



Berlin Summit

2025 Summit Guide

International Showcase

22 May 2025

 www.africarena.com

@africarena

@AfricArenaaccelerator

@africarena

@africarena

@africarena

WELCOME

Welcome to the ninth live edition of the AfricArena Tour, where we are leading the way in blending digital and in-person tech experiences throughout the African continent.

Our summit and associated events present a distinctive chance to explore current and emerging tech trends while highlighting Africa's most outstanding startups and innovators. Covering five regions, AfricArena has brought together prominent figures from both global and African tech scenes, advocating for excellence in African technology. Past editions have seen over 700 attendees, more than 60 speakers, and upwards of US\$900 million in significant deals.

This one-day AfricArena Berlin Summit will connect over 10 top African startups with global investors, showcasing the continent's innovative capabilities.

Thanks to our valued tech ecosystem partners, Berlin is among the world's leading Tech Capitals, and this summit features over 10 founders, exemplifying the African continent's tech leadership.

As we aim for a collaborative, pan-African approach to innovation - dedicated to creating an environment that promotes positive change. This year's Berlin Summit is set to provide the ultimate platform for accelerating the growth of African tech startups in Germany and build bridges between Africa and Europe.



Venture Café Berlin
Lohmühlenstraße 65, Berlin



10 + Founders | 10+ Speakers



Over 100 in person attendees
throughout 1 day

WHAT IS AFRICARENA?

AfricArena plays a unique and key role in unifying Tech Startups, Corporations, and Investors.



Strengthen

Strengthening the international traction of Africa's most innovative tech startups.



Connect

Connecting founders with investors and corporations.



Promote

Attracting both entrepreneurs and investors to Africa.



Attract

Promoting the African Tech ecosystem and its opportunities.

BERLIN SUMMIT PROGRAM

Thursday 22 May 2025

All times are CET (Central European Time, GMT+1 / Berlin Time)

14:30 PM	GUESTS ARRIVE & MC WELCOME
14:35 PM	AfricArena Welcome - Christophe Viarnaud
14:45 PM	Word of Sponsors
14:55 PM	Keynote: Raising Funds for African Startups from European Investors
15:10 PM	Panel Discussion: Startup Divide: Debate—Is Europe Still Africa's Best Innovation Partner
15:50 PM	Panel Discussion: Investing in Her: Unlocking Africa's Untapped Market
16:20 PM	Panel Discussion: State of Tech in Africa
17:00 PM	Spotlight on Innovation: Get ready to be inspired as our incredible African startups hit the stage to showcase the future!
18:00 PM	Drinks & Networking in Venture Cafe - Coco Restaurant



EVENT LOGISTICS

BERLIN

This year's AfricArena Berlin Summit is taking place at The Venture Cafe.

