ktu 1922 .OPEN INNOVATION CENTRE

UC Berkeley Haas
Institute for Business Innovation

Event Agenda

Berkeley Innovation Forum Europe 2026

Date
12–13 November

Organisers
KTU & UC Berkeley

Venue
KTU M-Lab, Studentų st. 63a
Kaunas, Lithuania

15 Main communication partner

AI & Open Innovation: **Unlocking Growth and Strategic Advantage**

Born in Berkeley. Built for open collaboration. Now in Europe, empowered by Kaunas University of Technology.

Berkeley Innovation Forum Europe 2026 is a two-day executive forum for senior leaders navigating the strategic implications of artificial intelligence, ecosystem transformation, and open innovation.

Empowered by the Kaunas University of Technology Open Innovation Centre (KTU OIC), the forum brings together business leaders, researchers, technology experts, and ecosystem builders to examine how organisations can unlock growth and ensure strategic advantage in a more connected, AI-driven economy.





Berkeley Innovation Forum Europe

2026

8:00–9:00 **Networking breakfast** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

9:00–9:15 **Welcome and briefing pack pickup** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

9:15–10:00 **NETWORKING ACTIVITY** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Bees and Flowers



Henry Chesbrough

Faculty co-director at Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation, UC Berkeley

Henry Chesbrough coined the term "open innovation" and his research focuses on technology management and innovation strategy. He also teaches at Esade Business School at Spain's University Ramon Llull. He has been an adjunct professor at the Harvard Business School and previously served as product manager and vice president of marketing at Quantum Corporation. He earned a BA in economics from Yale University, an MBA from Stanford University, and a PhD in business administration from Berkeley Haas.

10:00–10:30 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Siemens Xcelerator. Building Digital Ecosystem Business



Bettina Rotermund

Head of Strategy & Analyst Relations, Siemens Xcelerator

Bettina held several managing positions in strategy, sales & marketing and business development in various industries like consumer electronics, telecommunications and automotive before she joined Siemens in 2018. In her current position she is responsible for the strategy and evolution of the open digital business platform Siemens Xcelerator, designed to accelerate the digital transformation of customers and partners.

10:30–11:00 **Networking coffee** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

11:00–12:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Cybersecurity future in the Age of Generative AI: From Risk to Secure Open Innovation



Moderator Asta Pundzienė

Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre at KTU

The panel explores how cybersecurity can enable secure GenAI deployment and open innovation across industrial ecosystems. Through real-world cases, experts will discuss key risks, safeguards, and trade-offs between innovation and security. The discussion will conclude with three essential cybersecurity checks every CEO should make before deploying GenAI.



Bettina Rottermund
Head of Strategy & Analyst Relations, Siemens Xcelerator



Šarūnas Grigaliūnas
Head of the National Cyber Security Centre at KTU



Povilas Žinys
Director at Plug&Play Lithuania



Vytautas Bitinas
CEO at Registrų centras



Sigita Jurkynaitė
Information Security Lead at Nexos.ai

12:10–13:30 **BUSINESS CHALLENGES** KTU M-LAB, ROOM 111

Innovation Agency **Innovation Agency**

LKU **The Lithuanian Central Credit Union**

13:30–14:30 **Networking lunch** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

14:30–15:00 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

RISC-V in the Age of AI



Lu Dai

Vice President of Technical Standards at Qualcomm

Lu Dai is a Vice President of Technical Standards at Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., where he leads global compute standards initiatives and builds strategic partnerships with industry organizations. Lu is a recognized leader in industry standards. He currently serves as Chair of Accellera, Chairman of the RISC-V International Board of Directors, Board Officer of Si2, Officer at IEEE DASC, and member of Governing Board at CHIPS Alliance. He holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Berkeley.

15:00–16:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

AI in Manufacturing and Product Innovation



Moderator Lukas Geryba

Director of the Open Innovation Centre at KTU

The panel explores how AI is transforming manufacturing processes, product innovation, and industrial competitiveness. Through real-world use cases, experts will discuss measurable business value, integration challenges, and the role of data, technology, and workforce readiness in scaling AI. The discussion will conclude with practical steps for moving AI from pilot projects to successful industrial deployment.



Lu Dai
Vice President of Technical Standards at Qualcomm



Juozapas Preikša
CMO at OBD Eleven



Jurgita Radzevičė
CEO of SBA Home



Algimantas Markauskas
Former CEO Thermofisher Scientific



Augustė Sinkevičiūtė
Head of Energy Transformation at Ignitis Group

16:00–16:30 **Networking coffee** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

16:30–17:00 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Future of AI



Chetna Mahajan

Head of Corporate Engineering at HubSpot

Chetna Mahajan is an award-winning global technology executive, three-time CIO and board advisor with 25+ years of experience leading enterprise AI and digital transformation across Fortune 100 enterprises, government and high-growth SaaS companies.

Chetna was most recently Head of Corporate Engineering at HubSpot and, prior to that, Chief Information Officer at Webflow and Chief Digital & Information Officer at Amplitude. She is known for accelerating ROI through AI transformation, driving business outcomes such as revenue per employee, productivity and customer experience, while building the governance, platforms and teams that let AI scale responsibly. Earlier, she was the first CIO of ZoomInfo and held leadership roles at Conga, Symantec, Boeing and Sun Microsystems.

She advises venture firms including Sequoia Capital, Accel, Ridge Ventures and Mayfield. Chetna holds an MBA from the University of Colorado and an MS in Computer Science Engineering from Arizona State University.

17:00–18:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Open innovation and AI – opportunities, threats, and value capture



Moderator Asta Pundzienė

Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre at KTU

The panel explores how AI and open innovation create new opportunities for collaboration, business growth, and competitive advantage. Through real-world cases, experts will discuss how companies can balance innovation speed with control over data, intellectual property, partnerships, and value capture. The discussion will highlight practical strategies for scaling AI, managing risks, and ensuring sustainable business value.



