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Alpine Tech Forum - Davos 25 **RAPID RESILIENCE AND FAST INNOVATION**

21 January 2025 Davos



Conference Summary



Dear Members, Guests, Speakers, Sponsors, and Friends,

SACC is thrilled to share highlights from the **Alpine Tech Forum**, our exclusive side event on **January 21, 2025**, hosted in partnership with **Home of Blockchain.swiss**. A special thank you to **Alexander Brunner, President of Home of Blockchain**, and **Paola Valencia, Director**, for orchestrating an **amazing program** and ensuring a truly impactful event. We kicked off the day with an intimate **"Meet the Board"** session and had the honor of awarding **Mrs. Barbara Möckli-Schneider**, former Managing Director of SACC, as an **Honorary Member**. A special highlight was the keynote by **Lindsay Maciver Zingg, Head of Corporate Sustainability at Georg Fischer**, who shared insights into **GF's strategic framework and sustainable product innovation**.

The overarching theme of the day was:

"Rapid Resilience and Fast Innovation: Building Resilience in the Age of Exponential Digital & Physical Acceleration."

Through **keynotes and dynamic panel discussions**, we explored how **cutting-edge technology** is reshaping **business, society, and defense**.

Key Figures & Highlights:

- **1,000+ registrations & 500 international guests**
- Speakers included **unicorn founders, CEOs, investors, government leaders, and NGO executives**
- Insightful contributions from world-class organizations, including:
 - **Academia:** RegHorizon, ETH Zurich Center for Law & Economics, ETH Institute of Robotics
 - **Industry:** Georg Fischer, Deloitte, EconSight, CWS International
 - **Digital Assets & Web3:** Masumi, NMRK, LCX, Cardano Foundation, Zonda Crypto, Digital Asset, 21x
 - **Finance:** Bank for International Settlements, SIX / SDX
 - **AI & Innovation:** Palantir, Unit8, Modulos, LatticeFlow, ETH Institute of Robotics
 - **Defense & Security:** Decodio, Swiss Armed Forces, US Navy, The Fourth Law, JEDI (Joint European Disruptive Initiative)
- **IGO & Government:** UNHCR (UN Refugee Agency), Poland's Secretary of State for Digital Affairs Dr. Dariusz Standerski, and Teemu Seppälä from the City of Riihimäki, Finland

Key Takeaways & Insights:

Our discussions uncovered **bold strategies for navigating disruption, leveraging emerging tech, and ensuring resilience in a fast-changing world**. Stay tuned for a deeper dive into the key insights from our **keynotes and panels**.

We're grateful to **everyone who contributed**—whether as a speaker, partner, or participant. **Thank you for being part of our growing community!**



Roger Leitner,
President & CEO, Swiss-Asian Chamber of Commerce



"The Alpine Tech Forum has an incredible team that understands the space, and that is very well connected. They bring together really good speakers."

Yuval Rooz
Co-founder and CEO
of Digital Asset



"The Alpine Tech Forum brings together thoughtful individuals who are deeply steeped in their expertise."

Courtney Bowman
Director, Privacy and Civil Liberties
Palantir Technologies



"It was great to be on a panel combining different views from the economy, regulations, health, and AI."

Professor Robert Riener
ETH Institute of Robotics



"Technology advances so quickly that people struggle to adapt. This is why events like the Alpine Tech Forum are so important so that we can understand the implications of change."

Kai Gramke
EconSight

Sustainability and Resilience in the Age of AI



Key takeaways

During a notable panel featuring founders, corporate sustainability leaders, and consultants, there was a consensus that new technologies are essential for addressing climate change efficiently and at scale. The panelists noted how key technologies are rapidly proliferating and converging globally, with significant momentum in Asia. They witnessed firsthand the advantages of AI in climate reporting, which supports the labor-intensive task of comprehensive climate documentation.

“Innovation must be intertwined with our sustainability ambition...”

Lindsay MacIver Zingg - **Georg Fischer AG**

“Technology is a ray of hope as we live in a gloom-and-doom world.”

Renat Heuberger - **Terra Impact Ventures**

“Radical change does not come from new technologies, but from the combination of existing technologies. Two important tech trends, digitization and sustainability, are now merging.”

Kai Gramke - **EconSight**

“Sustainability will go on even under the new Trump administration.”

