

CONFERENCE

OPTIC 2026

19 October 2026 / Hilton London Bankside

Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

08:15 / Welcome registration and refreshments

09:00 - 09:45

Opening remarks

Speaker



April Day
Managing Director, Head of
Capital Markets, AFME

09:15 - 09:45

Opening keynote

Day 1 - Monday, 19 October 2026

PANEL DISCUSSION

09:45 - 10:30

The View from the Top: Perspectives from industry leaders

OVERVIEW

- / How can capital markets help address Europe's financing gap? What changes are needed to boost growth and competitiveness?
- / Are geopolitical trends changing European firms' approach from "global" to "local"?
- / How are new technologies being deployed to deliver transformation?

Speakers



Francisco Bejar
Head of Custody, SIX



Jean-Jacques Barberis
Deputy CEO - Coverage and
Digital Assets, CACEIS



Sam Riley
Chief Executive Officer,
Clearstream Securities
Services



Val Wotton
Managing Director, Global
Head of Equities Solutions,
DTCC

10:30 / Networking break

FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

11:00 - 11:30

Chris Cox, Global Head of Investor Services at Citi

Moderator



Adam Farkas
CEO, AFME

Speaker



Chris Cox
Head of Investor Services, Citi

TRACK C FUTURE LEADERS

11:00 - 13:00

Session by invitation only

The Knowledge Exchange

PANEL DISCUSSION

11:30 - 12:15

Everything you need to know about the EU Market Integration Package

OVERVIEW

- / What are the key objectives and proposals in the MIP and where are we in the legislative process?
- / Do the proposals go far enough to deliver the Commission's SIU strategy?
- / How does the MIP fit in with broader EU objectives to facilitate the use of DLT-based assets and systems?

Speakers



Alex Dockx
Executive Director Industry
Development, JP Morgan



Britta Woernle
Director, Head of Market
Advocacy Europe, Trust and
Securities Services, Deutsche
Bank



Jennifer Robertson
Head of Unit, European
Commission



Patrice Aguesse
Director, Head of Market
Policy Division, AMF

TRACK A**PANEL DISCUSSION**

12:15 - 13:00

DLT Adoption - Are we Approaching Institutional Mainstreaming?

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / DLT adoption is moving beyond a handful of use cases. Is DLT becoming a driver for institutional banking strategy going forward?
- / Which asset classes / markets are most impacted by the move on-chain?
- / What are the key barriers (market, legal/policy, technological) to moving to DLT-based capital markets?

Moderator



Coco Chen
Associate Director,
Technology and Operations,
AFME

Speakers



Christoph Hock
Head of Tokenisation & Digital
Assets, DLT Transformation
Lead, Union Investment



Sid Ulker
Counsel, Ashurst



Simon Daniel
Strategy Director for Global
Securities, Swift

TRACK B PANEL DISCUSSION

12:15 - 13:00

Asset Servicing in Focus: Challenges and Opportunities

Focus Stage

OVERVIEW

- / What impacts does T+1 have on Corporate Actions?
- / How can we digitalise the asset servicing workflow?
- / SRD II – what is next? Will we get a revised Directive or Regulation?
- / Market Standards – What is the Single Rule Book for Europe?

Speakers



Mariangela Fumagalli
Head of Asset Servicing
Global Product and
Regulatory Solutions, BNP
Paribas



Michael Collier
Global Head of Asset
Services, Product
Management, Securities
Services, J.P. Morgan



Richard Nicholls
Vice President – Head of
Asset Services London / UK
Accelerated Settlement
Taskforce – Corporate Actions
Lead, Morgan Stanley



Serkan Yagci
Managing Director, x-markets
consulting

13:00 / *Networking lunch*

TRACK A PRESENTATION

14:15 - 14:45

Navigating geopolitical risk

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / Europe's place in the new global order
- / The impact of AI and other new technologies
- / How should global banks navigate geopolitical uncertainty

Speaker



Neil Shearing
Group Chief Economist,
Capital Economics

TRACK C PANEL DISCUSSION

14:15 - 15:15

UK Digital Securities Sandbox/EU DLT Pilot Regime

Insights Lounge

Speakers



Amparo Garcia Flores
CEO, Securitize



Mark Kepeneghian
CEO, LISE SA



Martin Watkins
Chief Executive Officer,
Montis Digital

TRACK A DEBATE IT OUT!

14:45 - 15:30

By 2030, the majority of today's banking ops roles will have been replaced by AI

Main stage

OVERVIEW

/ A lively debate style format where participants battle it out to win over the audience in a vote.

Speakers



Dawd Haque
Market Initiatives, Regulatory
Transformation & Strategy,
Deutsche Bank



Niamh Kingsley
CEO & Founder at ace, Chief
Technology Officer at G
MASS



Rebecca Healey
Managing Partner, Redlap
Consulting Ltd

TRACK B FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

14:45 - 15:15

The US in Focus: Key Developments in US markets

Transformation Stage

OVERVIEW

- / What are the main policy initiatives in-flight in US capital markets?
- / What does 23/5 trading mean for operations teams?
- / Can the industry support the current pace of change in digital assets policy?

Speakers



Adrian Whelan
Global Head of Market
Intelligence, Brown Brothers
Harriman



Natalie Berkecz
Global head of Custody, Tax
and Regulatory Product,
Northern Trust Corporation

15:30 / *Networking coffee break*

FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

16:00 - 16:30

with Lord Ed Vaizey, Co-Chair of UK APPG on Crypto and Digital Assets

Speaker



Ed Vaizey
Co-Chair of UK APPG on
Crypto and Digital Assets

PANEL DISCUSSION

16:30 - 17:15

The evolution of financial market infrastructure: opportunities and challenges

OVERVIEW

- / With continued scrutiny on infrastructure fragmentation, what does the ideal future model look like for Europe?
- / How can we achieve truly integrated and interoperable post-trade ecosystem, and improve capital mobility and liquidity?
- / How are firms balancing the opportunities of new technology with the need to ensure continuity and resilience?

