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German American Business Awards Honor German American Excellence and Celebrate 60 Years of GACC Midwest

What do a spin mop, catering group, Missouri, a public accounting firm, and accident detection technology for smartphones have in common? They are all winners of the 2023 German American Business Awards! The German American Chambers of Commerce honor excellence in innovation, services, economic development, community engagement, and “The Coolest German Thing Made in the USA” while marking the 60th Anniversary of the German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest).

Chicago, IL, October 13, 2023 – The German American Business Awards, presented by the German American Chambers of Commerce (GACCs), honor excellence in the German-American business community annually in innovation, services, economic development, community engagement, and product development. The event also celebrates the 60th Anniversary of GACC Midwest. Since 1963, GACC Midwest has fostered German American trade by enabling members, partners and customers to achieve their business goals through its unique network, expert knowledge, and culture of excellence. The awards were presented to the winners at the 2023 German American Business Awards on October 13, 2023 at 167 Green in Chicago’s Fulton Market.

German investment in the US has more than doubled in the past 10 years to a total of more than \$619 billion, according to 2023 data from Representative of German Industry + Trade (RGIT). German subsidiaries in the US employ 923,600 people, making them the third largest foreign employer and second largest in the manufacturing sector. Innovative German companies are also the largest foreign investor in R&D expenditures in the US. In the 2023 German American Business Outlook survey, 93% of surveyed German subsidiaries plan to increase their investment in the US over the next three years.

“I look forward to recognizing the German American business community’s outstanding achievements at the 2023 German American Business Awards and 60th Anniversary of GACC Midwest,” says Matthias Amberg, Chairman of GACC Midwest. “German investment in the US is growing year after year, contributing to innovation in products and services, strengthening of communities, and new solutions for customers.”

“It is thanks to member companies like this year’s German American Business Award winners that we have been able to support transatlantic trade for 60 years,” says Mark Tomkins, President & CEO, GACC Midwest. “Congratulations to



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

**German American Chamber of Commerce
of the Midwest, Inc.**

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the winners and to the entire German American business community for maintaining the strong economic and cultural bonds between Germany and the US.”

The 2023 winners are:

The Coolest German Thing Made in the USA – presented by CLAAS of America, Inc.

Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions (Aurora, IL) and their EasyWring™ RinseClean™ Spin Mop is the winner of the German-American Business Award in the category “The Coolest German Thing Made in the USA.” As an international leader and innovative manufacturer well-known for their household brands of cleaning products and systems, Freudenberg Home and Cleaning Solutions has been finding creative technical solutions of excellent quality for almost 175 years. Based on a long-term vision to gain technological and sustainable expertise, Freudenberg has a diverse business portfolio and over 51,000 employees globally.

“Freudenberg is honored to receive this recognition from the German American Chamber of Commerce for our innovation efforts in home and cleaning solutions. We are committed to investing in American manufacturing and contributing to a cleaner world. This award confirms our direction to continue innovating together with our customers and partners, generating great outcomes,” says Mauro Frangipani, Plant Director North America, Freudenberg Household Products.

<https://www.ocedar.com/>

Community Engagement – presented by Nebraska Department of Economic Development

LM Catering & Events (Chicago, IL) is the winner of the German American Business Award in the category Community Engagement. For the past 14 years, LM Restaurant Group and LM Catering & Events, a family-owned hospitality company, has been dedicated to fostering caring community connections. They create intimate local venues known for great food and customer-driven service, while actively supporting their community. This includes partnerships with non-profits like Lawrence Hall, a Chicago non-profit that empowers youth who have experienced trauma. In their years long partnership, they lead and contribute to programs, volunteer, and host their annual fundraisers. LM Restaurant Group and LM Catering & Events' outreach for Chicago's youth reflects their devotion to building stronger communities and a better Chicago.

"LM Restaurant Group and LM Catering & Events are extremely honored to be recognized by the GACC for our commitment to helping build better communities. We are so appreciative of this award and will continue to grow our company with our communities in mind. As business owners we believe that it is our responsibility to invest in people and organizations that help create a stronger Chicago,” says Nicole Quaiser, Co-Owner, LM Catering & Events.