Chetna Mahajan
Head of Corporate Engineering at HubSpot



Augustinas Stirbis
Co-founder and VP of Engineering at CAST.AI



Justinas Taruška
CEO at NANDO



Justas Morkūnas
CCO at Nexos.ai



Mantas Lukauskas
AI Tech Lead at Hostinger

18:00–18:15 **Closing remarks** KTU M-Lab, room 111

18:15–19:00 **Travel to the evening programme venue (self-transfer)**
Participants are kindly requested to make their way to DIA Restaurant, Maironio St. 8, Kaunas.

19:00–19:30 **Evening programme: Making Client Venturing thrive** DIA Restaurant, Maironio st. 9, Kaunas



Moderator Agnieszka Radziwon
University of Southern Denmark

The panel explores how corporations can leverage venture clienting to accelerate innovation, collaborate with startups, and gain competitive advantage. Through real-world cases, experts will discuss how to overcome organizational barriers, align startup solutions with business needs, and turn pilot projects into scalable commercial partnerships. The discussion will highlight practical strategies for creating measurable value for both corporations and startups.



Gabija Tarvydytė
Business Development and Strategy Officer at Ivabaltė



Sebastian Schäfer
Venture Client Solutions Lead and Manager at 27pilots



Yuji Yamada
Founder at r3s.jp

19:30–21:30 **Dinner** DIA Restaurant, Maironio st. 9, Kaunas



Berkeley Innovation Forum Europe

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9:00–9:15 **Welcome to the second day** KTU M-Lab, room 111

9:15–10:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Open Innovation Ecosystem: Delivering Tangible Results



Moderator Henry Chesbrough

Faculty co-director at the Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation at UC Berkeley

The panel explores how corporations, startups, universities, and innovation partners can turn ecosystem collaboration into measurable business impact. Experts will discuss how to align priorities, overcome collaboration barriers, and accelerate the development and scaling of joint innovations. The discussion will focus on concrete actions, shared commitments, and tangible results the open innovation ecosystem can deliver within the next 12 months.



Monika Paulė
Director of Innovation Agency



Mantas Katinas
Chairman of the Board at Unicorns Lithuania



Lukas Geryba
Director of Open Innovation Centre, KTU



Oğuzhan Aygören
Director at Institute for Business Innovation at UC Berkeley



Tomas Dirvonskas
Co-founder of Comfortof; AI partner of the 15min media group

10:30–11:00 **Networking coffee** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

11:00–11:30 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Venture Clienting & Trends



Hannah Boomgaarden

Director of Open Innovation at Plug and Play

Director Open Innovation at Plug and Play and former Program Director of STARTUP AUTOBAHN, Europe's largest open innovation platform, with partners including Mercedes-Benz and Bosch. Experience on both the corporate side (Nestlé, Axel Springer) and startup side (Testbirds), combined with research in Corporate Entrepreneurship. Designs and runs open innovation programs, executive workshops and EXPO events for 1,000+ industry leaders. M.A. in Media Management (Stuttgart Media University); mentor and speaker at Web Summit, Startup Weekend and Corporate Startup Summit; guest docent for Business Models.

11:30–12:30 **VENTURE CLIENTING WORKSHOP** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Impulse, Self-assessment, Peer exchange, Best practices and Assessment



Hannah Boomgaarden
Director of Open Innovation, Plug and Play



Povilas Žinys
Director of Plug and Play Tech Center Lithuania

12:30–13:30 **Networking lunch** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

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continue

13:30–14:30 **VENTURE CLIENTING WORKSHOP** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Impulse, Self-assessment, Peer exchange, Best practices and Assessment



Hannah Boomgaarden
Director of Open Innovation, Plug and Play



Povilas Žinys
Director of Plug and Play Tech Center Lithuania

14:30–14:45 **Networking coffee** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

14:45–15:15 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Does AI substitute or complement human talents?



David Teece

BRG founder and top-cited FT 50 scholar in economics

David J. Teece is Distinguished Scholar of Strategy and Innovation at the University of South Florida, and Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley. He has authored over thirty books and two hundred scholarly papers. Dr. Teece has been ranked as the world's most-cited scholar in the combined field of business and management (over 260,000 times, per Google Scholar). Dr. Teece co-founded BRG, an expert services and consulting firm of economists and other professionals with expertise in domains ranging from higher education to corporate finance. Dr. Teece also founded the Law and Economics Consulting Group (LECG), where he acted as chairman and then vice-chairman.

15:15–15:45 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

AI and Human Talents



Vygintas Domarkas
CTO at Telia

15:45–16:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Does AI substitute or complement human talents?



Moderator Henry Chesbrough

Henry Chesbrough coined the term "open innovation" and research focuses on technology management and innovation strategy. He also teaches at Esade Business School at Spain's University Ramon Llull. He has been an adjunct professor at the Harvard Business School and previously served as product manager and vice president of marketing at Quantum Corporation. He earned a BA in economics from Yale University, an MBA from Stanford University, and a PhD in business administration from Berkelev Haas.