Speakers



Camille Papillard
Deputy Head of Financial
Intermediaries and
Corporates Client Line, BNP
Paribas



Jerome Blais
Head of European Expansion,
Euronext Securities



Marcus Austin
Head of Sales & Relationship
Management, US, UK,
Nordics, Clearstream

17:15 - 17:10

Closing remarks

17:30 / Drinks Reception at the Distillery

Day 2 - Tuesday, 20 October 2026

08:00 - 09:00

Women of OPTIC

The Exchange

OVERVIEW

/ An invitation-only breakfast for the Women of OPTIC and allies.

08:00 / *Welcome registration*

09:00 - 09:15

Opening remarks

FIRESIDE DISCUSSION

09:15 - 09:45

Christopher Woolard CBE, Wholesale Digital Markets Champion

Speaker



Christopher Woolard CBE
Wholesale Digital Markets
Champion

PANEL DISCUSSION

09:45 - 10:30

12 Months to T+1 – will we be ready?

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / How are firms preparations for T+1 going? Are there any major implementation challenges foreseen?
- / What is the role of regulators in supporting the transition, and what do they expect from the industry?
- / Is there enough awareness? Which parts of the market might be lagging behind?

Speakers



John Moreau
Director, Head of Trade
Lifecycle Services, DTCC
Consulting



Marie-France Dessertenne
Global T+1 Program Manager,
BNP Paribas

10:30 / Networking Break

TRACK A PANEL DISCUSSION

11:00 - 11:45

Using AI to Transform Post Trade

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / Reimagining post-trade processes
- / Deploying & managing AI agents
- / Evaluating ROI
- / Impact on skills and the talent pipeline

Speaker



Ruth McMaster
Global Head of Investment
Banking Operations and
Cross Product Operations,
Deutsche Bank

TRACK B PANEL DISCUSSION

11:00 - 11:45

Digital Currencies in Focus: Pathways towards a DLT-based Multi-Money world

Focus Stage

OVERVIEW

- / How do different DLT-based money solutions serve wholesale markets? Are they complementary or could they pose risks of fragmentation?
- / What are outstanding barriers to a “multi-money” world?

Speakers



Austin Elwood
Digital Assets Industry Lead,
NatWest



Dirk Bullmann
Managing Director, Public
Policy, Strategy and
Innovation, CEO Office, CLS



Etay Katz
Head of Digital Assets and
Financial Innovation and
Senior Partner in Financial
Regulation Practice, Ashurst

TRACK A PANEL DISCUSSION

11:45 - 12:30

CCPs in focus: Implementation, innovation, and interoperability

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / How are CCPs and their users managing regulatory change? What are upcoming priorities?
- / Will proposed changes to open access provisions unlock further competition and efficiency, or is more ambition needed?
- / Is there scope to expand central clearing into new transaction flows and asset types?

Speaker



Tim Beckwith
Head of Commercial &
Business Development, Cboe
Clear

TRACK B PANEL DISCUSSION

11:45 - 12:30

T+1 in Focus – Ask the Experts

Focus Stage

OVERVIEW

- / Interactive discussion with UK and EU industry leaders, with an opportunity to put your questions directly to them.
- / What are the next major project milestones? What should firms be concentrating on?

Moderator



Mikko Olli
Associate Director, Post
Trade, AFME

Speakers



Emma Johnson
Head of Industry Advocacy &
Insight, The ValueExchange



Marcello Topa
Director, Global Head of
Advocacy, Investor Services,
Citi



Roberto De Paolis
Director – Direct Markets
Strategy EMEA, BNY



Tony Holland
Director - Market Practice,
ISLA

12:30 / Networking lunch

TRACK B LUNCH & LEARN

12:30 - 13:30

Exception Management Deep Dive into T+1 with NOVA CMX

The Knowledge Exchange

ASK ME ANYTHING

13:30 - 13:55

Sasha Mills, Bank of England

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / A candid, open Q&A session with a senior industry leader or policy maker.

Speaker



Sasha Mills

Executive Director of Financial
Market Infrastructure, Bank of
England

PANEL DISCUSSION

13:55 - 14:55

Banks' Operations in 2030

Main stage

OVERVIEW

- / How should banks be adapting their operations to ensure they can compete with new industry players in the years to come?
- / How critical is the roll out of New Tech as part of this broader transformation, and which types of New Tech will have the biggest impact?
- / Does AI deployment create tensions across business lines and with clients and counterparties?
- / To what extent is the evolution of Operations driven by Regulation vs commercial factors?

Moderator



Marcus Corry

Director, Technology and
Operations, AFME

Speakers



Aileen McCormack

Head of Operations, Barclays



Stephen Martin

Head of Financial Services
Compliance and Security for
EMEA and APAC, AWS



Tiina Winnan

Head of Equity Distribution
Operations, Deutsche Bank

ASK ME ANYTHING

14:55 - 15:20

Audrey Metzger, Banque de France

OVERVIEW

/ A candid, open Q&A session with a senior industry leader or policy maker.

Speakers



Audrey Metzger

Director of Innovation and
Financial Markets
Infrastructures Directorate,
Banque de France



Sabine Dittrich

Head of Government and
Regulatory Policy and
Relations, Europe | PPCR,
Barclays

15:20 - 15:30

Closing remarks

15:30 / Networking drinks