



¡Bienvenidas y bienvenidos to El CC, CCLATAM's newsletter!. Every other week you'll find the main events shaking up Latin America, from Ushuaia in the south to Los Algodones in the north. Sign up [here](#) to stay updated on the region. Get [in touch](#) with us, we may feature an excerpt of your response in the next newsletter.

The Digital Bridge Issue

26/27
February, 2025
09.00 hrs. (GMT+2)
Círculo de Bellas Artes
Madrid, España

PRODUCE
dpllive

Américas y Europa:
una conversación digital

DIGITAL SUMMIT
LATAM25

Registro: **digitalsummitlatam.com** #DigitalSummitLatam

Organizan: USTTI, Duke SANFORD, CYBER POLICY PROGRAM, CCF, DPL Group
Media Partner: dpl news, infobae
Patrocinadores: OOKLA, ERICSSON, HUAWEI, HUGHES, AMERICAN FUTURE, tangerine, DiDi, Uber, LIBERTY, twilio

Wednesday 26 February, the Latam Digital Summit 2025 ([Digital Summit Latam](#)) kicks off in Madrid, setting the stage for important discussions between the Americas and Europe on connectivity, spectrum, cybersecurity, fintech, data privacy, investments, digital infrastructure, outer space, satellite policies and more.

The Digital Latam Summit 2025 promises to be a truly international gathering, bringing together an extraordinary lineup of more than 65 distinguished speakers representing over 25 countries. This diverse roster highlights the summit's commitment to fostering inclusive and innovative dialogue on the most pressing digital issues facing the Americas and Europe today.

Attendees will benefit from a wealth of perspectives—from government leaders and industry pioneers to renowned international experts—guaranteeing a dynamic exchange of ideas and best practices. This unique convergence of voices and experiences positions the summit as an essential platform for collaboration, driving forward a shared vision for the digital future of the region and beyond.

The significance of these discussions has never been more evident or urgent. As geopolitical dynamics continue to evolve, the recent shifts in U.S. foreign policy—particularly on trade and regulatory issues—have sent profound ripples throughout the Americas, acting as a clear wake-up call for Europe on the importance of unity. At the same time, ongoing negotiations between Russia and the U.S. aimed at achieving peace in Ukraine evoke echoes of the diplomatic landscape of the 1990s, further highlighting the necessity of collaborative approaches to address today's complex global challenges.

The Latam Digital Summit emphasizes that digital issues are fundamentally global, necessitating a collective understanding and cooperative efforts. Latin America is not merely a consumer of technology; it is a region rich in technological advancement. Surprising to some, Latin America is making significant strides in innovation, with developments in quantum computing and the emergence of its first homegrown artificial intelligence initiatives.

Regulators and governments must seize the opportunity to capitalize on these advancements. Recent projects, such as LatamGPT—a locally developed AI model that competes with global counterparts—illustrate that Latin America can lead in technology creation rather than simply consume it. This shift from being mere consumers to active creators and exporters of innovation is crucial. Despite these achievements, one of the major challenges remains the region's lack of visibility and recognition on the global stage. Latin America's contributions to quantum advancements are often overlooked in international discussions, which represents not just an oversight but a significant missed opportunity.

The global narrative must evolve to recognize that groundbreaking quantum research and commercialization are occurring beyond traditional tech hubs. It is essential for the global industry to acknowledge this new reality: Latin America is not just adopting technology; it is actively creating, scaling, and delivering innovative solutions.

Our startups are addressing real-world issues with products that are primed for integration into the global digital infrastructure. We hope that the Latam Digital Summit serves as a catalyst for a long-term collaborative process among all stakeholders, paving the way for a more inclusive and innovative future.

La Charla

To kick off the conversation ahead of the Digital Latam Summit, we reached out to several of our distinguished speakers and industry leaders, posing them the same question (in English and Spanish) to spark discussion and set the stage for the event:

How will the summit in Madrid drive a more innovative and inclusive digital future for Latin America?