David Teece
BRG founder and top-cited FT 50 scholar in economics



Asta Pundzienė
Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre, KTU



Vygintas Domarkas
CTO at Telia



Rokas Bilevičius
Senior Director of Engineering, Cast AI



Gintarė Verbickaitė
CEO of Unicorns Lithuania

16:45–17:15 **Beyond BIF Europe** KTU M-Lab, room 111

17:15–18:00 **Closing drinks** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

Main partner

UC Berkeley Haas
Institute for Business Innovation

Main communication partner

15

Ecosystem and challenge partners

Innovation Agency LITHUANIA

PLUGANDPLAY

Partners

Telia

Qualcomm

BRG
Berkeley Research Group



Unicorns Lithuania

ignitis

REGISTRŲ CENTRAS
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sba home

OBDeleven

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ThermoFisher SCIENTIFIC

nando

HOSTINGER

CAST AI

SIEMENS

IVABALTĖ

27pilots
a Deloitte business

HubSpot

LKU

Panelists' bio notes



Šarūnas Grigaliūnas

Head of the National Cyber Security Centre at KTU

Prof. Dr. Šarūnas Grigaliūnas is a Professor and Head of the Computer Science Department at Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), where he also directs the Cyber Security Centre of Excellence and serves as the university's CISO. He is a Board Member of the ISACA Lithuania Chapter and a technical expert for the Lithuanian Standards Board Committees LST TK 100 (Quantum technologies) and LST TK 79 (IT security techniques). His core focus spans post-quantum cryptography, AI security governance, and digital forensics.



Povilas Žinys

Director at Plug&Play Lithuania

Director of Plug and Play Tech Center Lithuania, where he leads strategic investments, corporate innovation initiatives, and public-private partnerships. Povilas has been leading the sector agnostic Startup Lithuania Accelerator powered by Plug and Play where he has already accelerated 67 and invested in over 48 startups, resulting in over 40mil in funding for the accelerated startups. With over a decade of experience across fintech, cybersecurity, and the space industry, Povilas has played a key role in positioning Lithuania as a growing hub for innovation and venture activity in the CEE region.



Vytautas Bitinas

CEO at Registrų centras

Vytautas Bitinas is an experienced technology executive with deep expertise in innovation management across large infrastructure, private-sector, and public-sector organisations. His experience includes developing innovation strategies, implementing digitalisation initiatives, and applying structured innovation management models. He is strongly focused on linking technological initiatives with business value by promoting data-driven decision-making, experimentation, and pilot projects.



Jurgita Radzevičė

CEO of SBA Home

Jurgita Radzevičė is an accomplished business leader and CEO of SBA Home, with extensive experience in manufacturing, international business development, and organizational transformation. She successfully led SBA Home's expansion into North America and is recognized for building high-performing teams and driving sustainable growth. Jurgita also serves as a Board Chairwoman of Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, bringing strategic leadership and governance expertise into the biggest Lithuanian project.



Algimantas Markauskas

Former CEO Thermofisher Scientific

Algimantas Markauskas is one of Lithuania's most accomplished business leaders, best known for his tenure as CEO and Chairman of the Board of Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics (2010–2024), where he led one of the largest biotechnology centres in the region and grew it into one of the most valuable enterprises in the Baltics. From 2017 he served as VP of Manufacturing Operations at Thermo Fisher Scientific, managing a $4 billion portfolio of over 100,000 highly complex products and overseeing operations across the USA, Norway, Israel, Germany, and Japan.Under his leadership the Vilnius centre grew revenues from €18 million to €1.9 billion, expanded its workforce to over 1,700 people, and became a globally recognised Centre of Excellence for biosciences manufacturing and R&D — recognised as the best of Thermo Fisher's 500+ global sites (2016) and a recipient of the Shingo Prize for operational excellence (2017). He was named CEO of the Year in Lithuania three times (2015, 2019, 2021) and awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order for Merits to Lithuania (2016). Today Algimantas serves on several corporate boards and continues to advise growth-stage businesses across the region on strategy and operational excellence.



Monika Paulė

Director of Innovation Agency

Monika Paulė has over 20 years of experience in innovation, biotechnology, and high-tech business development. She has served as a board member of the Research Council of Lithuania, Vice President of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, and Chair of its Innovation and Education Committees, as well as Vice President of LithuaniaBIO. She has also been a board member of the Vilnius University Life Sciences Center, an independent speaker and lecturer. Monika has led international life sciences projects and tech companies. She also contributed to the strategic governance of various organizations.



Mantas Katinas

Chairman of the Board at Unicorns Lithuania

Mantas Katinas is the CEO of Kurianti Karta, focused on building a modern, technology-enabled private education ecosystem in Lithuania. He has over a decade of leadership experience across technology, investment and business, including leadership roles at Wargaming Vilnius and Invest Lithuania. Mantas is also Chairman of the Board of Unicorns Lithuania and a board member of ISM University of Management and Economics. His current focus is at the intersection of education, technology and entrepreneurship, with a long-term ambition to help shape the future.



Augustė Sinkevičiūtė

Head of Energy Transformation at Ignitis Group

Augustė Sinkevičiūtė is Head of Energy Transformation at Ignitis Group. Her professional experience spans the entire energy value chain, providing a unique perspective on how markets, infrastructure, technology, and customer needs intersect. Drawing on roles across transmission system operations, energy markets, trading, customer businesses, and renewable energy development, she works on advancing strategic initiatives that support energy transition and innovation. Her current focus includes the development of future energy markets, market forecasting, the integration of innovative technologies, enabling system flexibility, and creating new business opportunities arising from the transformation of the European energy sector.



Mantas Lukauskas

AI Tech Lead at Hostinger

Mantas Lukauskas is an AI Tech Lead at Hostinger, where he works on building and scaling production-grade AI systems, AI agents, and LLM-powered products. He holds a PhD in Informatics from Kaunas University of Technology and has published multiple research papers and contributed to patented inventions. His work bridges AI research with practical applications used at scale.



Rokas Bilevičius

Senior Director of Engineering, Cast AI

Rokas Bilevičius is Senior Director of Engineering at Cast AI, where he leads engineering teams building cloud and AI automation products. With more than a decade of experience developing large-scale cloud-native systems, he has played a key role in shaping the company's engineering culture and platform from its early days, helping scale the engineering organization and the platform that has enabled Cast AI's growth into Lithuania's fifth unicorn. Rokas is also an alumnus of Kaunas University of Technology (KTU).



