



Outlook

The Delegation Debrief | October Edition

From Delegation of German Industry and Commerce in Washington, DC <info@washington.ahk.de>

Date Wed 10/28/2026 10:03 AM

To Jayne Peters <Peters@washington.ahk.de>

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Delegation of German Industry and Commerce
in Washington, DC
Delegation der Deutschen Wirtschaft
in Washington, DC



Dear DGIC Friends,

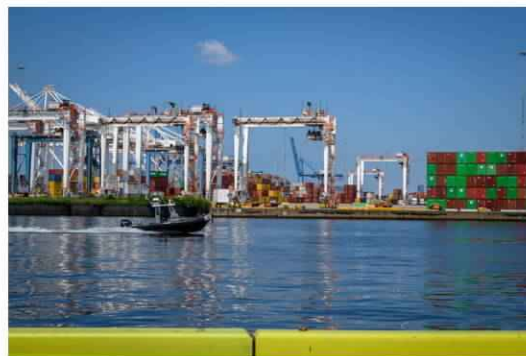
Developments shaping German-American relations, U.S. fiscal policy, and the maritime industry take center stage in this month's edition of the Delegation Debrief. With a new Executive Order signed by Maryland Governor Wes Moore, we discuss what this means for maritime expansion in the region. German-American Day, celebrated on October 6, also received recognition from the White House where the Trump Administration acknowledged the centuries-long transatlantic partnership between the two countries.

We also proudly highlight our Business Partner Lufthansa and their recently announced flight routes expansion between the U.S. and Germany coming in 2027. On the defense front, we recap our German-American Defense Happy Hour and a visit from Rhineland-Palatinate's Ministry of Economic Affairs, Tourism, Energy, and Climate Protection. Read on to learn more.

Focus on Greater Washington

Maryland governor signs executive order expanding maritime industry

Maryland is taking steps to strengthen its position as a maritime industry hub through a new state-led initiative to attract additional federal and commercial projects. Established by executive order, the Maryland Maritime Task Force will pursue new growth opportunities and support the state's existing \$10.2 billion maritime sector, which sustains approximately 115,000 jobs. Recent momentum includes Anduril Industries' planned \$3.7 billion investment in a new shipyard at Tradepoint Atlantic in Baltimore County, expected to support more than 14,000 jobs. The task force will collaborate with industry stakeholders to diversify Maryland's maritime economy and advance efforts to secure a federal Maritime Prosperity Zone designation, pending congressional legislation. These developments highlight opportunities for companies across shipbuilding, defense, shipping, logistics, and related industries.



[Read more from The Office of Governor Wes Moore](#)

Image courtesy David Trozzo, MDOT

Economic Policy Highlights



White House recognizes German-American contributions and transatlantic ties

In a Presidential Message, released on October 6 in recognition of German-American Day, the White House highlighted the enduring contributions of German immigrants and their descendants to the U.S. society, industry, agriculture, and national defense. The message traces this shared history to 1683 and also underscores the longstanding relationship between Germany and the United States, rooted in mutual respect and a shared interest in peace, security, and prosperity. In particular, the message highlights Germany's commitments to increasing defense spending with NATO and the potential for related investments to strengthen the transatlantic defense industrial base and create jobs in the U.S.

[Read more from The White House](#)

Image courtesy unsplash.com | Justin McFadden



Lufthansa Expands Transatlantic Connections in 2027

Our Business Partner Lufthansa is strengthening connectivity between Germany and the United States with two new nonstop routes launching in 2027. Beginning in May, Lufthansa will connect Frankfurt with Columbus, Ohio, three times per week, followed by a new Munich–Phoenix route starting in August. These additions are part of the Lufthansa Group's most extensive flight schedule expansion since 2020, offering travelers more options and improved connectivity across the globe. The new routes will make it easier for German and U.S. businesses to connect with partners, access key markets, and strengthen transatlantic economic ties. We look forward to seeing these new connections

take flight and further support German-American business relations.

[Read more from our Business Partner](#)

[Lufthansa](#)

