SESSION SUMMARY | 9:00 AM | JOE C. THOMPSON CONFERENCE CENTER, UT AUSTIN

Opening Address

Anna Hammarlund Blixt Consul General of Sweden

The session in brief

The Consul General described a Sweden-U.S. relationship grounded in history, shared values and, since Sweden joined NATO, a formal alliance. She highlighted Texas as a key partner and the newly opened Consulate General in Houston as a resource for companies on both sides.

Key takeaways

- Sweden was among the first countries to recognize the United States in 1783, and about four million Americans claim Swedish ancestry.
- With Sweden in NATO, the two countries are now allies as well as partners: the alliance strengthens security, and the economic partnership strengthens prosperity.
- Sweden is the ninth-largest foreign investor in the U.S. More than 800 Swedish-affiliated companies support nearly 400,000 U.S. jobs, with over 90 companies in Texas.
- Priority areas for cooperation include AI, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, health innovation, defense, mobility, sustainable energy and critical minerals. The Technology Prosperity Deal is a framework for deepening that work.
- Texas matters for manufacturing, energy, aerospace, defense and research. The Houston Consulate General, opened in 2026, wants to hear directly from companies about their needs.
- Swedish companies value U.S. talent, suppliers, infrastructure and innovation culture, but face tariffs, customs friction and regulatory complexity. Continued dialogue is how those issues get addressed.

Action points for attendees

1. Reach out to the Consulate General in Houston with your company's trade, investment or research interests in Texas.
2. Share concrete business priorities and pain points (tariffs, customs, regulation) with the Consulate so they can be raised in policy dialogue.
3. Look at the Technology Prosperity Deal focus areas and identify where your company could partner across the Atlantic.
4. Use the SACC network to turn Summit contacts into partnerships, joint projects or investment conversations.

In their words

> *“In today's global economy, competitiveness depends not only on what we innovate, but also who we innovate with.”*
>
> Anna Hammarlund Blixt

Prepared by SACC Texas from the session recording for in-person attendees of the SACC Summit 2026. Points are paraphrased and condensed; they are not a verbatim transcript. Speaker names and titles as listed on the official Summit agenda at sacctx.com.