The Summit, as a platform for dialogue between key stakeholders from Latin America and Europe on digital economy issues, will enable a rich exchange of high-level knowledge and best practices, while fostering cooperation between the public and private sectors, all of which is essential for the transformation of our economies. These interactions will certainly contribute to the shaping of a shared vision and to the creation of a roadmap to establish an enabling environment for attracting investment, promoting digital trade, and advancing innovation and inclusivity in Latin America. We expect the Summit to provide further insight to participants – in particular governments – with regards to global best practices in digital transformation, addressing regulatory fragmentation and on ways to enhance digital resilience. These are critical factors for boosting competitiveness for the Latin American region and expanding access to global markets. Furthermore, the Summit will serve as a foundation to highlight the role of cooperation to face challenges that have a global dimension; and to innovate and integrate more sustainable technologies in business, thus making the digital economy a reality for all.

Manuel Tovar, Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica

Collaboration between Europe and Latin America (LATAM) in the digital sector is crucial as the world becomes increasingly interconnected and as the ties between the two regions strengthen. The telecom sector plays a pivotal role in shaping the digital landscape, fostering economic growth, and enhancing global communication. By strengthening cooperation between these two regions, both can benefit from shared innovations, technical expertise, and enhanced market opportunities. The telecom market in both Europe and LATAM is undergoing significant transformations, with Europe advancing toward more sophisticated networks, while LATAM focuses on expanding coverage and connectivity. Cross-border collaboration fosters economic development, and joint ventures and partnerships could create cost-efficient solutions that benefit both regions, from shared infrastructure projects to research and development in emerging telecom technologies. Collaboration and the exchange of knowledge could also improve readiness to address cybersecurity threats, promoting secure digital environments. Having just joined Ericsson with a long background in telecom regulation, I can say that many values are shared between the regions, as well as similar visions, goals, and ambitions. Ultimately, collaboration between Europe and LATAM has the potential to drive innovation, economic growth, and global connectivity, allowing both regions to thrive in the digital age. The Madrid Digital Summit is a timely event to further shape the vision for a more innovative and inclusive digital future in LATAM.

Ola Bergström, Director Government & Policy Advocacy at Ericsson

Hace 500 años la conversación entre Europa y América comenzó cruzando el Atlántico, con el recurso de las lenguas española, portuguesa, inglesa y francesa. El centro de la conversación en el #DigitalSummitLatam en Madrid, es sobre el futuro de la economía y los derechos humanos frente a la 1a revolución digital de nuestra sociedad.

Jorge Fernando Negrete, Founder DPL Group

El Latam Digital Summit, crea un nuevo espacio de discusión sobre los grandes retos y avances que visualizo para los próximos 20 años: una América Latina conectada, con economías digitales sólidas, mayor inclusión financiera y avances que permitirán a la educación cerrar brechas. Gobiernos y empresas deberán adaptarse para aprovechar al máximo la IA y la transformación digital. El gran desafío será que nadie se quede atrás.

Luiz Enrique Cruz Asturias, Co-Founder CCLATAM

Madrid Digital Summit 2025: ¿El punto de inflexión para el futuro digital de Iberoamérica? América Latina está en una encrucijada. Mientras el mundo avanza hacia una economía digital impulsada por inteligencia artificial, computación cuántica y transformación digital, la región enfrenta el reto de definir su propio camino. Con esta premisa, Madrid será en 2025 el epicentro del debate con el Digital Summit Latam, un espacio que busca algo más que análisis: pretende articular una visión compartida para una Iberoamérica más innovadora e inclusiva.

Históricamente, la región ha estado fragmentada en su desarrollo digital. Las diferencias regulatorias y la falta de cooperación han impedido la creación de un ecosistema tecnológico unificado. El Madrid Digital Summit nos plantea un cambio de narrativa: una América Latina que se concibe como un bloque digital estratégico, capaz de negociar en igualdad de condiciones con otras potencias tecnológicas. El evento reunirá a líderes políticos, reguladores y expertos del sector privado para definir una hoja de ruta común en inteligencia artificial, ciberseguridad y pagos digitales. La pregunta clave no será qué está haciendo cada país, sino cómo pueden avanzar juntos. La inteligencia artificial será un tema relevante dentro de las discusiones, mientras Europa avanza con el AI Act, América Latina aún debate cómo regular sin frenar la innovación. Una regulación demasiado estricta podría sofocar el ecosistema emprendedor; una demasiado laxa, generar riesgos en privacidad y desinformación. La cumbre debe ayudar a la región a encontrar su propio modelo de gobernanza, evitando quedar atrapada entre los marcos regulatorios de EE.UU., China y Europa.