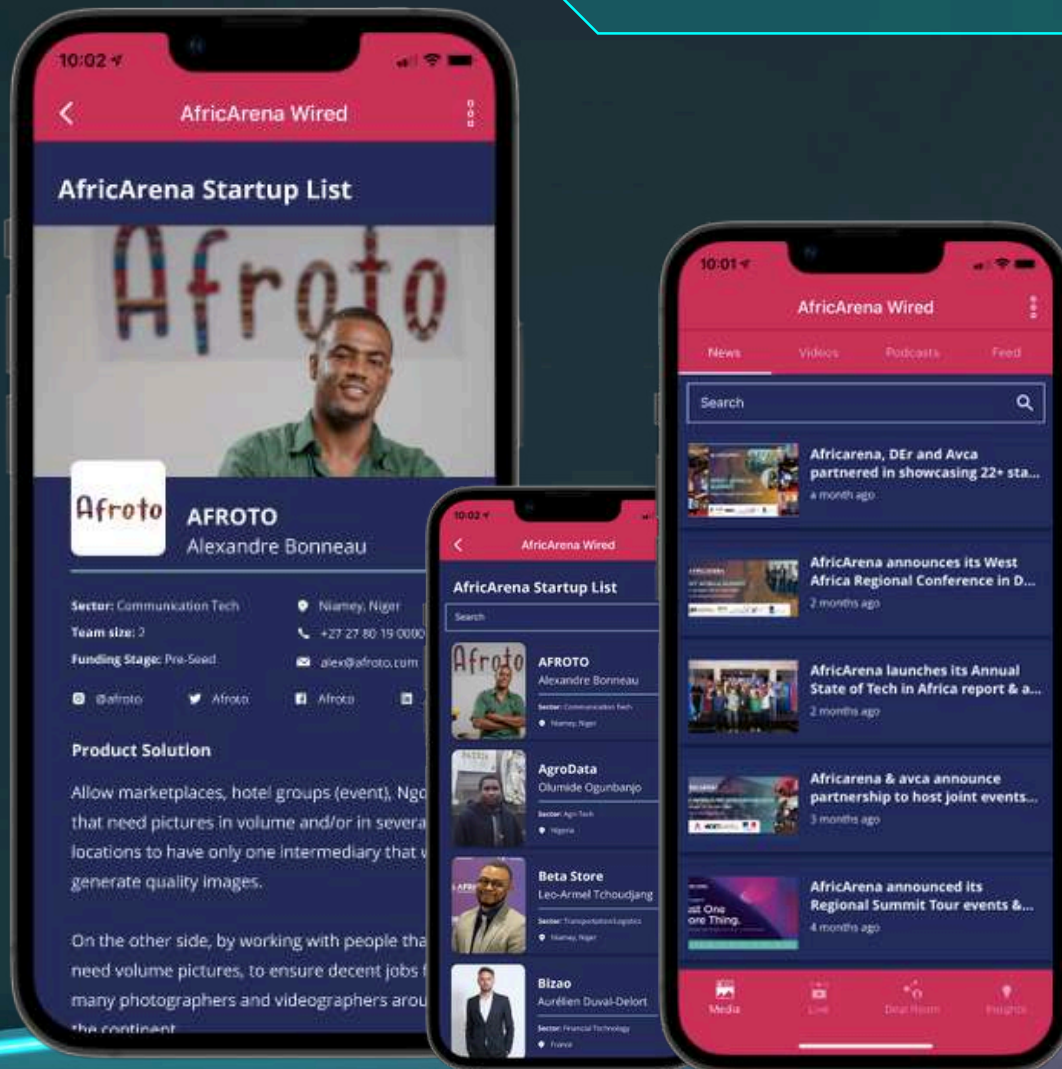
Venue: The Venture Café Berlin is located in the CIC berlin at Lohmühlenstraße 65, Berlin in the event space called Jordan. You are advised to use the dedicated entrance where you will be welcomed upon registration into the vibrant atmosphere of the 'Thursday Gathering'.



Welcome to AfricArena Wired

The African Tech Ecosystem at the Palm of Your Hand.

A reimagined and innovative way of connecting african tech founders, investors, partners, mentors and ecosystem players.





ACCELERATING INNOVATION

From Africa to Europe

Methys is a unique international technology firm with expertise in Digital, Business Intelligence, Private Equity and Acceleration Services. We pride ourselves in consistent innovation and facilitate collaborative engagement between corporate, investors and start-ups. Our footprint reaches across the globe with a presence from Africa to Europe.

www.methys.com

CAPE TOWN | STELLENBOSCH | JOHANNESBURG | TUNIS | PARIS | LUXEMBOURG | LONDON

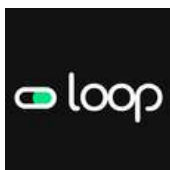
Pitch Track: Seed

Adashi



Adashi is a digital financial platform that modernizes informal savings groups in Nigeria by enabling MSMEs and individuals to save money digitally through flexible plans. By partnering with local thrift collectors as agents, it bridges traditional cash-based systems with modern banking, offering transparency, security, and credit-building opportunities. Accessible via USSD and mobile app, Adashi promotes financial inclusion and growth for underserved entrepreneurs.