Alex Naef - **Hess AG**

“While AI dominated much of this year’s WEF conversation, the message was clear: progress on climate action is fueled by innovation, collaboration, and bold leadership.”

Simon Heller - **Deloitte Switzerland**



Ensuring Digital Trust through Web3

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Key takeaways

The panelists, including U.S. and European founders as well as senior executives, discussed how the digital asset and Web3 industry has evolved toward a more institutional framework, emphasizing efficiency and privacy in recent years. While crypto has established itself as a new digital asset class, blockchain technology offers the potential for 24/7 asset mobility. Despite recent advancements, creating a new global financial infrastructure will take decades due to the need for a delicate balance between stability and agility. Banks operate with zero margin for error, and privacy remains a significant concern, often conflicting with fully transparent Layer 1 protocols like Bitcoin. As a result, we will continue to witness a blending of new digital and traditional financial infrastructures for an extended period. Lastly, with the European MiCA crypto license and the U.S. stance on crypto, digital assets are poised to be a global focus in 2025.

“Stablecoins, money market funds and Bitcoin ETFs have achieved product-market-fit in the last 24 months.”

David News - Head SIX Digital Exchange

“Regulation still needs to be open for innovation. It is about finding the trade-off between stability and agility.”

Guido Bühler - Zonda Crypto

“On-chain privacy will enable institutions to move payments and collaterals on-chain..”

Yuval Rooz - CEO Digital Asset



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Key takeaways

AI agents powered by AI chatbots promise considerable efficiency and productivity gains for businesses. However, they also introduce new privacy and accountability risks. AI agents challenge existing standards and regulations, raising complex questions. They further expose weaknesses in organizations' data infrastructure and governance, leaving them susceptible to various risks. Fragmented international regulatory frameworks exacerbate these risks. Moreover, AI agents raise questions about liability and the responsibility for autonomous actions.

The panel of co-founders, directors, and a professor also discussed opportunities in robotics. Experts believe that humanoid robots will emerge in decades. While robots excel at specific tasks, they lack human dexterity.

Overall, the pace of technological advancement is astounding and even demanding for AI professionals. Innovating in a fast-evolving landscape with ambiguous regulatory frameworks presents a new kind of risk for businesses.

We have spent decades concentrating on harmonizing the realm of structured data—enterprise data warehouses, ERP systems. Now, with the rise of Generative AI we are realising that the new goldmine lies within the assets that were the most neglected—messy, human world of unstructured data.

Michal Rachtan - CTO Unit8

"The biggest challenge in adopting AI is gaining trust in the technology by demonstrating the safety of these systems."

Courtney Bowman - Global Director of Privacy and Civil Liberties Engineering Palantir Technologies

"We might be on the verge of having AI systems that learn math on a PhD level by talking to themselves."

Kevin Schawinski - CEO Modulos



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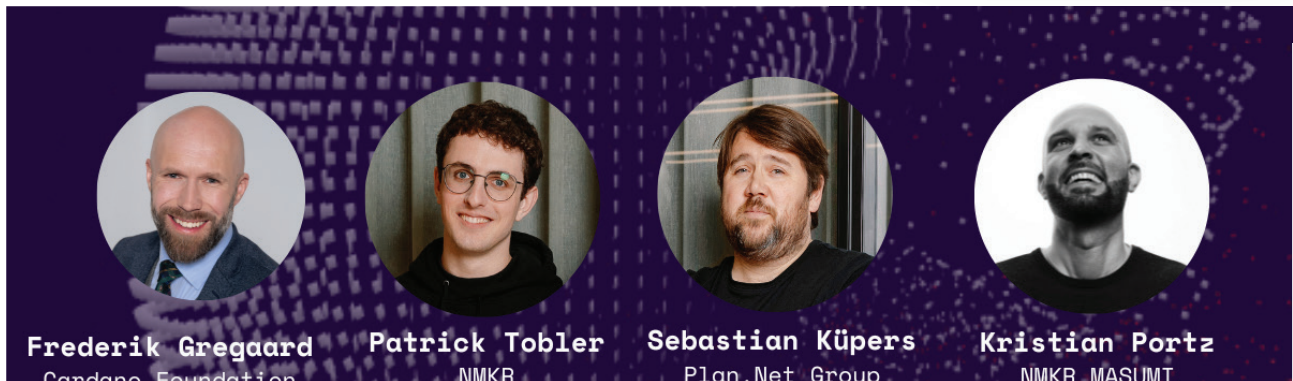
LCX

