

# THE PCCC NEWSLETTER

**Dear Members of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce,**

As we bid farewell to another eventful year, I am delighted to reflect upon the past 12 months filled with exciting happenings and significant milestones within our chamber. It has been a pleasure continuing to serve as your president and witnessing the dynamic engagement of our members.

Most recently, our successful networking events, including the Back to Business and International Business Mixers, stand out as highlights, bringing together over 100 and 200 firms, respectively. These events provided a meaningful platform for businesses to connect based on their priorities and preferences, fostering promising collaborations and partnerships.

In recent months, the chamber also actively participated in hosting delegations from the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Quebec, further strengthening our ties to our Canadian counterparts. Beyond Warsaw, our member companies joined prominent events such as the MSPO in Kielce, the Scottish Evening in Łódź, and the North American Networking Night in Rzeszów, expanding our reach and influence. The chamber's voice also resonated at various conferences, including the Rebuild Ukraine Exhibition & Conference as well as the 3W Congress.

Amidst our professional engagements, we also found time for celebration and joy at events like the Fall Fete at the Embassy of Canada and the 90th birthday celebration of our esteemed partner, Air France. In these moments, the chamber community demonstrated its vibrant spirit and camaraderie.

Regrettably, our joy was deeply tempered by the recent loss of our close friend and mentor, and bedrock member of the chamber, Stan Borkowski. His contributions and friendship will be sorely missed, and most recently we honored his memory during the Christmas Luncheon.

As we conclude this year, we also mark the anticipation of our chamber's 20th anniversary celebrations in the coming year. Plans for the anniversary were tentatively discussed during the Christmas Luncheon, setting the stage for an exciting year ahead.

Three new members have joined our business community over the past few weeks, enriching our network with fresh perspectives and opportunities. Several promising discussions regarding other new memberships are currently underway.

In the spirit of life's ever-changing landscape, seeing joy intertwined with sorrow, we invite you to join us in bidding farewell to this year and embracing the New Year with optimism and enthusiasm. Save the date for our Winter (or Spring) Reception in February or March 2024, where we will gather in style to share our aspirations for the chamber's continued success.

Thank you for your unwavering support and engagement throughout the year. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Christmas and holiday season, as well as a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



**Bernhard L. Otterstein**  
PCCC President

**Bernhard L. Otterstein**  
President  
Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce

*In Memoriam*  
*Dr. Stanislaw (Stan) Borkowski, MBA*



In early October, the Board, Audit Committee, Advisory Council, and Members of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce (PCCC) found themselves immersed in deep sorrow due to the passing of our dear and trusted friend and colleague, Dr. Stan Borkowski.

Having quietly and bravely fought a recurring illness for many years, Stan invariably showed his strong side, and was always there for us, in both good times and bad. He was one of those special human beings of great knowledge and authority whom many of us turned to when we had a burning question or complex issue to discuss; and Stan would always take the time to help us and work things through with patience and respect.

Stan was an active member not only of our Canadian community and the long-time head of our Audit Committee at the PCCC, but held leading and influential positions at numerous large corporations, banks and insurance companies both on the management and supervisory boards, well-respected and revered in many professional and charity circles in both Poland and beyond. At the same time, he was a caring husband, father, friend and all-round family man.

Our personal and professional friendships with Stan – together with our circle of friends and family – have lasted over the years, having become part of the foundation of our international community here in Warsaw.

Now, with Stan having departed this world, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the blessing of his having been amongst us, and together wish him eternal rest and peace.

# New PCCC Members

## *Saskatchewan Province*

The Germany Office of the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan, representing the interests of Saskatchewan in Europe, has joined the PCCC with a shared commitment to promoting mutual ties and economic growth.

Saskatchewan is one of the prairie provinces, and has a wealth of resources including in agriculture, forestry, oil and critical minerals. The province is also a technological leader in crop science, vaccine and plant protein research, agricultural equipment and clean energy.

Saskatchewan exports nearly 70% of what it produces, and is committed to doubling the value of provincial exports by 2030. Saskatchewan is the world's leading exporter of lentils, peas, canola, flax, oats and durum wheat. The province is the world's top producer of potash, and a major supplier of uranium, with unrealized potential in diamonds, base metals and precious metals.

Saskatchewan's Germany Office is one of nine international offices that serve to advance Saskatchewan's growth mandate abroad, and supports provincial interests by strengthening and leveraging strategic partnerships internationally, as well as to coordinate – on behalf of government partners – the achievement of Saskatchewan's Growth Plan targets. The Office provides exporters and investors with strong support to further navigate business opportunities and increase trade.

