

WEConnect INTERNATIONAL

Forum Agenda

Start time: 1pm GMT / 2pm CET / 8am EST. All times are listed as GMT.

1pm Welcome and Introduction

Maggie Berry, Executive Director for Europe at WEConnect International

On behalf of the WEConnect International Advisory Council, the WBE Council, the WEConnect International team in Europe and the Forum sponsors, Maggie will welcome everyone to the Forum. By working together, we are creating a business world where all women-owned businesses have equal opportunity across the value chain including the opportunity to access new markets and to succeed globally. Whether it's your first time participating at a WEConnect International event or if you are a seasoned attendee, this Forum will offer multiple opportunities to share and learn best practices.

1.10pm RISE 2030 – A New Era of Shared Corporate Responsibility

Megan Stowe, Greater European Region Strategic Sourcing Director & International Supplier Diversity Manager at Intel Corporation

During this short but impactful introductory session, Intel will share insight into their RISE Strategy, detailing their goals for shared corporate responsibility through to 2030. Accelerating progress against the world's critical challenges, Intel is going to be evolving their corporate responsibility strategy to increase the scale of their work with others to create a more responsible, inclusive and sustainable world, enabled through technology and collective actions. They will be taking the lead in advancing responsible business practices across their global manufacturing operations and their value chain including their sustained focus on increasing spend with diverse owned suppliers around the world.

1.25pm Supplier Diversity Insights and Panel Discussion

Discussion facilitated by Maggie Berry, Executive Director for Europe at WEConnect International

Panellists include:

- Eliano Apicella, Purchasing Director – Indirect Materials, Services, Energy and Investments at Barilla
- Andrea Fimian, EMEA Supplier Diversity Program Manager at IBM
- Grainne D'Arcy, EMEA Strategic Sourcing Manager and Supplier Diversity & Inclusion Lead for Indirect Procurement at Intel Corporation
- Timo Worrall, Director - Supplier Social Responsibility at Johnson & Johnson

Corporate supplier diversity programmes can fast track the economic integration of diverse suppliers, support their growth and enable multinational firms to benefit from the innovation and competitiveness this enterprising business community brings to corporate supply chains. This supplier diversity insights session will share an overview of existing supplier diversity programmes in Europe. It will also provide best practices to begin and develop a sustainable SD&I effort in Europe and our panellists will share their 'dos and don'ts', hands-on advice and tops tips.

2pm The Barilla Supplier Diversity and Inclusion Journey

Eliano Apicella, Purchasing Director – Indirect Materials, Services, Energy and Investments at Barilla

Eliano will share a brief overview of Barilla’s supplier diversity and inclusion programme in Europe including both the core elements that make-up the programme internally and their work to engage all of their suppliers on their journey.

2.15pm Working Better with Women-Owned Businesses to Improve Outcomes for All

Gill Thorpe – Founder & CEO at The Sourcing Team Ltd

This session is a follow on from “Women Business Perspectives and Challenges in Today's Climate” that was presented during International Day in June 2020. The content shared then was a combination of feedback from a WBE 2 WBE Day when WBE expectations, experiences and challenges with regards to working with corporations were discussed along with research results focused on the challenges that women-owned businesses are currently facing. There is an acknowledged interest from our member buyers in overcoming these obstacles and to find a productive way forward for all stakeholders. During this session, Gill plans to look at these challenges, to share what is working well in individual member buyer organisations and to build out a set of innovative, constructive and practical steps that will create best practice; a flexible framework and tools that member buyers can take back into their own organisations.

2.45pm Virtual Coffee Break

3.15pm Promotion of Gender Equality in Private Supply Chains

Yas Banifatemi, Partner & Global International Arbitration Practice Group Leader at Shearman & Sterling LLP

Earlier this year, Shearman & Sterling LLP produced a legal memorandum for WEConnect International which addressed whether the use of a database of women-owned businesses by private enterprises in order to diversify their supply chains is in line with the EU and French legal framework on non-discrimination. We know that many in-house legal teams have had concerns regarding supplier diversity and the principle of equality so in this session, Yas will provide an overview of the legal memorandum and present the parameters that such databases should observe.

