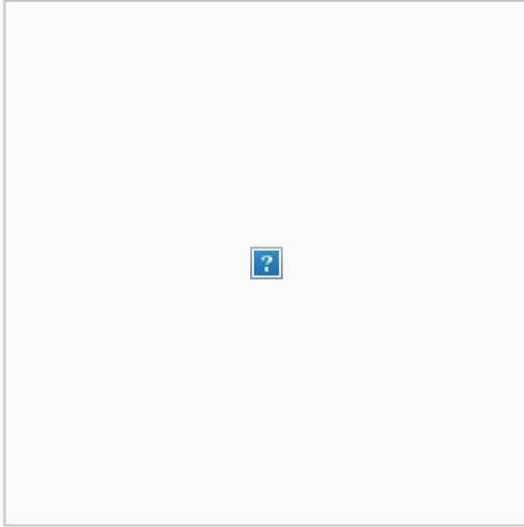
### **Trump Reverses on Tariff Threats**

As reported by the Representative of German Industry & Trade, President Trump said he will not move forward with the tariffs previously threatened on several European countries. This followed talks with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, which reportedly resulted in a “framework for a future agreement” on Greenland and the Arctic region. Although no formal details of the framework have been made public, the talks appear to have reduced immediate trade-related tensions.

Previously, Trump had maintained that U.S. oversight of Greenland was critical to national security and announced plans for an additional 10% tariff starting in February—set to increase to 25% in June—targeting six EU member states, as well as Norway and the United Kingdom. The pullback on these measures followed a move by European Parliament leaders to suspend progress on an EU–U.S. trade deal, with lawmakers characterizing the threatened tariffs as coercive.

[Read more from BBC](#)

*Image courtesy Flickr | ©2026 World Economic Forum /  
Benedikt von Loebell*

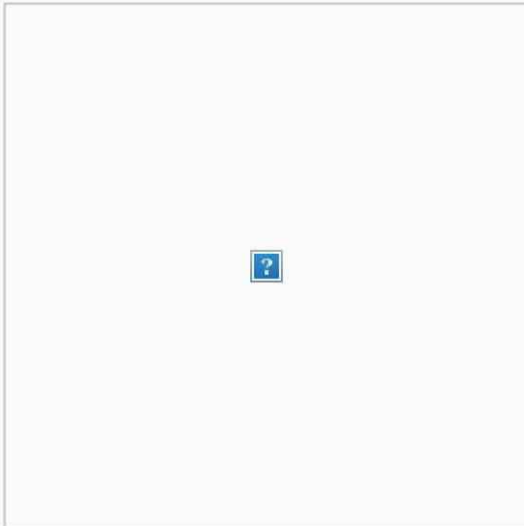


## **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting**

World leaders gathered in Davos last week for the World Economic Forum, under the theme "A Spirit of Dialogue." Topics like geopolitics and global order dominated the discussions, especially regarding U.S.-European debates over Greenland and trade policy. Artificial Intelligence also remains a central theme, with leaders examining AI's impacts on jobs, governance, and economic competitiveness.

[Read more from the World Economic Forum](#)