The PCCC looks forward to the numerous opportunities that will arise from this partnership, including networking events, trade missions, and cultural exchanges between the Polish, Canadian and German communities.

***Saskatchewan  
Canada***



## New PCCC Members

### *Fracht FWO Polska*



**Fracht** GROUP  
INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDER  
POLAND

Fracht FWO Polska – the Polish part of the Fracht Group – has been operating since 2006 with its headquarters in Warsaw. It has four branches in Poznań, Katowice, Wrocław and Szczecin.

As a logistics operator for industry, the offers a full scope of services from simple road transportation to complicated logistics projects, e.g. related to supplies for the construction of power generation units. In performing customer orders, the company uses different means and types of transport. It carries out oversize freight, container freight, FTL freight, LTL freight, refrigerated transport, just-in-time supplies and performs express transport within the EU. Its customers include companies from the energy industry, heavy industry, chemical industry, automotive as well as FMCG and pharmaceutical industries.

By using the potential of the expanded partner network of the Fracht Group, the Polish division can deliver supplies to all countries of the world. The Fracht Group operates on 6 continents – in Europe, Asia, both Americas, Australia and Oceania as well as Africa – and has over 100 offices worldwide employing over 1,200 people.

### *SOFLAB*

Soflab Technology is a company that has been growing dynamically since 2008, when it established itself as a leader on the IT Quality Assurance market.

Focused on software testing, Soflab's priority is constantly improving the quality and effectiveness of its services in order to provide clients with error-less solutions. The company ensures business efficiency through action in the areas of IT Quality Assurance, Business Intelligence and Cybersecurity. As a result, the implemented software is of higher quality, the information is safer and the data more understandable.

Soflab combines high technological competence with human development and the best industry practices and standards. Soflab's clients include leading companies from various industries, who entrust it with the implementation of their key IT projects.

The company implements them with the support of its experienced team of over 270 specialists.





## Past Events

### *MSPO - 31st International Defence Industry Exhibition, Kielce\_September 5-8*



MSPO Targi Kielce SA offered a unique opportunity to connect with industry leaders, experts, and peers from around the world. The exchange of ideas and experiences was truly enriching, fostering a sense of unity and purpose in our shared mission to safeguard global security. The Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce accompanied an important mission of the Canadian Embassy aimed at fostering cooperation in the defense industry between Canada and Europe, including Poland and Ukraine.



## *Strengthening Bonds: Canadian Involvement in Polish Defence and Industry*

In a recent interview with Defenc24.pl, H.E. Catherine Godin, Ambassador of Canada to Poland, and Colonel Stéphane Roy, Canada's Defence Attaché to Poland, Czechia & Slovakia, shed light on the robust collaboration between Canada and Poland in the realms of defence and industry. The conversation delved into the current state of Polish-Canadian relations, the role of Canadian companies at the MSPO trade fairs, and the longstanding history of cooperation between the two nations.

### **Polish-Canadian Relations: A Shared Commitment to Security**

Ambassador Godin emphasized the significant strengthening of ties between Canada and Poland, especially in the context of supporting Ukraine in the face of Russia's invasion. The cooperation extends beyond diplomatic relations, with high-level visits from both sides and a Memorandum of Understanding signed last year to enhance cooperation between their Armed Forces. The implementation of the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has also propelled bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries, marking a notable increase.

### **Canadian Presence at MSPO 2023: Fostering Defence Industry Collaboration**

Ambassador Godin highlighted the substantial participation of over 40 Canadian companies at MSPO 2023, reflecting a growing interest in the Polish defence sector. The Canada Pavilion, organized by the Embassy, serves as a focal point for Canadian exhibitors. The involvement of Canadian industry in Poland is not a recent development; it dates back to World War II, where both nations fought side-by-side. The interview emphasized the continued collaboration, particularly in projects such as the Kormoran Mine Countermeasure Vessels and Miecznik frigates.

### **Canadian Industry's Contribution to Polish Modernization Efforts**

The discussion with Ambassador Godin touched upon various aspects of Canadian industry's involvement in Poland. The aerospace collaboration has been significant, with Canada playing a key role in the development of Poland's "Aviation Valley." The Canadian Defence Attaché, Colonel Roy, outlined the diverse range of products and services offered by the Canadian defence and security industry, aligning with Poland's Armed Forces Modernization plan.