Si bien la IA domina la agenda actual, la computación cuántica se perfila como la próxima gran disrupción. América Latina no puede repetir el rezago que ha sufrido con

otras tecnologías. El Madrid Digital Summit ofrecerá una oportunidad para discutir cómo preparar talento, infraestructura y regulación para un futuro cuántico. En definitiva, la pregunta no es si América Latina debe adaptarse a la revolución digital, sino cómo lo hará y si lo hará a tiempo. Madrid podría ser el punto de partida.

Víctor Muñoz – Argia Green, Tech and economics

América Latina enfrenta el reto de desarrollar un marco regulatorio que permita la armonización del mercado digital y una gobernanza efectiva de la inteligencia artificial y de las tecnologías disruptivas en un contexto global marcado por la competencia entre Estados Unidos, China y Europa. La falta de una estrategia común en la región limita su capacidad para posicionarse en este escenario geopolítico, donde la regulación de la IA es clave para la soberanía digital, neutralidad tecnológica y el desarrollo económico. América Latina debe construir un modelo propio, equilibrando la promoción de la inversión en infraestructura tecnológica y de telecomunicaciones, facilitando la innovación junto con la protección de derechos fundamentales. La armonización regulatoria facilitaría la integración digital regional, impulsando la economía digital y la competitividad global. Un mercado digital común permitiría a los países latinoamericanos negociar en mejores condiciones con actores internacionales, atraer inversión extranjera y fomentar el desarrollo de tecnologías propias. Para ello, es fundamental establecer principios compartidos en ética, transparencia y seguridad de la IA, así como estándares de integración e interoperables que eviten la fragmentación del ecosistema digital.

La cooperación regional en la regulación de la IA también fortalecería la soberanía tecnológica, reduciendo la dependencia de infraestructuras y plataformas extranjeras. Iniciativas como el MERCOSUR digital o la Alianza del Pacífico podrían servir como bases para un acuerdo regional en IA, garantizando un crecimiento tecnológico alineado con los intereses de América Latina.

En un mundo donde la inteligencia artificial redefine el poder global, América Latina no puede quedarse al margen. Un marco regulatorio sólido y una integración digital efectiva son claves para su protagonismo en la economía del futuro.

Rodrigo Ramírez Pino, President of the Chilean Chamber of Digital Infrastructure

Madrid Digital Summit sin duda alguna será un espacio clave para provocar una discusión importante y a buena hora sobre las oportunidades de generar una real convergencia tecnológica a lo largo y ancho de Latinoamérica. Compartimos todo tipo de oportunidades y retos relacionados con las políticas públicas que pueden generar o frenar oportunidades de inversión y emprendimiento... nuestra responsabilidad como representantes del sector y hacedores de política pública que también estarán presentes, es determinar el norte común para la región en materia de desarrollo y modernización, de tal manera que

podamos presentarnos como un frente común y que generemos valor agregado para todos los sectores de nuestras economías. Con seguridad entre todos podremos encontrar los espacios fundamentales de colaboración en asuntos tan importantes como son la ciberseguridad, la inteligencia artificial y el buen uso de las redes 5G, entre otros. Es un privilegio enorme ser parte de esta conversación regional que debemos aprovechar al máximo para que nuestra región brille y tenga una relevancia significativa en cuanto al desarrollo de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicaciones a nivel mundial. Es el momento de mostrar que la capacidad de innovación y de emprendimiento latinoamericano está a la altura para poder competir con sus pares alrededor del mundo. Aprovechemos el Madrid Digital Summit para generar los vínculos necesarios para volvernos una gran locomotora tecnológica para el mundo, eliminando fronteras y enfocándonos en crear alianzas estratégicas y sinergias hacia adelante.

Alberto Samuel Yohai, President of the Colombian Chamber of Information Technology and Telecommunications (CCIT)

The Latam Digital Summit stands out for its commitment to fostering a sustainable process and establishing a new channel for knowledge sharing and mutual understanding. All stakeholders engaged in digital transformation recognize the urgent need for this it. As users, we too require this platform. By cultivating mutual understanding, we can translate insights into effective policies that deliver lasting positive impact over time for Latin America and beyond.

