



Report for the Annual 2025 Transatlantic Partnerships Business Roundtables

Nordic Region

October 8, 2025

Report for the Nordic Business Council USA's annual Transatlantic Partnerships Business Roundtables in the Nordic Region, now including the strategic meetings and the proposed Smart Innovation Fund.

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Strategic Council Meetings – Nordic Region 2025

As part of its annual convening, the **Nordic Business Council USA** hosted strategic meetings across Nordic Region with Council Members and key stakeholders from the Nordics and Europe to shape the **Transatlantic Partnerships 2026–2029 Program**.

Recent September/October 2025 Nordic Business Council USA meetings focused on growing trade, technology, and security partnerships between the **USA** and the **Nordic Region and Arctic Region - Finland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Sweden, Greenland, and Faroe Islands**. The Council held one-on-one sessions with government, military, industry, academia, and research leaders to explore co-operation, co-innovation, commercialization of new technology partner programs, smart critical infrastructure, and access to funding.

Smart Innovation Fund Proposal

As a result of these strategic dialogues, the Nordic Business Council USA has proposed the formation of a new **Smart Innovation Fund**—a catalytic resource to accelerate **SMART-R (Smart + Resilient)** development through innovation.

Purpose

The Smart Innovation Fund will serve as a strategic launchpad for new technology innovation and deployment, supporting global efforts to foster peace, reduce conflict drivers, and build resilient, inclusive communities.

Objectives

- Launch and scale smart technologies and dual-use innovation pilots
- Provide access to funding, training, and tools for strategic partners
- Host Innovation Roundtables and Living Labs
- Elevate knowledge and leadership in innovation processes
- Bridge digital divides through smart infrastructure and last-mile connectivity

Nordic Business Council USA hosted a series of Transatlantic Partnerships Business Roundtables during 2025. These roundtables's main purpose was to strengthen the trade, technology, and security partnerships between the U.S. and Nordic innovators, businesses, and organizations.

A key area of focus during September/October 2025 Transatlantic Partnerships Business Roundtables was **dual-use technologies**—advanced technologies that have both civilian and military applications. Think of GPS: it started as a military tool but is now in every civilian smartphone. That's a perfect example of a dual-use technology.

On-the-Ground Experiences in Riihimäki

The Council Members and roundtable attendees visited two key sites in Finland, to see innovation in action:

Defence Innovation Network (DEFINE): This is a unique innovation ecosystem where military and civilian experts work together to co-create new technologies. The visit showed how collaboration can produce solutions that serve both defense and broader societal needs.

Sako Oy: Delegates toured the facilities of one of the world's most prestigious rifle and cartridge manufacturers. This visit was significant because it highlighted how modern defense requires a fusion of high-precision manufacturing and advanced digital technology, showing that cutting-edge hardware is just as critical as software.

The Transatlantic Partnerships Event in Espoo: The Business Roundtable

The day culminated in the Transatlantic Partnerships for Dual-Use Technology Business Roundtable. Facilitated by **Minna LeVine, Chair of the Nordic Business Council USA**, this forum brought together experts, innovators, and key decision-makers to discuss the future of these powerful technologies. The primary goal was to build impactful business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) partnerships that can drive sustainable growth and enhance global security.

After focusing on defense and security, the Council's attention turned to the wider world of cutting-edge technology at a NORDEEP.

Diving into Deep Tech: The NORDEEP 2025: www.Nordeep.com

The Council members attended NORDEEP 2025, Northern Europe's leading deep tech conference. The summit's goal is to connect groundbreaking, science-driven innovation with business opportunities and investment, turning brilliant ideas into real-world solutions.

Who Attended and What Was Discussed?

The summit was a meeting point for international innovation ecosystem. The discussions covered the most advanced topics in technology today.

Key Attendee Groups

Core Summit Themes

Deep tech startups & research teams, Investors & VCs, Corporations, Public sector leaders, Universities, incubators & accelerators, Ecosystem builders & media

Quantum computing & AI, Dual-use technologies, New funding instruments, University-industry collaboration

These high-level events and discussions led directly to concrete, long-term strategic planning by the Nordic Business Council USA.

From Conversation to Action: Future-Focused Strategy

Beyond the public conferences, the Nordic Business Council USA held critical strategic meetings with key stakeholders from the U.S. and Europe. The purpose of these meetings was to translate the momentum from the events into action and shape the council's future programs.