### **Canada's Support to Ukraine: A Shared Commitment**

Ambassador Godin and Colonel Roy emphasized Canada's unwavering commitment to supporting Ukraine. Canada has delivered substantial military aid, including equipment and training, amounting to over \$1.8 billion. The cooperation extends to joint statements and commitments for the training of the Ukrainian Air Force. The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Canada and Poland last year is already being leveraged for enhanced defence cooperation.

### **NATO Cooperation: Strengthening the Eastern Flank**

Colonel Roy highlighted the instrumental cooperation between Poland and Canada within NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in Latvia. Canada leads a multinational battle group, with Poland contributing a tank company. The collaboration involves scaling up deployment and infrastructure development, demonstrating NATO's collective defence resolve.

In conclusion, the interview portrays a deep-rooted and dynamic collaboration between Canada and Poland in defence and industry. The presence of Canadian companies at MSPO 2023 and the ongoing support to Ukraine underscore the shared commitment to security and the continued growth of bilateral relations. As both nations modernize their armed forces, the cooperation sets the stage for innovative solutions and a safer, stronger alliance.



# Past Events

## *IGCC Back to Business Mixer, September 13*

The Back to Business Mixer was organized by the PCCC as the lead over ten bilateral chambers participating, and gathered over 100 companies for insightful talks in sector-matched sessions. The participants enjoyed also additional networking during the cocktail party with delightful Portuguese wine.

Even more exciting is that the event was hosted at the SGH Warsaw School of Economics, which has been partnering with the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM) for 30 years on the joint CEMBA program. Prof. Grazyna Aniszewska-Banaś, the director of CEMBA, briefly presented the participants with the program of these highly-ranked postgraduate studies. It's worth noting that CEMBA is a proud member of PCCC.





# Past Events

## *Saskatchewan Mission to Poland September, 28*

On September 28th, the PCCC had the privilege of co-organizing a remarkable reception at the Embassy of Canada in Warsaw. The event was a special occasion, as it provided a platform to meet and greet Jeremy Harrison, Saskatchewan's Minister of Trade and Export Development and Immigration and Career Training.

This gathering was a unique opportunity to bridge connections between an array of companies hailing from both Saskatchewan and Poland. The Ambassador of Canada to Poland, Catherine Godin, along with PCCC President Bernhard Otterstein, commenced the evening, setting the stage for what promises to be a prosperous exchange of ideas and collaborations.



## *Saskatchewan Strengthens Ties with Poland: Advancing Growth in Agriculture, Critical Minerals, and Talent Attraction*

In a strategic move aimed at fostering international collaboration and exploring new avenues for economic development, Saskatchewan's Minister Jeremy Harrison is leading a delegation to Poland. The mission, which focuses on crucial areas such as agriculture, critical minerals, innovative technology, immigration, and talent attraction, underscores Saskatchewan's commitment to building global partnerships and creating opportunities for growth.

"Saskatchewan boasts global leadership in agriculture, technology, energy, and critical minerals," Minister Harrison affirmed. "With a significant portion of our province's jobs directly linked to international exports, we are dedicated to supporting a robust and growing economy. By focusing on trade and investment opportunities, we aim to strengthen existing relationships while creating new avenues for growth that benefit our province and our global partners."

The journey includes an event with the Critical Minerals Association, showcasing Saskatchewan's prowess in critical minerals. The focus will be on the Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) and its groundbreaking work in rare earths processing. SRC President and CEO Mike Crabtree emphasized the importance of the mission in advancing Saskatchewan's bid to become a leading rare earth element hub. As the world seeks secure access to critical minerals essential for telecommunications, computing, and clean energy, Saskatchewan is strategically positioned to meet these demands.

Saskatchewan businesses are actively participating in the World Agri-Tech Innovation Summit, collaborating with Cultivator and Innovate UK in an investor start-ups session, showcasing the province's strengths in agriculture and technology.

The mission then extends to Poland, where Minister Harrison will engage in trade and investment meetings and support an employer-led international recruitment initiative. A delegation of Saskatchewan employers, along with the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP), will attend a recruitment fair aimed at attracting skilled workers for in-demand positions in the province. This initiative addresses workforce needs and enhances settlement and retention outcomes by providing personalized supports to prospective newcomers.

Brent Bazin, Executive at Young's Equipment Service, highlighted the significance of programs like SINP in recruiting skilled workers. "Our hope is to find others in Poland that will yield the same results," he added, emphasizing the success of the program in securing long-term employees who have become Canadian citizens, contributing to the growth of Saskatchewan.