Gintarė Verbickaitė

CEO of Unicorns Lithuania

Gintarė Verbickaitė is one of the leading voices shaping Lithuania's innovation and startup ecosystem. As CEO of Unicorns Lithuania, she champions the national association of over 130 high-growth technology powerhouses and tech unicorns. With two decades of global experience across Australia, Estonia, and Lithuania, Gintarė operates at the forefront of digital economies, investment, and innovation policy. Previously, as VP of Global Growth at Invest Lithuania, she was one of the key architects in transforming the country into a leading European fintech hub – a landmark impact recognized with the Fintech Leader of the Year award. She is also the founder of the Australian Lithuanian Business Council and an advisor to Global Lithuanian Leaders.



Augustinas Stirbis

Co-founder and VP of Engineering at CAST.AI

Augustinas Stirbis is VP of Engineering at Cast AI, Lithuania's fifth unicorn. He began his career at Barclays and Danske Bank, where he gained extensive experience managing large-scale IT infrastructure. A holder and co-author of several technology patents, he now leads the engineering team behind Cast AI's cloud automation platform. In 2026, Cast AI surpassed a $1 billion valuation, becoming one of Lithuania's leading technology success stories.



Justinas Taruška

CEO at NANDO

Justinas Taruška is the CEO of Nando, a biotechnology company focused on innovative microbial solutions for sustainable agriculture. An active member of LithuaniaBIO, LIPA, and CropLife Lithuania, he is committed to fostering innovation and collaboration across the life sciences sector. With a strong track record in business development and scaling technology-driven organizations, he brings valuable insights into how AI and open innovation can accelerate growth and value creation in science-based industries.



Justas Morkūnas

General Director at Nexos.ai

Justas Morkūnas is the Chief Operating Officer at nexos.ai, an all-in-one AI platform for business and tech teams that unifies model access, agent automation, and governance. With over a decade of experience in sales, marketing, and business strategy, he previously scaled revenue operations at Nord Security, the cybersecurity leader behind NordVPN and NordLayer, as COO, leading a 75-person team through global expansion. Now at nexos.ai, Morkūnas drives commercial growth and bridges enterprise customer needs with secure AI innovation.



Juozapas Preikša

CMO, OBDeleven

Juozapas Preikša is the CMO of OBDeleven, the connected car technology company that gives drivers access to dealership-level diagnostics and customisation capabilities through officially licensed software. Before beginning his career in finance and data analysis, he studied Economics at the ISM University of Management. Following his tenure as Head of Economics and Social Policy at the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, he worked at the indie games studio Tiny Labs as Chief Business Development Officer and as a product manager at the proxy service Oxylabs.io. He co-founded the global micro-working platform JumpTask in 2022 and served as CEO until joining OBDeleven in 2023. As CMO he is responsible for leading OBDeleven's marketing, branding, sales and commerce efforts. He is a car enthusiast and experienced product builder. He is based in Lithuania.



Gabija Tarvydytė

Business Development and Strategy Officer at Ivabaltė

Gabija Tarvydytė is an entrepreneur, and education philanthropist with experience spanning agricultural machinery, agribusiness, and education. She is a shareholder and Business Development and Strategy Officer at Ivabaltė, one of the region's leading privately owned, family-run agricultural machinery importers and dealers, established in 1995. She also leads Tarvydis Farm, an agricultural enterprise focused on the production and export of a diverse range of crops. Beyond her business activities, Gabija runs Smart Students Academy, Engineering and Life Science Class- an educational initiative in Lithuania advancing opportunities to study engineering and life sciences. Through her work across business, agriculture, and education, she is committed to fostering sustainable growth, innovation, and opportunities for the next generation.



Sebastian Schäfer

Venture Client Solutions Lead and Manager at 27pilots

Sebastian Schäfer helps companies gain a competitive advantage by systematically adopting startup technologies through Venture Clienting, a new model of corporate venturing. At 27pilots, he works with organizations such as Siemens Energy, Bosch, Statkraft and Equinor to establish, develop, and operate world-class Venture Client capabilities. He has led and supported the setup of 10+ Venture Client Units with more than 100 startup adoption projects across mobility, manufacturing, building technology, and energy. Before joining 27pilots, Sebastian worked at the German Federal Foreign Office and Siemens Management Consulting. He studied at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and was a visiting researcher at Stanford University's Designing Education Lab.



Yuji Yamada

Organizational strategist and practitioner

Yuji is an organizational strategist and practitioner focused on self-managing and distributed organizations. After early experience in talent development, HR, and as a founding member and COO of the BtoB SaaS company XICA, he became independent in 2017 to support startups and large enterprises in organizational strategy and next-generation organizational design. In October 2021, he founded r3s.jp, where he facilitates dialogue with global thinkers and supports companies experimenting with new organizational models. He leads the Japan community of the global network Corporate Rebels and, in partnership with China's Haier, established Japan's first RenDanHeYi Research Center in 2025. His publications include Signs of the Shift, and his translated works include Work with Source and Moose Heads on the Table.



Tomas Dirvonskas

Co-founder of Comfortof; AI partner of the 15min media group

Tomas Dirvonskas is co-founder of Comfort of Complex Computations (Comfortof), a Vilnius-based AI product studio, and the AI partner of the 15min media group, where his team builds AI tools for editorial and commercial teams and launched the radio and TV ad-intelligence platform Galago. Earlier he co-founded Lemon Labs, the agency behind the first Vinted app, and has organised developer communities in Lithuania since 2009. He believes the next leap in Lithuania's innovation will come from small, AI-native teams building real products together with established companies.



