MS&D international conference and expo maritime security and defence

Press Release

MS&D and GSIS to create a joint platform in 2027

Independent conferences and a joint expo bring together maritime security and defence, technology, innovation and finance

Hamburg, 17. November 2026 – The **MS&D – International Conference & Expo on Maritime Security & Defence** is continuing on its path as an annual format: On **8 and 9 December 2027**, the **MS&D Conference & Expo** will be held at the **CCH – Congress Center Hamburg** together with the **Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS)** for the first time. Both formats will retain their distinct conference profiles while creating a joint exhibition for maritime and other security solutions as well as dual-use technologies.

Claus Ulrich Selbach, Vice President Exhibitions Maritime & Technology at Hamburg Messe und Congress: “More than ever, maritime security requires close cooperation between navies, industry, policymakers and technology stakeholders. Together with GSIS, we are bringing concrete maritime requirements together with technology, innovation and finance. At the same time, the MS&D Conference & Expo will retain its clear maritime profile while opening up access to further international networks.”

Established in Hamburg in 2009, the MS&D Conference & Expo has been held annually since 2025: as part of SMM, the world’s leading maritime trade fair, in SMM years and as a stand-alone format in the intervening years.

Two perspectives, one joint platform

In 2027, the strengths of both formats will complement each other: The MS&D Conference & Expo focuses on maritime requirements, operational capabilities, procurement and industrial solutions. GSIS broadens the perspective to include technologies such as cyber, quantum and space, as well as innovation finance, competitiveness and resilient supply chains.

The joint **Expo** in Hall H of the CCH will form the central exhibition area. The **MS&D Conference** is planned to take place on an open stage in the hall, while further **GSIS formats and side events** will be held in separate conference rooms. Also taking place at the CCH in parallel is **ALL ABOUT PORTS**, the new platform for holistic port solutions.

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The MS&D 2027 is set to address topics including European maritime capabilities, procurement and industrial capacity, the protection of critical infrastructure, unmanned systems, cybersecurity, maritime resilience and the underwater domain.

MS&D 2026: Strong presence at SMM

The MS&D Conference & Expo 2026 highlighted the growing importance of security, defence and dual-use technologies for the maritime industry. Around **23,000 people** visited Naval Hall B8, where **64 exhibitors** showcased their solutions. A further **around 100 companies offering dual-use technologies** were represented across the wider SMM exhibition grounds. The conference, exhibition and Naval Stage formed a closely integrated format. The programme focused on topics including Europe's maritime capabilities, modern naval warfare, the underwater domain, cybersecurity, and manned and unmanned systems. Naval representatives from **21 nations** underlined the international reach of the event. Building on this strong foundation, the MS&D Conference & Expo 2027 will bring its established network spanning navies, procurement, industry, policymakers and academia into the joint platform with GSIS.

About MS&D

The **MS&D – International Conference & Expo on Maritime Security & Defence** brings together high-ranking representatives from navies, politics, government authorities, industry and academia. It focuses on current maritime security challenges, operational requirements, defence procurement and technological developments. The combination of conference, exhibition and networking facilitates direct international exchange between armed forces, procurement organisations and industry. Since 2025, MS&D has been held annually: as part of SMM, the world's leading maritime trade fair, in SMM years and as a stand-alone format in the intervening years. In 2027, it will be held together with the **Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS)** for the first time. The next MS&D Conference & Expo will take place on **8 and 9 December 2027** at the **CCH – Congress Center Hamburg**.
Further information: www.msd-hamburg.com

About GSIS – Global Security and Innovation Summit

The **Global Security and Innovation Summit (GSIS)** is an international platform for security and innovation. It brings together decision-makers from politics, security and defence, technology, industry, academia and finance, connecting geopolitics and security, technology and innovation,

as well as industry, finance and scaling. GSIS is designed to foster long-term cooperation: partners contribute their expertise, networks and their own formats to turn strategic dialogue into concrete cooperation and initiatives. The annual summit in Hamburg serves as the central meeting point for this international network. Maritime security is a strategic anchor without limiting the platform's broader thematic scope. GSIS is organised by Hamburg Messe und Congress in cooperation with the **International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)**. The next GSIS will take place on **9 and 10 December 2026** at the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg.
Further information: www.gsis-hamburg.com

About Hamburg Messe und Congress
Hamburg Messe und Congress (HMC) is an organizer and host of major international events, trade fairs, and congresses. Its unique event campus in the heart of Hamburg comprises eleven exhibition halls and the CCH – Congress Center Hamburg – connected by the park Planten un Blomen. Leading international trade fairs such as SMM, WindEnergy Hamburg, and INTERNORGA are meeting places for visitors from all over the world. In addition, there are numerous guest events on a wide range of topics, including aviation, mobility, and renewable energies. The portfolio of trade fairs and congresses is geared towards the economic clusters of the Hamburg metropolitan region. Hamburg Messe und Congress employs over 350 people and generated sales of around 92 million euros in 2025.
Further information: www.hamburg-messe.de

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