City of Regina Mayor Sandra Masters expressed gratitude to the provincial government for leading the recruitment effort, underscoring the importance of attracting skilled labor for the city's continued growth.

Through a network of international offices and missions abroad, Saskatchewan is strengthening relationships globally. Merchandise exports to the EU and UK saw a remarkable 50% increase from \$1.8 billion in 2021 to \$2.7 billion in 2022. Key export products include potash, wheat, and uranium.

The delegation left Saskatchewan on September 23 and returned on September 30, marking a significant step in Saskatchewan's journey towards a more interconnected and prosperous future with Poland.



## Past Events

### *North American Networking Night , Rzeszów, October 10*



The PCCC Board and its members had the honor of participating in the North American Networking Night in Rzeszów. This event, which celebrated international networking and business opportunities, was made possible through the collaborative efforts of several outstanding organizations: Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH) with foreign offices in New York and Toronto, President of Rzeszów, Konrad Fijołek, Embassy of Canada in Poland and Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce. We also extend our gratitude to the event sponsors, PCCC members: **ARPI Accounting** and **BIRETA Professional Translations**.

Rzeszów, often referred to as the “heart of Podkarpackie Region,” provided an ideal setting for this event. With its rich history, dynamic business environment, and a significant Canadian presence, including the ever-growing **Aviation Valley | Dolina Lotnicza**, served as the perfect host, fostering international connections.

Rzeszów is one of the strongest economic centres in Eastern Poland where about 33 thousand businesses are located in the city, and about 1 thousand of which were companies with foreign capital. The agglomeration is the most rapidly developing advanced technology centre for the aviation industry in Central Europe. The city is home to one of the largest clusters in Poland – the Key National Cluster Aviation Valley. Aviation Valley is located in southeastern Poland, known for its developed aviation industry and pilot training centers. The region is characterized by a high concentration of aviation industry companies, scientific and research centers and developed educational and training facilities. The Aviation Valley Association currently represents 180 companies, with several others in the process of applying for membership.

The most important company operating in the aviation sector and the largest employer in Rzeszów is Canadian **Pratt & Whitney Rzeszów**. The association has received significant financial assistance from Pratt & Whitney, a world leader in the design, manufacture and service of aircraft engines, rocket propulsion systems and industrial gas turbines. Pratt & Whitney has an ultra-modern research and development centre in Rzeszów. Hamilton Sundstrand Poland, in turn, is a leader in the design, manufacture and repair of Auxiliary Power Units (APUs). The Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park is home to large plants of globally recognised aviation companies, including Boeing, MTU AeroEngines, EME Aero, Collins Aerospace, McBairda, LINETECH, Safran as well as Canadian ones **Barnes Aerospace (MB Aerospace), Heli-One, Vac Aero, Magellan and Cel Test Equipment**.





## Past Events

### *IGCC International Speed Business Mixer Warsaw November 7*

The PCCC had the pleasure to coorganise the International Speed Business Mixer in Warsaw at the Radisson Collection Hotel. This fantastic event was a collaborative effort of 12 IGCC chambers, and it was a huge success with around 250 attendees.

The event was all about facilitating meaningful connections, and we achieved that by organising three productive networking sessions tailored to the profiles and needs of various companies. It was encouraging to see professionals from different industries coming together to exchange ideas and explore potential collaborations.

After the intense networking sessions, we transitioned to a relaxed cocktail hour where companies continued their business discussions while enjoying delicious food and delightful Portuguese wines.

Thank you to all our members who attended and made this event such a great success.



# Past Events

## *ReBuild Ukraine Exhibition & Conference November 14-15*

PCCC members had an efficient time at the networking reception hosted at the Embassy of Canada on November 13, held on the occasion of the ReBuild Ukraine Exhibition & Conference. It was great connecting with Canadian, Polish, and Ukrainian companies, fostering collaboration and building bridges for a brighter future. The discussions were continued during the main event on November 14-15.



## *Canada's Commitment to Rebuilding Ukraine: A Partnership for Progress*

Canada's private sector has actively participated in the ReBuild Ukraine Exhibition & Conference in Warsaw, Poland, underscoring its commitment to supporting Ukraine in its extensive reconstruction and recovery efforts. Held on November 14–15, 2023, this event serves as a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange to contribute to Ukraine's ambitious "build back better" initiative, focusing on green technology and innovative solutions.