Asta Pundzienė

Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre at KTU

She is a Professor of Strategic Management and Innovation at the KTU School of Economics and Business, and Head of the MLab Digital Healthcare Innovations Laboratory. Her research focuses on dynamic capabilities, open innovation, and the governance of digital technologies, with particular application to digital healthcare. She has published more than 40 international papers in scientific journals, and is the founding editor of the Baltic Journal of Management. Asta brings over 15 years of experience in research and innovation leadership.



Lukas Geryba

Director of the Open Innovation Centre at KTU

As Executive Director of the KTU Open Innovation Centre, Lukas focuses on building partnerships that bridge academic research with industry and public-sector needs to deliver impactful, measurable outcomes. His work is grounded in open innovation, business model innovation, digital transformation, and advancing digital-based strategies. With over five years as a researcher and lecturer at Kaunas University of Technology, Lukas contributes to the academic discourse on business digital transformation and strategic management. His teaching emphasizes practical applications of platform business models and strategy execution, while his research aligns with digital healthcare innovation and supporting the growth of born-digital firms.



Agnieszka Radziwon

University of Southern Denmark

Agnes Radziwon is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark and a Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Radziwon's expertise is in innovation and technology management. As a scholar, she is looking into a broader perspective of inter-organizational collaboration in various types of (eco)systems. She is interested in the ways knowledge is transferred across organizations, the role of networks in facilitating or hindering innovation, and how institutions codify ideas and practices. She has published several highly cited articles concerning open innovation, open innovation in science, and ecosystems. She is a co-author of the Oxford Handbook on Open Innovation (OUP, 2024).

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Bettina Rotermund

Head of Strategy & Analyst Relations, Siemens Xcelerator

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11:00–12:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

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Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre at KTU

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Šarūnas Grigaliūnas
Head of the National Cyber Security Centre at KTU



Povilas Žinys
Director at Plug&Play Lithuania



Vytautas Bitinas
CEO at Registrų centras



Sigita Jurkynaitė
Information Security Lead at Nexos.ai

12:10–13:30 **BUSINESS CHALLENGES** KTU M-LAB, ROOM 111

Innovation Agency **Innovation Agency**

LKU **The Lithuanian Central Credit Union**

13:30–14:30 **Networking lunch** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

14:30–15:00 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

RISC-V in the Age of AI



Lu Dai

Vice President of Technical Standards at Qualcomm

Lu Dai is a Vice President of Technical Standards at Qualcomm Technologies, Inc., where he leads global compute standards initiatives and builds strategic partnerships with industry organizations. Lu is a recognized leader in industry standards. He currently serves as Chair of Accellera, Chairman of the RISC-V International Board of Directors, Board Officer of Si2, Officer at IEEE DASC, and member of Governing Board at CHIPS Alliance. He holds a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UC Berkeley.

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Former CEO Thermofisher Scientific



Augustė Sinkevičiūtė
Head of Energy Transformation at Ignitis Group

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16:30–17:00 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Future of AI



Chetna Mahajan

Head of Corporate Engineering at HubSpot

Chetna Mahajan is an award-winning global technology executive, three-time CIO and board advisor with 25+ years of experience leading enterprise AI and digital transformation across Fortune 100 enterprises, government and high-growth SaaS companies.

Chetna was most recently Head of Corporate Engineering at HubSpot and, prior to that, Chief Information Officer at Webflow and Chief Digital & Information Officer at Amplitude. She is known for accelerating ROI through AI transformation, driving business outcomes such as revenue per employee, productivity and customer experience, while building the governance, platforms and teams that let AI scale responsibly. Earlier, she was the first CIO of ZoomInfo and held leadership roles at Conga, Symantec, Boeing and Sun Microsystems.

She advises venture firms including Sequoia Capital, Accel, Ridge Ventures and Mayfield. Chetna holds an MBA from the University of Colorado and an MS in Computer Science Engineering from Arizona State University.

17:00–18:00 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Open innovation and AI – opportunities, threats, and value capture



Moderator Asta Pundzienė

Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre at KTU

The panel explores how AI and open innovation create new opportunities for collaboration, business growth, and competitive advantage. Through real-world cases, experts will discuss how companies can balance innovation speed with control over data, intellectual property, partnerships, and value capture. The discussion will highlight practical strategies for scaling AI, managing risks, and ensuring sustainable business value.



Chetna Mahajan
Head of Corporate Engineering at HubSpot



Augustinas Stirbis
Co-founder and VP of Engineering at CAST.AI



Justinas Taruška
CEO at NANDO



Justas Morkūnas
CCO at Nexos.ai



Mantas Lukauskas
AI Tech Lead at Hostinger

18:00–18:15 **Closing remarks** KTU M-Lab, room 111

18:15–19:00 **Travel to the evening programme venue (self-transfer)**
Participants are kindly requested to make their way to DIA Restaurant, Maironio St. 8, Kaunas.

19:00–19:30 **Evening programme: Making Client Venturing thrive** DIA Restaurant, Maironio st. 9, Kaunas



Moderator Agnieszka Radziwon

University of Southern Denmark

The panel explores how corporations can leverage venture clienting to accelerate innovation, collaborate with startups, and gain competitive advantage. Through real-world cases, experts will discuss how to overcome organizational barriers, align startup solutions with business needs, and turn pilot projects into scalable commercial partnerships. The discussion will highlight practical strategies for creating measurable value for both corporations and startups.



Gabija Tarvydytė
Business Development and Strategy Officer at Ivabaltė



Sebastian Schäfer
Venture Client Solutions Lead and Manager at 27pilots



Yuji Yamada
Founder at r3s.jp

19:30–21:30 **Dinner** DIA Restaurant, Maironio st. 9, Kaunas



Berkeley Innovation Forum Europe

2026

8:00–9:00 **Networking breakfast** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

9:00–9:15 **Welcome to the second day** KTU M-Lab, room 111

9:15–10:30 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Open Innovation Ecosystem: Delivering Tangible Results



Moderator Henry Chesbrough

Faculty co-director at the Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation at UC Berkeley

The panel explores how corporations, startups, universities, and innovation partners can turn ecosystem collaboration into measurable business impact. Experts will discuss how to align priorities, overcome collaboration barriers, and accelerate the development and scaling of joint innovations. The discussion will focus on concrete actions, shared commitments, and tangible results the open innovation ecosystem can deliver within the next 12 months.