EXCELLENT 3

Unlocking the AI Agent Economy

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Key takeaways

The panel of founders and CEOs began by agreeing that AI chatbots are becoming productive agents, facilitating a new service within the software economy. The integration of blockchain technology with AI chatbots enables the execution of entire workflows, creating a new agentic ecosystem. Historically, the emergence of new platform technologies has led to the dominance of certain tech firms. However, we can avoid this concentration by allowing agentic workflows to operate on a decentralized blockchain. The blockchain must safeguard the positive impacts of AI, promoting collaboration and resilience through a diversified ecosystem. The Cardano blockchain, used by Masumi Networks, will serve as the security layer for these agentic workflows..

"We launched today the Masumi Network protocol for AI agents to collaborate. It unlocks the agentic economy by giving AI agents an identity; they can transact and hold agents accountable."

Sebastian Küpers - Masumi Network

"Corporates in Europe have to act now and embrace AI technology in a compliant yet innovative way. Masumi is the network to get this done."

Kristian A. Portz - Masumi Network

"AI agents are unlocking services as software – this is a big deal."

Sebastian Küpers - Masumi Network



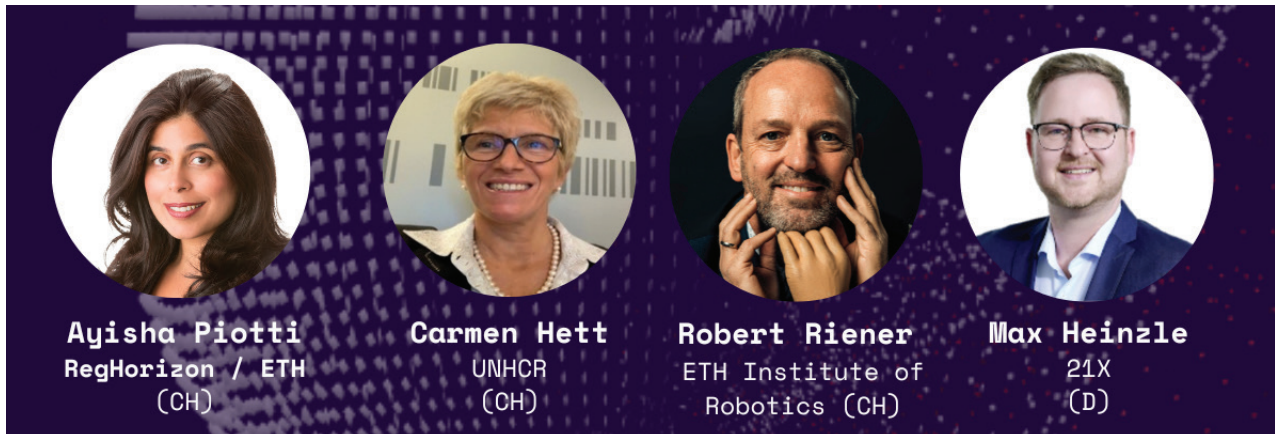
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Resilient Ecosystems and New Technologies



Key takeaways

A diverse panel of founders, NGOs, and academics discussed the traits of a successful tech ecosystem. As is often the case, regulations became a hotly debated topic, ranging from providing clarity to being burdensome and costly. It was noted that regulation can be a significant cost factor for emerging technologies, from crypto to robotics. Additionally, they examined the best ways to build capabilities and scale ecosystems to compete with large foreign tech environments. Leading ecosystems require not only clear regulation, talent, and founders but also orchestration and collaboration on an international level. Building strong tech ecosystems is a multidisciplinary and collaborative effort.

“People are now combining robotics with artificial intelligence, making the machines more versatile and dexterous.”

Professor Robert Riener - ETH Institute of Robotics

“The key take away is to collaborate much more and ensure we have platforms and standards to move forward.”

Carmen Hett - UNHCR

“We accelerate innovation through collaboration.”