The scale of Ukraine's reconstruction, estimated to exceed U.S. \$411 billion over the next decade by the World Bank, positions it as one of the largest global construction endeavors. Canada, recognized as a global leader in energy production, brings valuable expertise to the table. With experience spanning hydro, solar, wind, oil and natural gas, nuclear, energy storage, energy efficiency, smart technologies, and decentralized systems, Canada is well-positioned to assist Ukraine in various facets of power generation.

Canada's private sector, supported by a robust innovation ecosystem, has a history of deploying groundbreaking technologies globally to address energy challenges. Canadian companies are poised to contribute to Ukraine's reconstruction across diverse areas, including natural gas production, the adoption of renewable energy, distributed energy resources, and large-scale energy generation projects.

The ReBuild Ukraine Exhibition & Conference caters to stakeholders in energy, infrastructure, housing and architecture, and water and wastewater sectors, providing a comprehensive platform for collaboration and partnership.

Canada's commitment to Ukraine's energy and reconstruction needs is exemplified by various initiatives and financial support:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has signed an MOU with the State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine, formalizing cooperation and the exchange of information in nuclear safety and regulatory matters.
2. Nuclear Security Measures: A \$4.3 million investment has been allocated to strengthen nuclear security measures at the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, replacing equipment destroyed or stolen during the Russian occupation in 2022.
3. Loan Guarantee for Energy Stability: A \$500 million loan guarantee has been provided to enable a €300 million loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to Naftogaz, Ukraine's state-owned gas company, ensuring the continuity of energy supply.
4. Power Grid Repair: \$115 million from tariff revenues on Russian and Belarusian imports has been allocated to repair Kyiv's power grid.
5. Generators for Critical Facilities: An allocation of \$10 million facilitated the purchase and delivery of power generators to Ukraine, supporting critical facilities.
6. Sovereignty Bond Issuance: The Government of Canada issued a \$500 million Ukraine Sovereignty Bond, assisting Ukraine in providing essential services and restoring energy infrastructure.
7. Science Partnership Initiative: The Canada-Ukraine Science Partnership, an initiative by Natural Resources Canada, aims to support Ukraine-based scientists by connecting them to professional employment, contributing to the country's scientific and technological advancement.
8. Modernized Free Trade Agreement: Prime Minister Trudeau and President Zelenskyy signed the modernized Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement, reinforcing long-term security, stability, and economic development in Ukraine while ensuring favorable market access for Canadian businesses participating in the country's economic recovery.

Canada's active involvement in the ReBuild Ukraine Conference and Trade Show signifies a collaborative approach towards shaping Ukraine's future. By sharing expertise, fostering partnerships, and providing financial support, Canada is dedicated to playing a significant role in Ukraine's journey towards a resilient and sustainable future.



# Past Events

## *3W Congress November 27-28*

For two days in late November, the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel & Conference Centre Warsaw was the meeting and discussion venue of institutional experts, scientists, lecturers, economists, business representatives, media, local governments and many others on 3W - the Polish-language first letters of the three resources crucial to building a sustainable future: water, hydrogen and carbon.

During the Idea 3W Congress organised by Bank BGK on November 27-28, the President of the Polish Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Bernhard Otterstein, presented Canadian leadership in the commercialization of hydrogen, water and carbon solutions to help shape tomorrow's world.





## *Canada-Poland Partnership and the Future of Europe's Energy Security*

On September 20, 2023, the Macdonald-Laurier Institute (MLI) and the Embassy of the Republic of Poland jointly hosted a significant discussion that brought together key stakeholders to explore the pivotal role of the Canada-Poland partnership in shaping Europe's energy landscape. The exclusive event featured distinguished speakers, H.E. Mr. Witold Dzielski, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Canada, and Dr. Heather Exner-Pirot, Senior Fellow and Director of Natural Resources, Energy, and Environment at the Macdonald-Laurier Institute.

The insightful discussion, moderated by Dr. Balkan Devlen, Director of the Transatlantic Program and Senior Fellow at MLI, delved into the strategies and contributions that Canada can make towards enhancing European energy security. The conversation also touched upon the collaboration between Canada and Poland in promoting various energy resources, including oil, gas, nuclear, and hydrogen.

The opening remarks were delivered by Matt Jones, the Minister of Jobs, Economy, and Trade for the Alberta government, and Kasha Piquette, Deputy Minister of Environment and Protected Areas. Their insights set the stage for an engaging dialogue on how regulatory processes and investment initiatives can be improved to facilitate the entry of Canadian resources into the European market.