Loop



Loop is a digital platform transforming mobility and payments across emerging markets. The platform facilitates reliable corporate transportation through real-time shared rides, optimizing costs and enhancing productivity. Loop also enables seamless, secure digital payments via innovative solutions like Chat-to-Pay and Tap-to-Pay, boosting financial inclusion and convenience for businesses, commuters, and informal vendors alike.

Moon Innovations Limited



The Solar Utility Box is an all-in-one infrastructure-as-a-service solution built for the digital, off-grid economy. It integrates solar power generation, wireless internet connectivity, and AI-powered security in a compact, plug-and-play system. Monitored and controlled through a mobile app, users can track energy usage, manage connectivity, and receive system alerts in real-time. Ideal for homes, businesses, clinics, and schools, it brings clean energy, digital access, and enhanced security to communities across Nigeria.

CDIAL AI



CDIAL.AI develops multilingual voice AI and large language models tailored to African languages, making technology more accessible and culturally relevant. Its flagship platform, Indigenius, allows businesses to build no-code voice agents in over 30 languages for inclusive customer engagement. Backed by Google, Black Ambition, and Accelerate Africa, CDIAL.AI is driving digital inclusion across the continent.

Kamel



Kamel is a social commerce startup building essential infrastructure to empower a caravan of over 100 million retail entrepreneurs in Africa. We provide the tools needed for anyone to start, manage, and grow a retail business of any size - even without access to capital. Our mission is to make commerce accessible to everyone interested in earning online; From vendors & brands with products looking to grow their sales; To resellers with no products looking to earn from commissions.

Retailoop Technologies



Retail Loop Technologies is an AI-powered enterprise commerce platform focused on emerging markets, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. It provides tools for inventory management, sales tracking, online storefronts, and secure payment processing, including cryptocurrency support. Founded in 2022, Retail Loop streamlines operations for retailers and chain stores.

PITCH PROGRAMS

Pitch Track: Seed



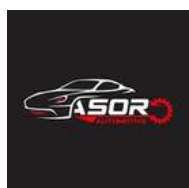
NORTHWAVE LTD

Northwave is a digital platform that automates contributions and disbursements for savings groups. It reduces defaults with auto-debits, builds user trust with contribution scores, and enhances group coordination with in-app tools.



XCHANGE BOX

An Agritech and Fintech startup streamlining agro-commodity sourcing and supply chains in Africa, starting with Nigeria. The platform offers trading finance, a marketplace, and inventory tools to support farmers and agro traders, while promoting food security, youth engagement, and export access. We also provide rural payment services through agent networks, backed by a Central Bank of Nigeria license.



ASORO AUTOMOTIVE

Asoro Automotive is a Nigerian startup revolutionizing vehicle care through a tech-driven platform that connects car owners with expert mechanics, offers online diagnostics, and provides mobile repair services. Asoro is also pioneering an electric vehicle (EV) support ecosystem in Africa, integrating smart diagnostics, predictive maintenance, and fleet management tools to address the continent's growing EV market.



AGROVESTO

Asoro Automotive is a Nigerian startup revolutionizing vehicle care through a tech-driven platform that connects car owners with expert mechanics, offers online diagnostics, and provides mobile repair services. Asoro is also pioneering an electric vehicle (EV) support ecosystem in Africa, integrating smart diagnostics, predictive maintenance, and fleet management tools to address the continent's growing EV market.

EVENT MC

NAFISAH ABRAHAMS
CHIEF OF STAFF
METHYS GROUP / AFRICARENA



Nafisah Abrahams is the Chief of Staff at AfricArena, in her role, she focuses on building strategic relationships with investors, startups, and ecosystem partners, while shaping brand messaging and executing high-impact programs that foster innovation and collaboration. Nafisah is recognized as an ecosystem builder, sparking innovation and energizing Africa's tech scene. Her leadership at AfricArena has been instrumental in driving the organization's mission to connect African startups with global investors and partners. In addition to her role at AfricArena, she is passionate about empowering underrepresented groups in tech and creating inclusive opportunities within the industry.