Piero Bonadeo, Co-Founder CCLATAM


We also asked the question to [ChatGPT](#) and [DeepSeek](#). That's what they said


- ***ChatGPT4o:*** In my opinion, the Digital Latam Summit in Madrid has significant potential to shape a more innovative and inclusive digital future for Latin America. Events like this serve as essential platforms not only for highlighting technological advancements but also for ensuring these innovations genuinely benefit diverse communities across the region. To truly drive inclusivity, the summit must prioritize actionable dialogue—connecting policymakers with grassroots initiatives, showcasing successful regional case studies, and directly addressing digital inequalities. Ultimately, the real impact will depend on the commitments made at the summit and how effectively these commitments translate into meaningful policies and collaborations afterward.
- ***DeepSeek:*** The Digital Summit Latam in Madrid can catalyze a more innovative and inclusive digital future for Latin America by fostering cross-sector partnerships, aligning policies with EU-inspired frameworks (e.g., agile regulations for startups), and channeling investments into infrastructure and tech talent. Prioritizing digital literacy, gender inclusion, and affordable connectivity for marginalized communities is critical to ensure equitable growth, while green tech integration links progress to sustainability. In my view, the


summit's success hinges on whether stakeholders—governments, businesses, and civil society—translate dialogue into concrete actions post-event. Challenges like political fragmentation and funding gaps remain, but the collaborative momentum here offers a tangible starting point for systemic change, if commitments move beyond rhetoric.

What do you think of these answers?


Elsewhere in LATAM


 Venezuela's primary industrial association, Confederación Venezolana de Industriales (Conindustria), reported that private-sector industrial output grew by 9.5% year-on-year in Q4 2024, driven by monthly increases of 18.8% in October, 5.6% in November, and 4.4% in December. According to Conindustria, manufacturing operated at 47.8% of installed capacity during the quarter, marking its highest utilization rate since Q2 2015. The main barriers limiting further growth identified by surveyed businesses included excessive taxation (84%), fuel shortages (75%), competition from imports (64%), political uncertainty (56%), macroeconomic instability (53%), and limited access to financing (46%).


 On 20 February, Brazilian Supreme Court (STF) Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered the US-based video platform Rumble to appoint a legal representative in Brazil, escalating tensions reminiscent of last year's conflict between the STF and social media platform X (formerly Twitter). Rumble, known for hosting far-right figures like Allan dos Santos—who faces accusations related to spreading disinformation—previously refused to comply with Brazilian court orders to block Dos Santos' account and has since parted ways with its Brazilian lawyers. Dos Santos, who fled to the US following an arrest warrant issued in 2021, was banned from YouTube by a similar court order. On 19 February, Rumble and Trump Media & Technology Group sued De Moraes in a US federal court, alleging his orders violated First Amendment protections. The same day, De Moraes imposed an R\$8.1 million (US\$1.4 million) fine on X for previous non-compliance with court orders. Further friction may arise as Brazil considers legislative measures to tax and regulate US tech giants.


 On 20 February, Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum introduced a constitutional reform initiative emphasizing that Mexico will not accept foreign intervention, responding directly to the recent US designation of six Mexican cartels as foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs). The reform, which explicitly rejects foreign meddling, coups, election interference, or violations of Mexican sovereignty, aims to counter concerns over potential US military intervention. Alongside this, Sheinbaum proposed harsher penalties for arms trafficking and announced the expansion of a lawsuit against US gun manufacturers, leveraging the FTO designation to bolster Mexico's legal claims. Despite tensions, Sheinbaum stressed continued cooperation with the US, underscored

by recent high-profile arrests in Sinaloa and ongoing diplomatic engagement aimed at addressing trade frictions related to tariff threats.

 On 19 February the US Department of State designated six Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organisations (FTOs), along with Tren de Aragua, a transnational criminal group originating from Venezuela, and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), one of two main street gangs in Central America

 The European Union (EU) has decided to keep Panama on its blacklist of "non-cooperative" tax jurisdictions, despite efforts by President José Raúl Mulino's administration to remove the country from the list. This decision comes even after Panama achieved significant progress in October 2023, when it was removed from the OECD's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 'grey' list for improvements in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing measures. The EU list, first introduced in December 2017, undergoes biannual updates, with the next review scheduled for October 2025.