Monika Paulė
Director of Innovation Agency



Mantas Katinas
Chairman of the Board at Unicorns Lithuania



Lukas Geryba
Director of Open Innovation Centre, KTU



Oğuzhan Aygören
Director at Institute for Business Innovation at UC Berkeley



Tomas Dirvonskas
Co-founder of Comfortof; AI partner of the 15min media group

10:30–11:00 **Networking coffee** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

11:00–11:30 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Venture Clienting & Trends



Hannah Boomgaarden

Director of Open Innovation at Plug and Play

Director Open Innovation at Plug and Play and former Program Director of STARTUP AUTOBAHN, Europe's largest open innovation platform, with partners including Mercedes-Benz and Bosch. Experience on both the corporate side (Nestlé, Axel Springer) and startup side (Testbirds), combined with research in Corporate Entrepreneurship. Designs and runs open innovation programs, executive workshops and EXPO events for 1,000+ industry leaders. M.A. in Media Management (Stuttgart Media University); mentor and speaker at Web Summit, Startup Weekend and Corporate Startup Summit; guest docent for Business Models.

11:30–12:30 **VENTURE CLIENTING WORKSHOP** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Impulse, Self-assessment, Peer exchange, Best practices and Assessment



Hannah Boomgaarden
Director of Open Innovation, Plug and Play



Povilas Žinys
Director of Plug and Play Tech Center Lithuania

12:30–13:30 **Networking lunch** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

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continue

13:30–14:30 **VENTURE CLIENTING WORKSHOP** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Impulse, Self-assessment, Peer exchange, Best practices and Assessment



Hannah Boomgaarden
Director of Open Innovation, Plug and Play



Povilas Žinys
Director of Plug and Play Tech Center Lithuania

14:30–14:45 **Networking coffee** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

14:45–15:15 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Does AI substitute or complement human talents?



David Teece

BRG founder and top-cited FT 50 scholar in economics

David J. Teece is Distinguished Scholar of Strategy and Innovation at the University of South Florida, and Professor of the Graduate School at the University of California, Berkeley. He has authored over thirty books and two hundred scholarly papers. Dr. Teece has been ranked as the world's most-cited scholar in the combined field of business and management (over 260,000 times, per Google Scholar). Dr. Teece co-founded BRG, an expert services and consulting firm of economists and other professionals with expertise in domains ranging from higher education to corporate finance. Dr. Teece also founded the Law and Economics Consulting Group (LECG), where he acted as chairman and then vice-chairman.

15:15–15:45 **KEYNOTE** KTU M-Lab, room 111

AI and Human Talents



Vygintas Domarkas
CTO at Telia

15:45–16:45 **PANEL DISCUSSION** KTU M-Lab, room 111

Does AI substitute or complement human talents?



Moderator Henry Chesbrough

Henry Chesbrough coined the term "open innovation" and research focuses on technology management and innovation strategy. He also teaches at Esade Business School at Spain's University Ramon Llull. He has been an adjunct professor at the Harvard Business School and previously served as product manager and vice president of marketing at Quantum Corporation. He earned a BA in economics from Yale University, an MBA from Stanford Universitv. and a PhD in business administration from Berkelev Haas.



David Teece
BRG founder and top-cited FT 50 scholar in economics



Asta Pundzienė
Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre, KTU



Vygintas Domarkas
CTO at Telia



Rokas Bilevičius
Senior Director of Engineering, Cast AI



Gintarė Verbickaitė
CEO of Unicorns Lithuania

16:45–17:15 **Beyond BIF Europe** KTU M-Lab, room 111

17:15–18:00 **Closing drinks** KTU M-Lab, Main hall

Main partner

UC Berkeley Haas
Institute for Business Innovation

Main communication partner

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Ecosystem and challenge partners

Innovation Agency LITHUANIA

PLUG AND PLAY

Partners

Telia

Qualcomm

BRG
Berkeley Research Group



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ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC

nando

HOSTINGER

CAST AI

SIEMENS

IVABALTĖ

27pilots
a Deloitte business

HubSpot

LKU

Panelists' bio notes



Šarūnas Grigaliūnas

Head of the National Cyber Security Centre at KTU

Prof. Dr. Šarūnas Grigaliūnas is a Professor and Head of the Computer Science Department at Kaunas University of Technology (KTU), where he also directs the Cyber Security Centre of Excellence and serves as the university's CISO. He is a Board Member of the ISACA Lithuania Chapter and a technical expert for the Lithuanian Standards Board Committees LST TK 100 (Quantum technologies) and LST TK 79 (IT security techniques). His core focus spans post-quantum cryptography, AI security governance, and digital forensics.



Povilas Žinys

Director at Plug&Play Lithuania

Director of Plug and Play Tech Center Lithuania, where he leads strategic investments, corporate innovation initiatives, and public-private partnerships. Povilas has been leading the sector agnostic Startup Lithuania Accelerator powered by Plug and Play where he has already accelerated 67 and invested in over 48 startups, resulting in over 40mil in funding for the accelerated startups. With over a decade of experience across fintech, cybersecurity, and the space industry, Povilas has played a key role in positioning Lithuania as a growing hub for innovation and venture activity in the CEE region.