WORD FROM THE SPONSORS



DANIEL VON RITTER
COMPONENT MANAGER
GIZ NIGERIA

Daniel von Ritter, Component Manager at GIZ Nigeria has over 15 years' experience consulting international Corporates in the field of Innovation Management and Digital Transformation processes, he started to work for the German Development Agency (GIZ) in 2020. He worked for a program to support Startups in East Africa (Make-IT in Africa) based in Kigali Rwanda from 2020 to 2024. Since April 2024 he has joined the GIZ/Digital Transformation Center Nigeria as Head of Component. He is responsible for all activities from DTC concerning the Innovation Ecosystem and Entrepreneurship Support.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ANDREA BÖHMERT
MANAGING PARTNER
SBI VENTURES EUROPE GMBH

RAISING FUNDS FOR AFRICAN STARTUPS FROM EUROPEAN INVESTORS

Andrea Böhmert is a seasoned investor, fund manager, and entrepreneur with a rich background in venture capital. Before joining SBI Ventures Europe as Managing Partner, Andrea was a Partner at Knife Capital, a South African-based Venture Capital Fund. She served on the board of the South African Venture Capital Association (SAVCA) and co-founded Africa's most successful Accelerator programme, Grindstone. Prior to Knife Capital, Andrea founded and co-managed Hasso Plattner Ventures Africa, securing initial funding from Professor Hasso Plattner, co-founder of SAP. Her diverse background also includes senior management positions at Dimension Data and Siemens Southern Africa.

SPEAKERS

SAMUEL BOAKYE OPOKU

CO-FOUNDER

KUTANA TECHNOLOGIES

PANEL MODERATOR : STARTUP DIVIDE: DEBATE—IS EUROPE STILL AFRICA'S BEST INNOVATION PARTNER

Samuel Boakye Opoku is the Co-Founder of Kutana Technologies, a platform enhancing visibility and connectivity for African startups and SMEs. With a strong background in ecosystem building, he has worked with over 200 startups across Ghana and West Africa, supporting growth and investment readiness. Samuel has led innovation programs with GIZ's Make-IT in Africa initiative and is a Founding Partner of Start.Up Lounge Africa. He is passionate about inclusive tech ecosystems and empowering underrepresented founders.



DR. AKUMA SANINGONG

CEO: INNOVATION, FUNDING AND MARKET ENTRY AFRICA FOR SMES AND START-UPS

KAC-AFRIKA GMBH

PANEL: STARTUP DIVIDE: DEBATE—IS EUROPE STILL AFRICA'S BEST INNOVATION PARTNER

Dr Akuma Saningong is the CEO of KAC Afrika GmbH. The company provides financing solutions through grants, debt, and equity to African tech start-ups and SMEs, helping them grow and expand. KAC Afrika GmbH also supports companies from the Global North in successfully entering the African market on a win-win basis. These two approaches aim to generate jobs and wealth in Africa.

AJ COETZEE

CO-FOUNDER & CEO

SUMMIT

PANEL: STARTUP DIVIDE: DEBATE—IS EUROPE STILL AFRICA'S BEST INNOVATION PARTNER

AJ Coetzee has spent 25 years backing bold entrepreneurs as an international M&A lawyer and innovative dealmaker, guiding clients through complex transactions and global expansion. Early in his career as a litigation attorney, he confronted the challenges of capitalism, greed, and governance firsthand in intense commercial disputes. This experience fueled his passion to apply his skills more constructively. Transitioning to M&A, AJ now structures deals and leverages his roles as advisor, investor, and business executive to create value and drive meaningful reform. His deep expertise bridges law, business, and strategic growth across diverse markets.