Notable figures in attendance included Jason Kenney, former Premier of Alberta, industry leaders such as Bartłomiej Babuška, CEO of Orlen Upstream, and Michael Dembek of the Polish Investment and Trade Agency. Representatives from educational institutions like Monica Bennett from The Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and Aleksandra Kucy, Consul General of the Republic of Poland, added diverse perspectives to the conversation.

The comprehensive discussion considered multifaceted approaches to strengthen energy security. The focus on bilateral Canada-Poland cooperation underscored the importance of fostering mutually beneficial partnerships. Participants deliberated on the avenues for collaboration in oil, gas, nuclear, and hydrogen sectors and explored ways to improve regulatory frameworks to attract essential investments.

The presence of industry experts, government officials, and influential figures from both countries demonstrated a shared commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions. The event highlighted the significance of international collaboration in navigating the complexities of the global energy landscape.

As Europe continues to address its energy security challenges, the Canada-Poland partnership emerges as a strategic alliance capable of shaping the future of the continent's energy architecture. The insights shared during this discussion contribute to ongoing efforts to create a resilient and sustainable energy future for Europe.



# Past Events

## *PCCC Christmas Luncheon, December 8*

A wonderful Christmas Luncheon at the Canadian Embassy, filled with the warmth of familiar faces and the richness of Polish tradition! Delightful conversations over delicious Christmas meals made the afternoon truly special. We reflected on the past year and wished each other a New Year filled with exciting challenges, noteworthy events, and new areas of collaboration. May the coming year bring us continued growth and prosperity! Thanks to members and friends of the PCCC for making it a festive event.



★  
We  
wish  
you  
a  
Merry  
Christmas



# Past Events

## *Gwiazdkowy Business Mixer Katowice December 12*

Another successful Gwiazdkowy Business Mixer in Katowice, marking its fifth edition in collaboration with the IGCC Chambers, Miasto Katowice, Katowice Special Economic Zone and Konfederacja Lewiatan! Over 200 participants from various parts of Poland and different sectors explored the economic potential of Katowice City and the Katowice Special Economic Zone. For the PCCC it's a location of significant Canadian investment – most recently, the first Maple Bear school in Poland, opened in Katowice this past September.

Engaging discussions and the vibrant networking were complemented by the Christmas ambiance of Vienna House Easy by Wyndham Katowice, featuring delectable dishes and exquisite Slovak wines.

Thanks to co-organizers, participants and our sponsors including **Maple Bear**, **PKO Bank Polski** and **Ahoy Career!**



# Upcoming Events

## *New Year Speed Business Mixer*

*Łódź, January 11, 2024*



**2024**  
**NEW YEAR RECEPTION  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MIXER IN ŁÓDŹ**

HONORARY PATRONAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY OF ŁÓDŹ

**11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024, 18.00-21.00**  
PIĘKNA RESTAURANT,  
UL. KILIŃSKIEGO 74, ŁÓDŹ  
PRZYSTANEK MBANK

**AGENDA:**  
18.00-18.30 REGISTRATION  
18.30 OFFICIAL OPENING  
19.00-21.00 NETWORKING

THE MEETING WILL BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO START A NEW YEAR WITH NEW BUSINESS CONTACTS!  
**RSVP BY 05.01.2024**

**ORGANIZERS:**



**PARTNERS:**



**SPONSORS:**



## *IGCC Speed Business Mixer*

*Gdańsk, April 10, 2024*





# News from our Members

## *First Polish-Canadian Maple Bear School in Poland Opens*

The first Polish-Canadian Maple Bear elementary school and kindergarten – Maple Bear Katowice – part of the world's largest educational network, was officially opened on September 4, 2023. The newly renovated Maple Bear campus in Katowice welcomed the first students and their parents in the presence of city authorities and guests from around the world.

The guests of honor were Rodney Briggs, legendary co-founder of Maple Bear schools from Canada and Vice Mayor of Katowice Jerzy Wozniak, while Ambassador of Canada, Ms. Catherine Godin attended the ceremony virtually.

The school in Katowice is the first Polish branch of Maple Bear, the largest and fastest-growing educational network in the world, which currently has 580 schools in 39 countries around the world.

Maple Bear schools share with the world the best of Canadian education, offering a bilingual methodology and teaching strategy that is a combination of Canadian and national curriculum. The schools operate in accordance with local education regulations, and children graduating receive Polish and Canadian certificates. The start of the year at the Katowice school and kindergarten was therefore at the same time the inauguration of the Polish Maple Bear school network.

Further schools are already under construction in Wroclaw and Poznan, Warsaw and Krakow.