A New Tool for Innovation: The Smart Innovation Fund

A key outcome of the strategic dialogues was the proposal for a new **Smart Innovation Fund**. This fund is designed to act as a "strategic launchpad" for new technology that can foster peace and help build resilient communities.

Its primary objectives are to:

- **Launch and scale** smart technologies and dual-use innovation pilots.
- **Provide access** to funding, training, and tools for partners.
- **Host** Innovation Roundtables and "Living Labs" (where new ideas can be tested in real-world environments).
- **Elevate** knowledge and leadership in the innovation process.
- **Bridge** digital divides to ensure communities are better connected.

The Four-Year Vision: The Transatlantic Partnerships Program (2026–2029)

The council officially announced its **Transatlantic Partnerships Program for 2026–2029**. This multi-year initiative aims to help businesses scale their technology and operations through trade between the U.S. and the Nordic Region. It serves as a strategic platform for innovation, investment, and creating a positive impact.

Here are the key benefits of the program:

1. **Catalyze Projects:** The program is designed to launch new technology pilots and sustainable infrastructure projects, turning innovative ideas into reality.
2. **Connect Innovators:** It provides members with access to verified business networks, ensuring that the right people, companies, and ideas can find each other and collaborate.
3. **Accelerate Investment:** The program will accelerate investment in education, workforce development, and smart solutions, building a skilled talent pool for the future.
4. **Strengthen Alliances:** By promoting shared growth, the program reinforces the strategic partnership between the United States and the Nordic nations.

Conclusion: What This Means for the Future

The 2025 Nordic meetings were more than just a series of conferences. They represented a foundational step in building stronger, more integrated technology, security, and trade relationships between the United States and the Nordic nations. Discussions at Secure Horizons and NORDEEP translated directly into action, resulting in two major initiatives: the proposed **Smart Innovation Fund** to launch new technologies and the **Transatlantic Partnerships Program** to scale them globally. This clear path from conversation to action creates a powerful framework for future growth and innovation.

Acknowledgments

The Nordic Business Council USA sincerely thank our hosts and partners for their commitment to advancing transatlantic collaboration in defense and peace innovation. Your leadership continues to shape the future of secure, resilient ecosystems.

We look forward to continued partnership and future engagements.

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The **Nordic Business Council USA (NBC USA)** is a privately managed executive council and corporate partner program that fosters strategic cooperation between the United States and the Nordic Region—including Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, and Greenland.

Purpose and Mission

- **Drive collaboration** across business, education, infrastructure, and government sectors
- **Support cross-border trade and investment** through curated programs and strategic roundtables
- **Empower enterprises and institutions** with insights, access, and partnership opportunities

Senior-level executives from partner companies and institutions gain:

- A seat at the **Annual Nordic Business Council USA Leadership Forum**
- Invitations to present at **Business Roundtables**
- Inclusion in the **Nordic Business Review (NBR)** publication



- Opportunities to participate in **joint projects and initiatives**
- International Practicums

Strategic Activities

- **Transatlantic Business Roundtables** and trade missions
- **Executive training programs** for market expansion and workforce development
- **Partner projects** supporting communities and technology deployment

The Council is managed by the Nordic Business Council USA and collaborates closely with SMART Community Exchange and other international networks.

Invest in Smart America

U.S. communities are investing in smart technologies to improve infrastructure, transportation, energy efficiency, and public services. Foreign investors can partner with U.S. companies and local governments to develop and implement these solutions.

Smart Initiatives

SMART Community Initiatives are strategic, mission-driven efforts led by residents, organizations, and local leaders to solve challenges and create opportunities within their communities.

Smart Community Council USA

Smart Community Council USA is a specially formed Executive Council that drives cooperation, shares perspectives from stakeholders, and helps power enterprises, organizations, institutions, and governments with valuable insight.

SmartCommunityExchange.com

The SMART Community Exchange (SCE) offers a variety of programs and events designed to foster collaboration, innovation, and growth in communities.

A Call to Action for Technology Companies

The Smart Community Exchange USA invites technology companies to collaborate and co-innovate directly with U.S. government agencies, the military, and high-tech industry partners. As a strategic partner, you will receive exclusive updates on U.S. government-issued research needs, technical challenges, upcoming projects, and opportunities to showcase your technology to key decision-makers.