SPEAKERS

EMILIE VALLAURI
PROGRAM LEAD
TECHSTARS

**PANEL: STARTUP DIVIDE: DEBATE—IS EUROPE STILL AFRICA'S
BEST INNOVATION PARTNER**

Emilie Vallauri is a French entrepreneur, program manager, and active community builder in the European startup ecosystem. Currently based in Berlin, she serves as the Head of Programs at Techstars, one of the world's most active venture capital firms, overseeing ecosystem development across the EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) region. In this role, she leads initiatives that support startups in scaling and securing funding, including accelerators and mentorship programs .



NAFISAH ABRAHAMS
CHIEF OF STAFF
METHYS GROUP / AFRICARENA



**PANEL MODERATOR: INVESTING IN HER: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S
UNTAPPED MARKET**

Nafisah Abrahams is the Chief of Staff at AfricArena, in her role, she focuses on building strategic relationships with investors, startups, and ecosystem partners, while shaping brand messaging and executing high-impact programs that foster innovation and collaboration. Nafisah is recognized as an ecosystem builder, sparking innovation and energizing Africa's tech scene. Her leadership at AfricArena has been instrumental in driving the organization's mission to connect African startups with global investors and partners. In addition to her role at AfricArena, she is passionate about empowering underrepresented groups in tech and creating inclusive opportunities within the industry.

RAFAEL JANKOWSKI
SALES LEADER
AWS

PANEL: INVESTING IN HER: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S UNTAPPED MARKET

Rafael Jankowski is a seasoned professional in startup business development, and he is currently serving as the Sales Leader - Middle East and Africa at Amazon Web Services (AWS). Based in Frankfurt, Germany, he has been with AWS since 2018, progressing through roles such as Territory Manager and Account Manager for Startups before assuming his current position in February 2021



SPEAKERS

DR THUWEBA DIWANI
COMMISSION MANAGER
GIZ

PANEL: INVESTING IN HER: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S UNTAPPED MARKET

Dr. Thuweba Diwani is a seasoned development professional with over 25 years of experience across more than 10 countries. She currently serves as the Commission Manager for the Digital Transformation Center Nigeria, a project co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.



IDA HUISKONEN
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & MARKETING
WESTERWELLE FOUNDATION

PANEL: UNLOCKING AI AND DATA POTENTIAL IN AFRICA

Ida Huiskonen is the Director of Community & Marketing at the Westerwelle Foundation where she leads all Community & Marketing activities on a global level, as well as supporting the Westerwelle Foundation's local teams in Tunisia, Tanzania, and Rwanda. She is passionate about supporting startups to achieve success through a fine combination of connecting ecosystem players to one another; impact & financial sustainability; unlocking funding for startups in Africa, Asia and Latin America and building a pan-African network of startup hubs.



AKWELEY ABENA OKAI
CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER
BEEVA.AI

PANEL: INVESTING IN HER: UNLOCKING AFRICA'S UNTAPPED MARKET

Akweley Abena Okai is a Ghanaian tech entrepreneur, software developer, and advocate for women in STEM. She is the co-founder of Beeva.AI, an AI-driven skincare platform designed to help users assess their skin tone, type, and conditions to recommend suitable products. Her entrepreneurial journey began with a personal experience, accompanying her father on trips to the pharmacy to find remedies for her skin issues which inspired her interest in skincare products and led to the creation of Beeva.AI.



SPEAKERS

EVELYNN KWARTENG

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

AFRICA CENTER FOR DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

PANEL MODERATOR: STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Evelynn Kwarteng is the Director of Programs at the Africa Center for Digital Transformation, an African led organization committed to providing a platform for dialogue, assessment and initiation of digital development projects. Evelyn is dedicated to driving digital transformation in Africa. Passionate about leveraging technology to drive social and economic development across the continent, she coordinates various programs in her role as Director of Programs, facilitating knowledge sharing sessions and digital initiatives at ACDT. At the forefront of Africa's digital economy, she is an active participant in discussions and panels on digital transformation, as evidenced by her participation in events on the impact of technology on elections and misinformation. She has worked on projects such as the AEDIB NET (Africa-Europe Digital Innovation Bridge Network) a pan-African and Europe network during her time with the Make-IT in Africa team at the GIZ headquarters in Eschborn Germany.