<https://www.lmcateringchicago.com/>



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Excellence in Economic Development – presented by Wintrust Bank

Missouri Partnership (Missouri) is the winner of the German American Business Award in the category Excellence in Economic Development. Missouri Partnership has been a leader in fostering economic growth in the state since 2008, attracting nearly 33,000 new jobs and \$6.4 billion in capital investment, including the successful attraction of KWS SAAT (Einbeck, Germany) and Schütz GmbH & Co. (Selters, Germany). Leveraging the state's rich German heritage, Missouri Partnership participates in numerous German trade and investment missions; in both 2022 and 2023 they joined Missouri Governor Mike Parson on missions to Germany. The state maintains an office in Frankfurt am Main to promote trade and investment. Missouri Partnership also collaborates with the St. Louis-Stuttgart Sister City organization to facilitate economic exchanges with Baden-Württemberg.

“In my first month at Missouri Partnership, I met Mark Tomkins and Virginia Rounds with the German American Chamber of Commerce,” says Dennis Pruitt, Vice President, Business Development at Missouri Partnership. “Fortunately, we listened to their valuable advice on how we could increase our ties with Germany. We are proud of our membership in this stellar organization, and we are so honored to receive this award. We appreciate the German companies in our state and the friendship we have with the entire German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest. Danke schön!”

<https://www.missouripartnership.com/>

Excellence in Services – presented by HARIBO

PKF Mueller (Chicago, IL) is the winner of the German American Business Award in the category Excellence in Services. The mission of PKF Mueller is to enhance the “lifetime success” of their clients. As a founding member of the Transatlantic Services Group, PKF Mueller began a German American partnership by hosting a summit in Chicago with roundtables on relevant topics and cultural exchange. Building a transatlantic network for their clients means that PKF Mueller is proactive in understanding the unique challenges and opportunities that firms face while operating in the U.S. and Germany. PKF Mueller provides accounting and financial services to over 150 international firms with the majority being subsidiaries of German firms or US firms doing business in Germany.

“PKF Mueller is deeply honored to receive the Excellence in Services Award. It is a true testament to our team’s dedication and commitment to setting high standards for excellence for our German-American clients,” says Dave Nissen, CEO, PKF Mueller.

<https://www.pkfmueller.com/>

Excellence in Innovation



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Sfara, Inc. (Hoboken, NJ) is the winner of the German American Business Award in the category Excellence in Innovation. Since 2013, Sfara has had a single mission: to create a “Sphere of Safety.” Leveraging the tradition of German engineering, Sfara has become the world’s leading accident detection technology for smartphones. Sfara is now taking the next step forward of not only detecting accidents but also proactively preventing them. Utilizing the latest advancements in edge computing and AI, Sfara is transforming smartphones into autonomous guardian angels. The Multi-Modal Hazard Avoidance (MHAV) technology warns vulnerable road users of immediate hazardous situations, improving road safety, and ultimately saving lives. Together with partners from the telecommunication industry, government institutions, and research universities, Sfara plans to pilot their MHAV system in the city of Giessen, Germany, to bring this innovative solution to the streets.

“Sfara is particularly proud that our MHAV technology has been recognized as an excellent innovation that will save thousands of lives in the coming years. We are honored and excited to receive the award from the GACCs for our mission in transforming road safety,” says Sascha Simon, Founder, President, and Chief Science Officer, Sfara.

<https://www.sfara.com/>

About GACC Midwest

The German American Chamber of Commerce® of the Midwest (GACC Midwest), headquartered in Chicago with a branch office in Detroit, was founded in 1963. GACC Midwest is an integral part of the German Chamber Network (AHKs) with 150 offices in 92 countries around the globe. Our continuing mission is to promote German-American business relations and to support trade and investment between Germany and the United States, especially the Midwest. Our organization combines elements of a trade commission, a membership association, and professional consulting services for market entry, apprenticeships in the US, and more. www.gaccmidwest.org

The German American Chambers of Commerce

The German American Chambers of Commerce have four main offices located in Atlanta, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC as well as branches in Detroit and Houston. The GACCs cater to an extensive network of members and National Partners with a wide variety of services for market entry USA, apprenticeships in the US, and industry events for their German-American business network.



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