Image courtesy Lufthansa



U.S. national debt and its implications for businesses

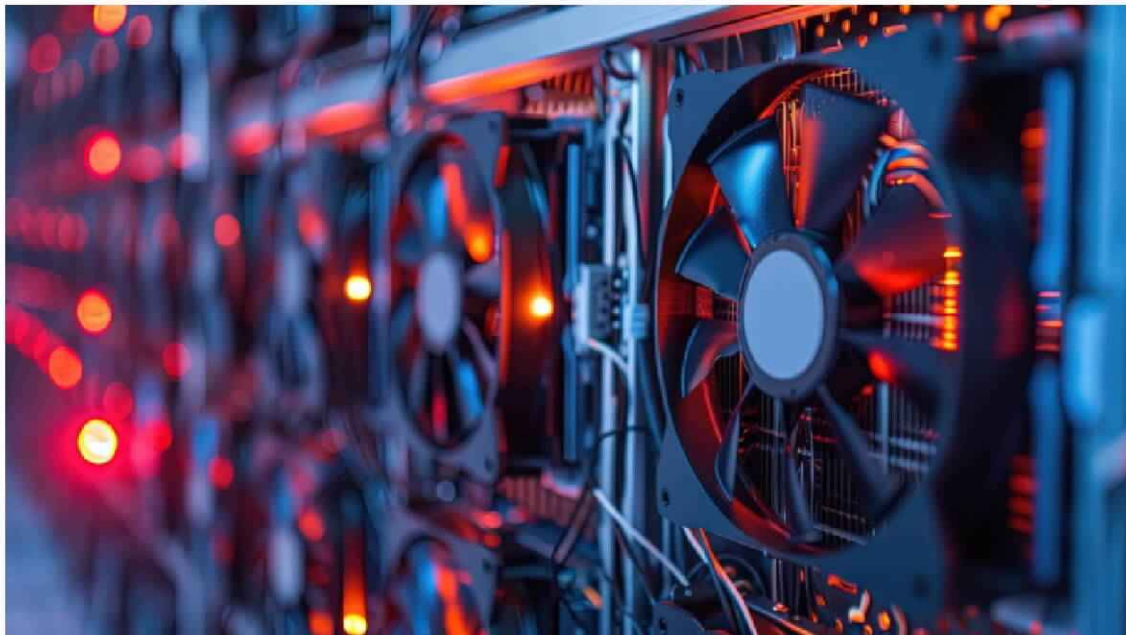
U.S. national debt surpassed \$40 trillion in August 2026, bringing fiscal sustainability and rising borrowing costs into greater focus. Higher interest payments are placing additional pressure on the federal budget, potentially influencing future spending priorities and economic policy. At the same time, continued investment in areas such as technology and infrastructure is contributing to U.S. economic growth, with growth of just over 2% projected for both 2026 and 2027. For international companies operating in the U.S. market, the evolving fiscal landscape highlights the importance of monitoring interest rates, trade policy, and potential changes in government spending. Tariffs may remain part of the policy toolkit for generating federal revenue, making trade developments an important consideration for foreign suppliers. Looking ahead, the trajectory of U.S. debt and the policy responses it prompts will be key factors shaping the broader economic environment for businesses and investors.

[Read more from our partners at Germany.](#)

[Trade & Invest \(in German\)](#)

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Upcoming Events



Expert Delegation on Energy Infrastructure for Data Centers | December 7-11, 2026

DGIC will bring a high-level expert delegation to Washington, DC/Northern Virginia and the San Francisco Bay Area to explore the rapidly evolving intersection of data centers and energy infrastructure. The program will examine how the United States is responding to soaring electricity demand driven by data center and AI growth, with a particular focus on grid capacity, energy supply, efficiency, resilience, and sustainability. Participants will engage with government representatives, utilities, data center operators, technology companies, industry associations, and research institutions through expert discussions, roundtables, and site visits. In Northern Virginia, the delegation will gain firsthand insights from one of the world's leading data center clusters and explore the opportunities and challenges associated with rapid expansion. In California, the focus will shift toward technology and innovation, including energy storage, microgrids, advanced cooling, and intelligent energy management. The trip will provide a platform for exchanging best practices and identifying lessons relevant to Germany as it expands its own data center capacity. The delegation is organized in corporation with the AHK USA - San Francisco as part of the German-American Energy Partnership.

More Information

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German-American Defense Happy Hour

During the 2026 Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Annual Meeting & Exposition, DGIC partnered with Thompson Coburn LLP to host a German-American Defense Happy Hour. AUSA is a major international defense industry event that brings together military leaders, policymakers, industry representatives, and international partners to discuss defense innovation, national security developments, and opportunities for cooperation. The reception provided a networking platform for members of the German and U.S. defense communities to exchange perspectives and build professional connections. The gathering underscored the importance of continued dialogue and collaboration in strengthening transatlantic defense industry relationships. We are grateful for the collaboration with Thompson Coburn LLP for making this event possible, and we would like to thank Ernst & Young (EY) for sponsoring the event.



Breakfast Roundtable with Rhineland-Palatinate

DGIC welcomed representatives from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Tourism, Energy, and Climate Protection of Rhineland-Palatinate and companies from the German state for

an exclusive breakfast roundtable. The discussion focused on current economic and policy developments, transatlantic business relations, and opportunities for German companies in the U.S. defense market. Participants exchanged perspectives on the evolving defense industry, potential market entry strategies, and opportunities to expand German-American cooperation. The roundtable reflects DGIC's continued commitment to connecting German businesses with key U.S. stakeholders and fostering dialogue that strengthens bilateral economic ties.

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