Vytautas Bitinas

CEO at Registrų centras

Vytautas Bitinas is an experienced technology executive with deep expertise in innovation management across large infrastructure, private-sector, and public-sector organisations. His experience includes developing innovation strategies, implementing digitalisation initiatives, and applying structured innovation management models. He is strongly focused on linking technological initiatives with business value by promoting data-driven decision-making, experimentation, and pilot projects.



Jurgita Radzevičė

CEO of SBA Home

Jurgita Radzevičė is an accomplished business leader and CEO of SBA Home, with extensive experience in manufacturing, international business development, and organizational transformation. She successfully led SBA Home's expansion into North America and is recognized for building high-performing teams and driving sustainable growth. Jurgita also serves as a Board Chairwoman of Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, bringing strategic leadership and governance expertise into the biggest Lithuanian project.



Algimantas Markauskas

Former CEO Thermofisher Scientific

Algimantas Markauskas is one of Lithuania's most accomplished business leaders, best known for his tenure as CEO and Chairman of the Board of Thermo Fisher Scientific Baltics (2010–2024), where he led one of the largest biotechnology centres in the region and grew it into one of the most valuable enterprises in the Baltics. From 2017 he served as VP of Manufacturing Operations at Thermo Fisher Scientific, managing a $4 billion portfolio of over 100,000 highly complex products and overseeing operations across the USA, Norway, Israel, Germany, and Japan.Under his leadership the Vilnius centre grew revenues from €18 million to €1.9 billion, expanded its workforce to over 1,700 people, and became a globally recognised Centre of Excellence for biosciences manufacturing and R&D – recognised as the best of Thermo Fisher's 500+ global sites (2016) and a recipient of the Shingo Prize for operational excellence (2017). He was named CEO of the Year in Lithuania three times (2015, 2019, 2021) and awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order for Merits to Lithuania (2016). Today Algimantas serves on several corporate boards and continues to advise growth-stage businesses across the region on strategy and operational excellence.



Monika Paulė

Director of Innovation Agency

Monika Paulė has over 20 years of experience in innovation, biotechnology, and high-tech business development. She has served as a board member of the Research Council of Lithuania, Vice President of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, and Chair of its Innovation and Education Committees, as well as Vice President of LithuaniaBIO. She has also been a board member of the Vilnius University Life Sciences Center, an independent speaker and lecturer. Monika has led international life sciences projects and tech companies. She also contributed to the strategic governance of various organizations.



Mantas Katinas

Chairman of the Board at Unicorns Lithuania

Mantas Katinas is the CEO of Kurianti Karta, focused on building a modern, technology-enabled private education ecosystem in Lithuania. He has over a decade of leadership experience across technology, investment and business, including leadership roles at Wargaming Vilnius and Invest Lithuania. Mantas is also Chairman of the Board of Unicorns Lithuania and a board member of ISM University of Management and Economics. His current focus is at the intersection of education, technology and entrepreneurship, with a long-term ambition to help shape the future.



Augustė Sinkevičiūtė

Head of Energy Transformation at Ignitis Group

Augustė Sinkevičiūtė is Head of Energy Transformation at Ignitis Group. Her professional experience spans the entire energy value chain, providing a unique perspective on how markets, infrastructure, technology, and customer needs intersect. Drawing on roles across transmission system operations, energy markets, trading, customer businesses, and renewable energy development, she works on advancing strategic initiatives that support energy transition and innovation. Her current focus includes the development of future energy markets, market forecasting, the integration of innovative technologies, enabling system flexibility, and creating new business opportunities arising from the transformation of the European energy sector.



Mantas Lukauskas

AI Tech Lead at Hostinger

Mantas Lukauskas is an AI Tech Lead at Hostinger, where he works on building and scaling production-grade AI systems, AI agents, and LLM-powered products. He holds a PhD in Informatics from Kaunas University of Technology and has published multiple research papers and contributed to patented inventions. His work bridges AI research with practical applications used at scale.



Rokas Bilievičius

Senior Director of Engineering, Cast AI

Rokas Bilevičius is Senior Director of Engineering at Cast AI, where he leads engineering teams building cloud and AI automation products. With more than a decade of experience developing large-scale cloud-native systems, he has played a key role in shaping the company's engineering culture and platform from its early days, helping scale the engineering organization and the platform that has enabled Cast AI's growth into Lithuania's fifth unicorn. Rokas is also an alumnus of Kaunas University of Technology (KTU).



Gintarė Verbickaitė

CEO of Unicorns Lithuania

Gintarė Verbickaitė is one of the leading voices shaping Lithuania's innovation and startup ecosystem. As CEO of Unicorns Lithuania, she champions the national association of over 130 high-growth technology powerhouses and tech unicorns. With two decades of global experience across Australia, Estonia, and Lithuania, Gintarė operates at the forefront of digital economies, investment, and innovation policy. Previously, as VP of Global Growth at Invest Lithuania, she was one of the key architects in transforming the country into a leading European fintech hub – a landmark impact recognized with the Fintech Leader of the Year award. She is also the founder of the Australian Lithuanian Business Council and an advisor to Global Lithuanian Leaders.



Augustinas Stirbis

Co-founder and VP of Engineering at CAST.AI

Augustinas Stirbis is VP of Engineering at Cast AI, Lithuania's fifth unicorn. He began his career at Barclays and Danske Bank, where he gained extensive experience managing large-scale IT infrastructure. A holder and co-author of several technology patents, he now leads the engineering team behind Cast AI's cloud automation platform. In 2026, Cast AI surpassed a $1 billion valuation, becoming one of Lithuania's leading technology success stories.



Justinas Taruška

CEO at NANDO

Justinas Taruška is the CEO of Nando, a biotechnology company focused on innovative microbial solutions for sustainable agriculture. An active member of LithuaniaBIO, LIPA, and CropLife Lithuania, he is committed to fostering innovation and collaboration across the life sciences sector. With a strong track record in business development and scaling technology-driven organizations, he brings valuable insights into how AI and open innovation can accelerate growth and value creation in science-based industries.