# News from our Members

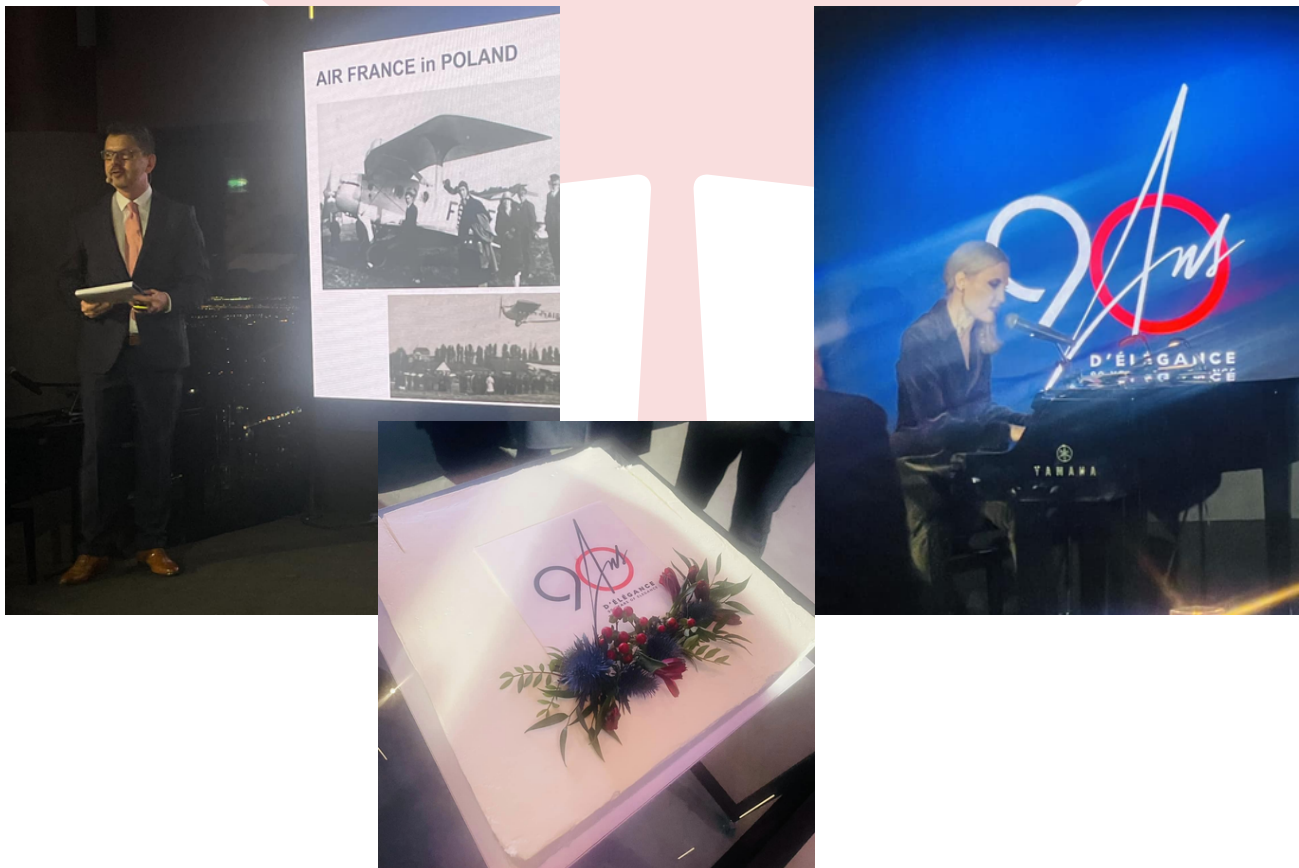
## *90th anniversary of Air France*

After celebrating 90 years of elegance in the heart of Paris, Air France continues to celebrate this exceptional event around the globe with its customers, its partners and staff. That's how it was in Warsaw on November 14, in the sky-high interiors of the Skyliner's new Look Up venue.

This anniversary was the perfect occasion for Air France to showcase 90 years of technology, innovation and comfort on board its aircraft and at selected destinations worldwide. 90 years of travel, fine dining, design, haute couture, art and architecture. With exhibitions of vintage memorabilia in iconic locations, and fashion shows featuring the company's uniforms, past and present, Air France is showcasing its legacy to the world.

Created from the merger of Air Orient, Air Union, Société Générale de Transports Aériens, the Compagnie Internationale de Navigation Aérienne and Aéropostale, Air France was officially inaugurated on 7th October 1933. Ever since, the company has continued to create its legend by promoting the French art of travel around the world. Air France today offers its customers close to 1,000 daily flights to 200 destinations with a fleet of more than 240 aircraft.