3.45pm Choice of Three Breakout Sessions: 1) WECommunity Overview; 2) European Collaboration Roundtable Discussion & 3) Developing a Successful Supplier Diversity Global Expansion Strategy

Breakout #1 - WECommunity Overview

Led by Brittany Gonzalez, Membership Relationship and Supplier Inclusion Manager

Our new WECommunity database - which has been launched in partnership with USAID and SAP Ariba, along with support from Accenture, ExxonMobil, IBM and Proctor and Gamble - is a global platform with an efficient and user-friendly interface. WECommunity will allow our member buyers to post simple solicitations so that women-owned businesses can pitch their products and services and compete for business deals. WECommunity will be available in 10 languages positioning WEConnect International as a truly global supplier diversity resource. This session will provide an overview of the new platform; how it works and how it can be best used by member buyers.

Breakout #2 - European Collaboration Roundtable Discussion

Led by Peter Zerp, Supplier Inclusion & Diversity Program Lead at Accenture

As a number of active corporations look to grow impactful supplier diversity and inclusion programmes in multiple countries across Europe, it is useful to further discuss what will enable the leading supplier diversity groups in Europe to build and maintain an active collaboration in 2021. With representatives from EGLCC, MSDUK and WEConnect International, this session will discuss ideas and suggestions that will drive a collaboration that benefits the NGOs, member buyers and diverse owned businesses.

Breakout #3 - Developing a Successful Supplier Diversity Global Expansion Strategy

Anna Hakobyan, Global Procurement Sustainability Lead at AstraZeneca

In this session, Anna will share AstraZeneca's approach on expanding the supplier diversity programme globally, her expert insight and advice into the steps and considerations for developing a successful global expansion strategy for your supplier diversity programme, challenges and lessons learnt. She will detail the elements that are needed as you launch a programme in a new country – both in terms of up front preparation and putting in place the relevant building blocks, as well as ensuring the successful launch and sustainable implementation of the programme.

4.30pm Virtual Coffee Break

5pm Choice of Two Breakout Sessions: 1) Supplier Diversity Best Practices – Starting Out & 2) Supplier Diversity Best Practices - Mature Programmes

Breakout #1 - Supplier Diversity Best Practices – Starting Out

Led by Selina McCole, Global Sustainable Procurement & Supply Chain Manager at Goldman Sachs and Andrea Fimian, EMEA Supplier Diversity Program Manager at IBM

Getting a supplier diversity programme off the ground isn't always the easiest of projects and at WEConnect International, we recognise the importance of member buyers who are well into their journey to share and assist those firms who have some way to go. In this session, Goldman Sachs and IBM will share more detail about the structure of their supplier diversity programmes, how their programmes have evolved (and how long that has taken) and what they would have done differently if they had had the benefit of hindsight.

Breakout #2 - Supplier Diversity Best Practices - Mature Programmes

Led by Deaneesha Govender, Category Manager - Europe, Middle East and Africa at Intel Corporation and Debra Quade, Supplier Diversity Manager at Kellogg Company

Running a successful supplier diversity initiative in Europe can be challenging but many member buyers have developed well-embedded programmes that are now an accepted element of their wider procurement and supply management operations. In this session Megan and Debra, both experienced supplier diversity professionals, will be able to address some of the more 'nitty gritty' questions involved with developing and maintaining an active supplier diversity programme in Europe. Topics to be discussed include Tier 2 engagement, spend reporting requirements, guidelines, policies and other actions that have proven most effective in driving an increased use of diverse suppliers.

5.45pm WEConnect International: 2020 and Beyond

Rebecca Pearson, President and Chief Marketing Officer at WEConnect International

This year is a pivotal moment in the history of WEConnect International as the organisation moves into its second decade of operations. This short session at the end of the Forum will include exciting new member updates, programme announcements and an overview of our global growth plans.

6pm **Closing Keynote and Call to Action from Johnson & Johnson**
Speaker TBC

6.15pm **Wrap Up and Thank You**
Maggie Berry, Executive Director for Europe at WEConnect International

6.30pm **Close**

Please note this agenda may be subject to alterations.