Justas Morkūnas

General Director at Nexos.ai

Justas Morkūnas is the Chief Operating Officer at nexos.ai, an all-in-one AI platform for business and tech teams that unifies model access, agent automation, and governance. With over a decade of experience in sales, marketing, and business strategy, he previously scaled revenue operations at Nord Security, the cybersecurity leader behind NordVPN and NordLayer, as COO, leading a 75-person team through global expansion. Now at nexos.ai, Morkūnas drives commercial growth and bridges enterprise customer needs with secure AI innovation.



Juozapas Preikša

CMO, OBDeleven

Juozapas Preikša is the CMO of OBDeleven, the connected car technology company that gives drivers access to dealership-level diagnostics and customisation capabilities through officially licensed software. Before beginning his career in finance and data analysis, he studied Economics at the ISM University of Management. Following his tenure as Head of Economics and Social Policy at the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists, he worked at the indie games studio Tiny Labs as Chief Business Development Officer and as a product manager at the proxy service Oxylabs.io. He co-founded the global micro-working platform JumpTask in 2022 and served as CEO until joining OBDeleven in 2023. As CMO he is responsible for leading OBDeleven's marketing, branding, sales and commerce efforts. He is a car enthusiast and experienced product builder. He is based in Lithuania.



Gabija Tarvydytė

Business Development and Strategy Officer at Ivabaltė

Gabija Tarvydytė is an entrepreneur, and education philanthropist with experience spanning agricultural machinery, agribusiness, and education. She is a shareholder and Business Development and Strategy Officer at Ivabaltė, one of the region's leading privately owned, family-run agricultural machinery importers and dealers, established in 1995. She also leads Tarvydis Farm, an agricultural enterprise focused on the production and export of a diverse range of crops. Beyond her business activities, Gabija runs Smart Students Academy, Engineering and Life Science Class- an educational initiative in Lithuania advancing opportunities to study engineering and life sciences. Through her work across business, agriculture, and education, she is committed to fostering sustainable growth, innovation, and opportunities for the next generation.



Sebastian Schäfer

Venture Client Solutions Lead and Manager at 27pilots

Sebastian Schäfer helps companies gain a competitive advantage by systematically adopting startup technologies through Venture Clienting, a new model of corporate venturing. At 27pilots, he works with organizations such as Siemens Energy, Bosch, Statkraft and Equinor to establish, develop, and operate world-class Venture Client capabilities. He has led and supported the setup of 10+ Venture Client Units with more than 100 startup adoption projects across mobility, manufacturing, building technology, and energy. Before joining 27pilots, Sebastian worked at the German Federal Foreign Office and Siemens Management Consulting. He studied at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and was a visiting researcher at Stanford University's Designing Education Lab.



Yuji Yamada

Organizational strategist and practitioner

Yuji is an organizational strategist and practitioner focused on self-managing and distributed organizations. After early experience in talent development, HR, and as a founding member and COO of the BtoB SaaS company XICA, he became independent in 2017 to support startups and large enterprises in organizational strategy and next-generation organizational design. In October 2021, he founded r3s.jp, where he facilitates dialogue with global thinkers and supports companies experimenting with new organizational models. He leads the Japan community of the global network Corporate Rebels and, in partnership with China's Haier, established Japan's first RenDanHeYi Research Center in 2025. His publications include Signs of the Shift, and his translated works include Work with Source and Moose Heads on the Table.



Tomas Dirvonskas

Co-founder of Comfortof; AI partner of the 15min media group

Tomas Dirvonskas is co-founder of Comfort of Complex Computations (Comfortof), a Vilnius-based AI product studio, and the AI partner of the 15min media group, where his team builds AI tools for editorial and commercial teams and launched the radio and TV ad-intelligence platform Galago. Earlier he co-founded Lemon Labs, the agency behind the first Vinted app, and has organised developer communities in Lithuania since 2009. He believes the next leap in Lithuania's innovation will come from small, AI-native teams building real products together with established companies.



Asta Pundzienė

Director of Business Digital Transformation Research Centre at KTU

She is a Professor of Strategic Management and Innovation at the KTU School of Economics and Business, and Head of the MLab Digital Healthcare Innovations Laboratory. Her research focuses on dynamic capabilities, open innovation, and the governance of digital technologies, with particular application to digital healthcare. She has published more than 40 international papers in scientific journals, and is the founding editor of the Baltic Journal of Management. Asta brings over 15 years of experience in research and innovation leadership.



Lukas Geryba

Director of the Open Innovation Centre at KTU

As Executive Director of the KTU Open Innovation Centre, Lukas focuses on building partnerships that bridge academic research with industry and public-sector needs to deliver impactful, measurable outcomes. His work is grounded in open innovation, business model innovation, digital transformation, and advancing digital-based strategies. With over five years as a researcher and lecturer at Kaunas University of Technology, Lukas contributes to the academic discourse on business digital transformation and strategic management. His teaching emphasizes practical applications of platform business models and strategy execution, while his research aligns with digital healthcare innovation and supporting the growth of born-digital firms.



Agnieszka Radziwon

University of Southern Denmark

Agnes Radziwon is an Associate Professor at the University of Southern Denmark and a Research Fellow at the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Radziwon's expertise is in innovation and technology management. As a scholar, she is looking into a broader perspective of inter-organizational collaboration in various types of (eco)systems. She is interested in the ways knowledge is transferred across organizations, the role of networks in facilitating or hindering innovation, and how institutions codify ideas and practices. She has published several highly cited articles concerning open innovation, open innovation in science, and ecosystems. She is a co-author of the Oxford Handbook on Open Innovation (OUP, 2024).