Since its creation, the company has been celebrating French excellence, a "je-ne-sais-quoi" that the world recognizes in France, thanks to an exceptional travel experience that takes elegance to new heights.



# News from our Members

## *Busy season for Bireta*

Fall is usually the busiest season at the office of Bireta Professional Translations, a long-time member of PCCC, and this year is no exception. It has been especially hectic for Bireta's interpreting service coordinators. Over the past three months, we successfully provided interpreting services at over 60 events, including:

- 1st Nuclear Power Congress
- 6th Aviation Market Congress
- ASME Standards: Driving Nuclear Progress In Poland's Supply Chain Conference
- Polish Pumps and Valves for Nuclear Energy Symposium
- 1st Forum of the Polish Biomethane Organization
- 13th International Forum Polish-Ukrainian Business Days
- 3W Congress
- Intel Future Skills Forum 2023
- Cybersec and GDPR in Health Conference

Meanwhile, Bireta's dedicated translators and project managers have been tackling a mix of both sizable and smaller projects. Notably, we've been deeply involved in translations for the power industry and defense sector, areas where our expertise truly stands out. Given the technical nature of these projects, our team has been deeply involved in managing intricate technical translations, which happen to be our favorites.

While we understand that technical translations might seem like a niche topic, we'd love to invite you to explore the fascinating world of translating technical drawings. Curious about what it entails and how we handle it at Bireta? Check out our article at <https://www.bireta.pl/en/2023/11/06/translation-of-technical-drawings/> for an in-depth look.

Should you need any advice or assistance with translation or interpreting matters, feel free to reach out to Areta Kempnińska, Bireta's Managing Partner, and co-owner, at [akempinska@bireta.pl](mailto:akempinska@bireta.pl).



# News from our Members

## *Barnes Aerospace acquires MB Aerospace in historic \$740 Million deal*

We are thrilled to share exciting news within our community, as one of our esteemed members, MB Aerospace, has entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by Barnes Aerospace. This transformative acquisition, valued at approximately \$740 million, was announced in June of this year and is poised to strengthen Barnes Aerospace's position in the aerospace and defense industry.

MB Aerospace, headquartered in Motherwell, U.K., is a leading provider of precision aero-engine component manufacturing and repair services. With 10 facilities spanning across the U.S., U.K., Poland, and Taiwan, MB Aerospace boasts a workforce of approximately 1,450 employees. Their core capabilities include the manufacture of high-value fabricated assemblies, complex machined components, component repair, and vertically integrated special processes. Notably, MB Aerospace supplies over 100 aero-engine platforms, serving major industry players such as Pratt & Whitney, Rolls-Royce, and General Electric.

The transaction is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2023, subject to regulatory approvals and customary closing conditions. Upon completion, MB Aerospace will become an integral part of Barnes Aerospace, marking it as the largest acquisition in Barnes' history.

Thomas J. Hook, President and Chief Executive Officer of Barnes, expressed enthusiasm about the acquisition, stating, "The acquisition of MB Aerospace is a transformational opportunity that is a significant catalyst for our already world-class aerospace business." He highlighted the strategic fit between the two companies, emphasizing their shared focus on operational and technical excellence.

Ian Reason, Senior Vice President of Barnes and President of Barnes Aerospace, added, "This acquisition significantly expands our ability to support A&D customers throughout the product lifecycle, from new production development & manufacturing to OEM-approved repair solutions for critical structural and rotating aero-engine components."

The financial projections for MB Aerospace indicate a revenue of approximately \$330 million and \$65 million of EBITDA in the calendar year 2023. Barnes anticipates a purchase price multiple of approximately 11.4x 2023 EBITDA, with the inclusion of pro forma estimated run rate cost synergies.

Our PCCC member, the legal practice **Wardyński & Partners**, played a crucial role in advising Barnes Group Inc. on the Polish aspects of this landmark acquisition. Their expertise and support have contributed to the success of this historic deal.

As we look forward to the closing of this transaction in the coming months, we celebrate the growth and success of our members in the ever-evolving aerospace and defense industry. The strategic alignment of Barnes Aerospace and MB Aerospace promises to deliver enhanced value and opportunities for all stakeholders involved.



# BARNES™





## PCCC Patron Members:



## Contact us!

**If you have any news or successes that you would like to share with the PCCC community, do not hesitate to contact us!**

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