*Image courtesy unsplash.com | Evangeline Shaw*



## **U.S. Navy Expansion Opens Doors for German Companies**

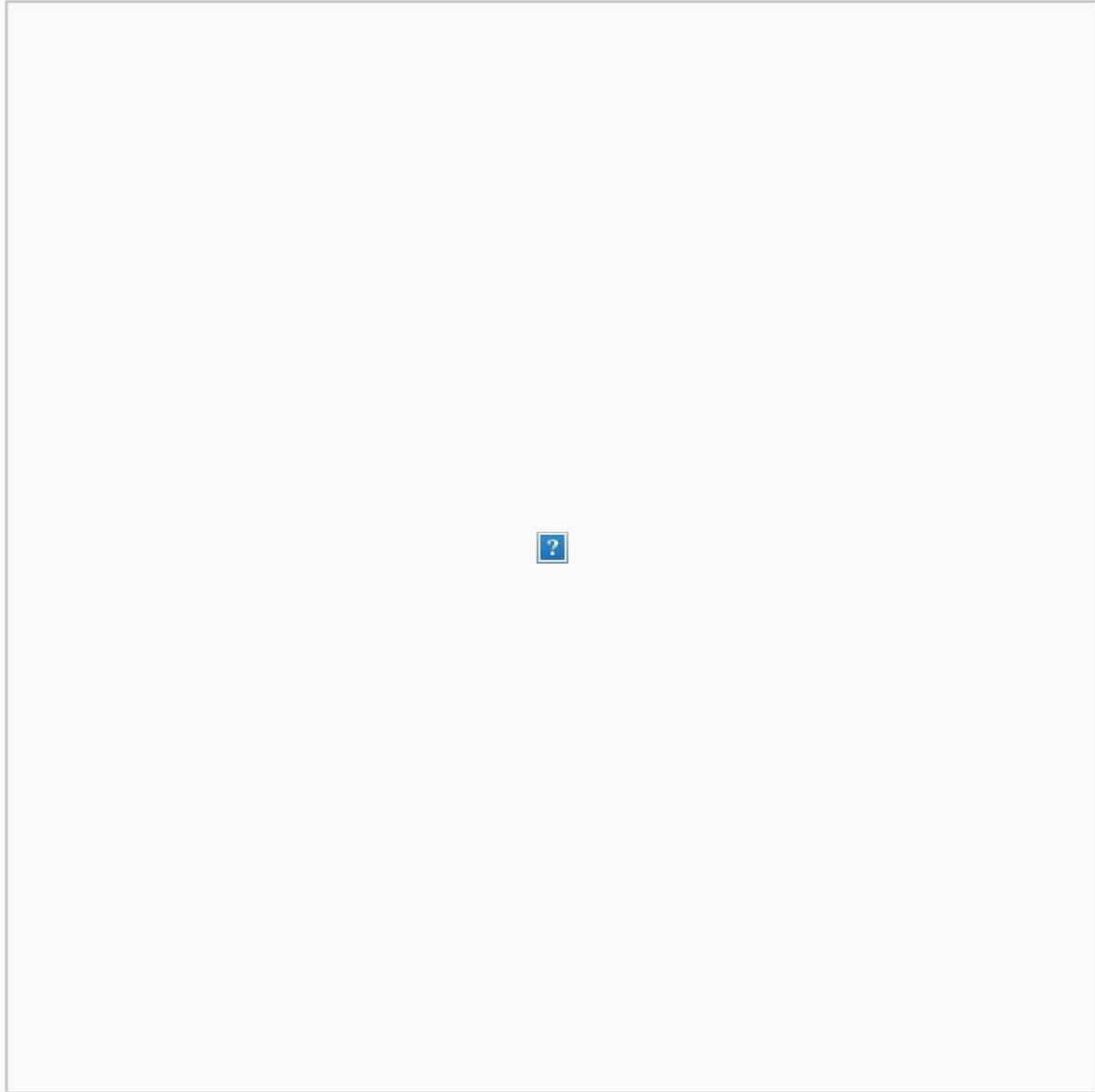
The U.S. Navy plans a major fleet expansion, aiming to acquire more than 360 ships over the next three decades and grow to nearly 400 vessels by 2054. According to the Congressional Budget Office, annual shipbuilding and procurement costs are projected at over \$40 billion, requiring a substantial increase in the Navy's budget over time. This creates openings for new suppliers, including foreign companies. German firms, in particular, may benefit, as many U.S. Navy tenders are open to NATO partners willing to meet local content requirements through U.S. investments or partnerships.

[Read more from our partner Germany Trade & Invest \(GTAI\) \(in German\)](#)

*Image courtesy unsplash.com | Alistair Covey*

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ICYMI



## **DGIC Moved!**

**1909 K St. Suite 750 NW  
Washington, DC 20006**

New year, new office! After a busy start to the year, we are getting settled into our new office and already enjoying the new space. As we continue to settle in, we look forward to welcoming partners, hosting conversations, and advancing transatlantic exchanges. This move marks an important step as we expand our programs and engagements in the year ahead. If you're in the area, we would be delighted to connect in person!

*Image courtesy marketplace.vts.com*

## Looking Ahead...



### **2026 German-American Executive Summit March 5-6 | New Orleans, LA**

**The German American Executive Summit is just five weeks away!**

The German American Executive Summit convenes leaders from the German-American business community nationwide, offering a high-impact forum to build new connections, deepen strategic partnerships, and advance transatlantic cooperation.

The results of the German American Business Outlook (GABO) survey will be unveiled for the first time at the Summit, taking place March 5–6, 2026, in New Orleans. As a joint initiative of all five German American Chambers of Commerce in the United States, the event brings together senior executives from diverse industries for two days of insight and

exchange. Program highlights include participation from leading German companies, a keynote address by German Ambassador Jens Hanefeld, and the German American Business Awards Gala Dinner recognizing excellence in transatlantic business.

[Agenda & Registration](#)

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**We'd love to hear from you! If your company has any exciting insights or topics you'd like us to cover in our newsletters, reach out to Jayne Peters!**

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