



# ChamberBrief - GACCoM's monthly e-Newsletter

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest, Inc. (GACCoM)

May 2011 Issue

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## Annual MERLIN Awards Gala

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## Annual MERLIN Awards Gala



Last Friday, GACCoM presented its much-anticipated spring highlight, the MERLIN Awards Gala honoring outstanding achievements in transatlantic business with its annual awards ceremony. Over 250 distinguished guests of the German American Business Community attended the MERLIN Awards Gala to experience the Magic of Excellence in German American Business.

This elegant affair featured an extensive silent auction, delicious food and cocktails, a first class opera performance of the *Magic Flute*, and a magical dance performance.

Yet, the main highlight of the evening was the MERLIN Awards Ceremony honoring four notable companies in four awards categories:

- Best New Company 2011 - **K+S North America Salt Holdings LLC**,
- Best Innovator 2011 - **Bosch Software Innovations**,
- Best Service Provider 2011 - **Hegele Logistic LLC**,
- and new this year, Excellence in Training & Education 2011 - **Richard Wolf Medical Instruments Corporation**.

Once again, the quality of the numerous applications made it difficult for the independent jury to pick this year's MERLIN Awards Winners. Please click [here](#) to learn more about the winning companies.

GACCoM congratulates all **new and previous MERLIN Awards Winners** and is looking forward to many more award recipients in the years ahead.

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## Impressions



For more pictures, please visit our [gallery](#).

## Thank you to our 2011 Silent Auction Sponsors!

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## Events In May

- **German American Energy Conference (GAE)**  
05/12 - 05/13/2011 Berlin, Germany
- **YEC Stammtisch at the Vertigo Sky Lounge**  
05/18/2011 Chicago, IL
- **TAP-YTL "Logistics & Transportation" Delegation**  
05/22 - 05/30/2011 Germany
- **Political and Business Delegation from Thuringia**  
05/24 - 05/26/2011 Michigan

## Save The Date

- **Solar Thermal Business Delegation to Germany**  
06/06 - 06/11/2011 Southern Germany
- **WI Chapter: 10-Year Anniversary Celebration**  
06/08/2011 Milwaukee, WI
- **Chicago Hamburg Business Forum 2011**  
06/23 - 06/24/2011 Chicago, IL
- **SolarEnergy Business Conference and Delegation**  
06/27 - 07/01/2011 Denver, CO

## Highlight your company in GACCoM's National Membership Directory

Now is the last chance to book your advertisement or Premium Profile in one of the most well-known advertising and reference channels of the German American Chambers of Commerce. Our nationwide annual Membership Directory allows for effective advertising and maximum exposure in the German-American business community.

To learn more about your advertisement opportunities, please do not hesitate to [contact us](#).

## Refund Service for German VAT

Recover up to 19% of your expenses in Germany!

The German American Chamber of Commerce, Inc. in New York, assists you in reclaiming the VAT (Value Added Tax) charged on business related expenses while on business in Germany. Did you know that the 19% Value Added Tax (VAT) on business related costs in Germany can be reclaimed by U.S. companies?

If you are interested in this service, please click [here](#) for more information or contact Ms. Susanne Gellert, German Attorney at Law, at (212) 974-8861 or [vatservices@gaccny.com](mailto:vatservices@gaccny.com)

## Global Village: The Transatlantic News Portal



Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI), the official German foreign trade and inward investment agency, and the German Chambers of Commerce in North America (USA and Canada) with a total of 10 locations have joined forces by launching a news portal [www.transatlantic-news.com](http://www.transatlantic-news.com).

This website aggregates news from a wide variety of different sources dealing with trade relations between Germany and North America. [www.transatlantic-news.com](http://www.transatlantic-news.com) will now offer direct access to insightful economic reports, trade publications, newsletters as well as data collected by the German Chambers in the US and Canada. Check out the latest industry news such as the [German American Renewable Energy Outlook survey results](#), which were presented today at the German American Energy Conference in Berlin. In addition, we would like to make you aware of the new "Exporthandbuch NAFTA" (available for [download](#) in German only), a publication by Germany Trade & Invest (GTAI) in cooperation with the German Chambers Abroad in Canada, Mexico and the USA.

## Last But Not Least...

If you have comments or suggestions, please contact our Director, Membership and Chamber Development, Jayne Riemer-Chishty, at [riemer-chishty@gaccomm.org](mailto:riemer-chishty@gaccomm.org) or call 312-494-2169. We value your opinion!

Please visit our [website](#) for more information and pictures from recent GACCoM events.

Best regards,  
Your GACCoM Team

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