

SILICON ALPS Cluster Press Release, July 2026

Preview of EBSCON 2026 in Graz

Crossroads – decide.disrupt.deliver. Leading Europe's innovative strength into the future together

(Graz/Villach, 10 July 2026) Europe is opening a new chapter in its industrial and innovation policy. With the European Chips Act 2.0, competitiveness, technological sovereignty and the rapid implementation of innovations are taking centre stage more than ever before. This is precisely where **EBSCON 2026** comes in, taking place on **7 October 2026** at Messe Congress Graz as Europe's leading conference for semiconductors, microelectronics and Electronic and Software-Based Systems (ESBS).

Under the motto **"Crossroads – decide.disrupt.deliver."**, EBSCON brings together decision-makers from industry, research, start-ups and politics. The focus is on the strategic directions, partnerships and technologies that will shape Europe's innovation and competitiveness in the coming years.

"Europe boasts excellent research, strong universities and world-leading companies. The task now is to translate innovations more quickly into industrial applications, competitive businesses and European value creation," emphasises Robert Gfrerer, Managing Director of the SILICON ALPS Cluster and President of the Silicon Europe Alliance. "The European Chips Act 2.0 provides important impetus for this. It will be crucial to accelerate its implementation and further strengthen cooperation between regions, industry, research and European initiatives."

EBSCON 2026 combines strategic perspectives with concrete solutions. International keynote speeches will provide impetus for European industrial policy, start-ups will present innovative technologies, interactive labs will focus on future-oriented topics such as dual-use applications and semiconductor innovations, whilst matchmaking formats will facilitate new collaborations across the entire value chain.

For the second time, the conference will form the highlight of **EBSCON WEEK** from **6 to 9 October 2026**. International delegations from Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany and Italy will visit companies, research institutions and innovation hubs in Carinthia and Styria, thereby strengthening European knowledge and technology transfer.

Crossroads – decide.disrupt.deliver.

EBSCON's motto describes the journey from strategic decision-making to successful implementation:

Decide

Europe is deciding today on the key technologies and investments of tomorrow. The focus is on semiconductors, microelectronics, artificial intelligence and Electronic and Software-Based Systems (ESBS) as the foundation of a resilient and competitive industry.

Disrupt

The next wave of innovation is emerging where new chip architectures, AI, sensor technology, edge computing and intelligent software converge. Europe has the expertise and innovative strength to play an active role in shaping this development.

Deliver

The decisive factor for success is implementation. Innovations must find their way more quickly from research and development into industrial applications, new business models and international markets.

A particular highlight will be the **keynote address** by the internationally renowned **entrepreneur and investor Hermann Hauser**. The Austrian-born speaker will outline how Europe can better combine its strengths in research, entrepreneurship and regional innovation ecosystems to build on its technological leadership in the long term.

EBSCON WEEK 2026 – Connecting Europe's semiconductor ecosystem

As in the previous year, EBSCON forms part of **EBSCON WEEK** from **6 to 9 October 2026**:

- **Tuesday, 6 October:** Demo Day for the Infineon Startup Challenge "Humanoid Robotics" (Messe Congress Graz)
- **Wednesday, 7 October:** EBSCON 2026 – "Crossroads – decide.disrupt.deliver." (Messe Congress Graz)
- **Thursday, 8 October:** International Incoming Delegation Day with organisations from Sweden and the Netherlands – participation in the Carinthia Applied Systems Day "Robotics" at the Lakeside Science & Technology Park in Klagenfurt and company visits in Carinthia
- **Friday, 9 October:** Company visits and networking with international delegations in Styria

"Europe needs one thing above all else: **Need for Speed**," emphasises Robert Gfrerer. "Our regions form the foundation of a strong European semiconductor industry. Innovations now need to reach the market more quickly. Clusters play a key role in this: they link businesses, research, politics and European programmes to form high-performing innovation ecosystems."

His conclusion: "Europe's technological future is shaped where cooperation outpaces competition and innovations are jointly transformed into added value."

Website: <https://www.ebscon.eu>

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Register for EBSCON at: <https://www.b2match.com/e/ebcon-2026>

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10 years of the SILICON ALPS Cluster: A track record at a glance

Over the past ten years, the SILICON ALPS Cluster has evolved from a regional network into an internationally recognised innovation hub for microelectronics and ESBS (Electronic and Software-Based Systems). With strong European networking, millions in secured funding, the establishment of the AT-C³ Austrian Chips Competence Centre, and numerous innovation projects for companies and SMEs, the cluster now makes a significant contribution to the technological competitiveness of Austria and Europe. SILICON ALPS brings together research, industry and policy, turning strategic future topics into concrete innovations and value creation.