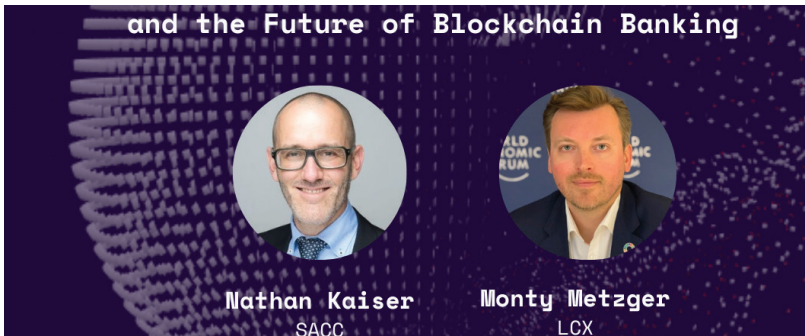
Nemanja Petrovic - Excellent3 Supercluster

“Regulation in combination with blockchain technology unlocks the revolution in capital markets.”

Max Heinzle - CEO 21x



Resilience in Financial Markets: Innovation, Regulation, and the Future of Blockchain Banking



Key takeaways

In an intimate discussion with the founder and CEO of the Liechtenstein crypto exchange LCX, Monty C. M. Metzger, it was highlighted that Switzerland and Liechtenstein are leaders in the crypto and digital assets sector, fostering a thriving and mature ecosystem supported by pragmatic regulation. Europe has become the second-largest crypto market in the world. With new regulations in place, established but non-compliant crypto exchanges will encounter significant challenges, benefiting newer institutional-grade crypto exchanges. Europe has the potential to emerge as the leading crypto market globally. Regulation and technology will drive a financial evolution in efficiency and productivity.

We were honored to have the keynote "How Poland is building Digital Resilience" by Dariusz Standerski, PhD, Secretary of State at Poland's Ministry of Digital Affairs. His talk focused on Poland's journey in building digital resilience. Poland is emerging as a tech, innovation, and defense leader, driven by:

- A thriving \$44B digital economy and robust IT ecosystem.
- Strategic investments in AI, cybersecurity, and defense innovation.

"We have seen an immense inflow of new trading volumes and new deposits, with users coming to us because they are searching for a European-regulated exchange. LCX has become the fastest-growing European-regulated crypto exchange. We can see that the hard work of being regulated since January 2020 is finally paying off."

"Digital assets, regulations, tokenization—ultimately, we are seeing institutional growth as large players bring the niche of blockchain innovation to major markets."

"LCX has become the fastest-growing European-regulated crypto exchange. We can see that the hard work of being regulated since January 2020 is finally paying off."

Monty Metzger - LCX

"From economics to security we need merge perspectives and see technologies as a whole to build a resilient society"

Dr. Dariusz Standerski - Secretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs in Poland

Rapid Innovation in Defense

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Key takeaways

In two defense panels, a panel of European and US defense founders and Armed Forces representatives discussed the challenges posed by the heightened threat level, the Ukraine war, and a rapidly evolving technological landscape. In particular, the rise of drones in the Ukraine war has led to swift innovation on the battlefield. According to a Ukrainian founder, Ukraine deployed two million low-cost drones in 2024 alone. Ukraine has become a testing ground for new defense technologies. Meanwhile, innovative tech companies and startups are facing a burdensome and lengthy procurement process that hinders innovation and quick deployment.

Special thank you to one of key sponsors, VIA (www.solvewithvia.com). The keynote talk by VIA's CEO, Colin Gounden gave terrific insights on the broad relevance of defense technologies for enterprise companies as varied as Venmo, Uber, and WhatsApp. In addition, VIA moderated a panel discussion with Justin Fanelli, the CTO of the U.S. Navy, Lars Minth, Chief Security Officer Defense at the Swiss Army, and André Loesekrug-Pietri at the Joint European Disruptive Initiative. Over dinner, we were privileged to be among the first to see and hear about upcoming civilian releases of VIA's image verification and quantum secure digital wallet.

"Security, privacy, and resilience in AI agents are unsolved issues such as how do you know an agent is your agent."

Colin Gounden, CEO - VIA Science

"Innovation is about finding people who are playing to win, not playing not to lose."

Professor Justin Fanelli, CTO - US Navy

"The defense sector is opening up. This, in turn, is a huge opportunity for private companies."

Teemu Seppälä - City of Riihimäki

"With two million drones produced in 2024, Ukrainian drones are the biggest robotics platform on the planet."

Yaroslav Azhnyuk, CEO - The Fourth Law

"In defense, AI is rapidly adopted because it is a topic of national security."

Petar Tsankov, co-founder - LatticeFlow



Featured Speakers Alpine Tech Forum Davos 2025



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