 A key index tracking Latin American stocks is off to its strongest start since 2012, significantly outperforming the S&P 500 and other emerging markets. [Colombian stocks](#) have rallied nearly 30% in dollar terms, fueled by forecasts from analysts at firms like Morgan Stanley and Ashmore regarding the May 2026 election. Increasing dissatisfaction with leftist governments is propelling a notable upswing in Latin American markets, as investors capitalize on low asset valuations, betting on a shift towards more pro-business leadership in the upcoming 2026 elections. In Brazil, fluctuations in the market reflect President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's dwindling approval ratings and speculation about his potential non-candidacy in the October elections next year.

 [Netflix](#) announced \$1 billion investment with plans to create around 20 films and television series in Mexico each year for the next four years. Pres. Sheinbaum said that this investment in the film sector is expected to generate a variety of jobs that extend beyond the immediate needs of production, including roles in hospitality for cast and crew, opportunities for fashion designers, and a boost to tourism.

La Cita

The night is thick, the night is tough. But still our hope is kept safe in the depths of our hearts.

[Frankétienne](#), Haitian Author

EL Evento

Powered by Duke SANFORD CYBER POLICY PROGRAM



The poster features a central shield logo with a profile of a woman's head. The background is a gradient from purple to blue with a network of white lines and dots. Text is centered in white and purple.

Women in Cybersecurity
Breaking Barriers in Latin America
February 27, 2025
3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Círculo de Bellas Artes,
Madrid, Spain

Join a high-level discussion on current barriers for women in cybersecurity.
Limited access available! RSVP before February 14, 2025.
Contact: maria.herrera@duke.edu

As part of the
**DIGITAL SUMMIT
LATAM25**

Women in Cybersecurity: Breaking Barriers in Latin America

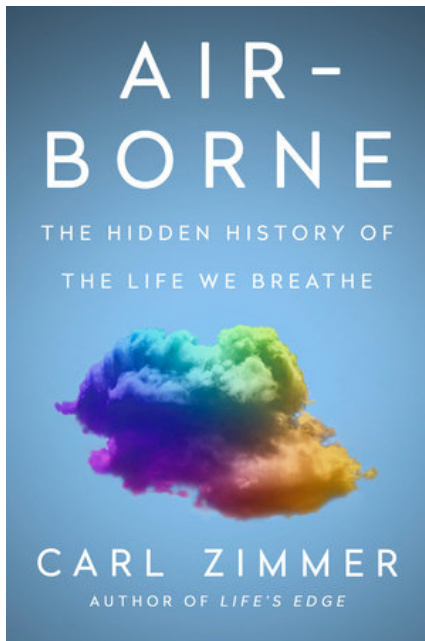
Hosted by the [Duke Sanford Cyber Policy Program](#) and the [Center for Latin America Convergence \(CCLATAM\)](#) alongside [Digital Summit Latam](#), this special session tackles the barriers preventing women from accessing cybersecurity education and careers—while proposing actionable solutions.

This exclusive gathering will bring together industry leaders, researchers, and practitioners to share insights, experiences, and strategies for advancing women's careers in cybersecurity across Latin America. The discussion will also contribute to critical research on executive education and mentorship programs, directly shaping targeted solutions to increase women's representation in this vital field.

Access is limited. If interested, contact Maria Herrera at maria.herrera@duke.edu.

La Lectura

Air-Borne: The Hidden History of the Life We Breathe by Carl Zimmer



[Carl Zimmer](#)'s *Air-Borne* is a fascinating deep dive into the invisible world that surrounds us—trillions of microbes, airborne pathogens, and even life-sustaining organisms floating in the air we breathe. Blending history, science, and investigative reporting, Zimmer traces the evolution of aerobiology, from Louis Pasteur's discoveries to the long-overlooked warnings about airborne diseases. He also explores darker themes, such as Cold War-era biological warfare, and the delayed recognition of COVID-19's airborne transmission. While at times dense with detail, the book offers a compelling, eye-opening perspective on the air as a living ecosystem. A must-read for science enthusiasts, *Air-Borne* challenges us to rethink the air we take for granted.



Enjoyed this read? Spread the inspiration by sharing our newsletter with your peers and join us in fostering a vibrant community passionate about the wonders of Latin America.

You can also find us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Or maybe you want to donate to our cause and help promote the region, you can do that [here](#). Want to stop receiving this newsletter? You can unsubscribe [here](#).

Thank you for reading, nos vemos en la próxima.