SAMAKAB HASHI

PARTNER

LATERAL FRONTIERS

PANEL: STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Samakab Hashi is a seasoned investor and Partner at Lateral Frontiers, a venture capital firm focused on early and growth-stage investments in sub-Saharan Africa. With nearly two decades of experience in private equity and investment banking, he has a strong track record in emerging markets across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Before joining Lateral Frontiers, Samakab established the Middle Eastern presence of Avanz Capital, a growth-focused private equity firm specializing in emerging markets. He has also held significant roles at Allstate Investments, where he invested approximately \$1 billion in private equity deals across Africa, Asia, and Europe, and at Lloyds Banking Group, focusing on corporate restructuring, leveraged finance, and growth finance.

JOHN CAMPBELL

CO-FOUNDER

SUMMIT DEALS

PANEL: STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

John Campbell is a technology innovator, with over 25 years of experience in building disruptive startups and corporate ventures. He specialises in Blockchain and AI, and has been a CTO and CEO at large banks, media companies, blockchain and spatial analytics startups. He plays a pivotal role in formulating Summit's technology strategy, as well as future proofing the business.



SPEAKERS

SVEN WITTHÖFT

SENIOR INVESTMENT MANAGER

DEG IMPULSE

PANEL: STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Sven Witthöft, an Investment Manager at DEG Impulse where the company provides catalytic capital and advice to early-stage startups in Sub-Saharan Africa that tackle the big problems in the region. Sven is a German entrepreneur and the co-founder of VYTAL, a Cologne-based startup specializing in smart and sustainable packaging solutions for the takeaway and delivery food industry. VYTAL offers a Packaging-as-a-Service model, aiming to reduce single-use packaging waste through a digital reusable system



JOE KINVI

FOUNDER

BORDERLESS

PANEL: STATE OF TECH IN AFRICA

Joe Kinvi is the founder of Borderless, an all-in-one platform for global communities where community managers can start, engage and scale their communities and where community members can co-invest. Born in Togo and raised in Ireland, Joe charted an unconventional path from finance to technology, ultimately building a venture that could redefine Africa's economic landscape. His latest undertaking, Borderless, is a bold attempt to transform the continent's diaspora into a formidable financial force.

SPONSORS & PARTNERS

EUROPE SUMMIT 2025



AFRICARENA
THE AFRICAN TECH ECOSYSTEM ACCELERATOR

BERLIN SUMMIT

KEY PARTNERS



AFRICARENA TOUR PARTNERS



INVESTORS PARTICIPATING



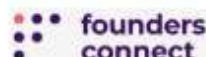
SPONSORS & PARTNERS

EUROPE SUMMIT 2025

INVESTOR PARTNERS



ECOSYSTEM, ACADEMIC & INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



MEDIA PARTNERS



SUMMIT TEAM CONTACTS

EVENT DIRECTOR

Christophe Viarnaud

christophe@africarena.com | +27 83 254 8867 | +33 68 626 4267

OPERATIONS & PROJECT MANAGER

Sarah Kitwanga

sarah@africarena.co.za | +27 76 270 5209

HEAD OF CONTENT & PARTNERSHIPS

Nafisah Abrahams

nafisah@africarena.com | +27 74 730 6780

HEAD OF PROGRAMS

Dan Mabbyalas

dan@africarena.com | +27 69 746 4826

SOCIAL MEDIA & AMPLIFICATION LEAD

Botlhale Seremo

botlhale@africarena.com | +27 84 917 0206

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS LEAD

Jabulile Ngwenya

jngwenya@methys.com | +27 76 890 8956

STARTUP & VC ANALYST

Sisipho Fongoqa

sisipho@africarena.com | +27 64 672 4022