



Food industry leaders to explore AI, data and robotics for traceability and food safety at Expo Foodtech 2026

On May 27 and 28, Expo Foodtech 2026 will serve as a hub for logistics and technological innovation in the food industry

The Food 4 Future World Summit will focus on reducing emissions, traceability, food safety, and AI and robotics as drivers of competitiveness

Madrid, May 12, 2026 – [Expo Foodtech 2026](#) will bring together food industry professionals on May 27 and 28 in Bilbao, Spain, to explore the solutions shaping the future of packaging, logistics, automation, and technology in the sector. The trade show will be held simultaneously with [Pick&Pack for Food Industry](#), which will reinforce Bilbao's position as a hub for food innovation and the promotion of new, more efficient, sustainable, and connected production models.

Expo Foodtech will once again host the [Food 4 Future World Summit](#), the leading conference on food innovation. This year's agenda will feature the **Operations & Logistics Summit and the CTO's & Purchasing Summit**—two specialized forums that will address the main challenges across the entire food value chain, from food production to distribution. More than 300 experts will explore circular strategies applied to production, as well as strategies for reducing the carbon footprint and enhancing logistics resilience, in addition to solutions in automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, and food traceability and safety.

Operations & Logistics Summit: the keys to more sustainable and connected logistics

In the logistics sector, one of the major challenges today is improving sustainability and reducing emissions. In this context, industry experts and leaders such as Rafael Aguilera, CEO of **UNO Logística**; Leire Armendáriz, Commercial Director of **FM Logistic Iberia**; Jessica Egea, Key Account Manager at **Webfleet**; and Pere Coll, Director of R&D&I at **Enplater**, will analyze how to reduce emissions throughout the food value chain through solutions such as the adoption of renewable energy, process optimization, sustainable packaging, and supplier engagement.

The session will also explore how data transforms supply chain management, shifting from an operational tool to a strategic and financial asset for companies. **T-Systems** data and AI experts, Pablo Manuel García and Fernando Pareja, will analyze how data enables companies to anticipate risks, optimize resources, improve planning, and move toward more connected and efficient operations.

This perspective will be complemented by a 360-degree view of the supply chain, addressing issues such as network design, risk management, collaboration with suppliers, and digitalization through sales and operations planning processes, control towers, and digital twins. Laura Garrido, Commercial Director at **AR Racking**; Carlos Morales, Head of Strategy at **InPost**; and Matías de Lecea, Director of the Northern Region at **PreZero**, will demonstrate how to balance service levels, costs, and carbon footprint to turn the supply chain into a true competitive advantage.



CTO's & Purchase Summit: technology to improve food safety

The need to improve efficiency and sustainability in food distribution and logistics also has an impact on food production facilities. The **CTO's & Purchase Summit** will examine how automation, robotics, and artificial intelligence are driving operational efficiency and cost reduction in highly competitive environments. In this context, Manuel Cadenas, Head of the F&B Vertical at **Siemens**; Carlos Cuesta, CEO of **Singular Logistics**; and Pol Torres, from **Eurecat's** applied artificial intelligence division, will discuss key applications in production, packaging, and logistics, as well as their impact on quality, safety, and sustainability, with the aim of identifying emerging technologies and implementation models that enable companies to adapt to technological disruption and maintain their competitive advantage.

Circularity will also be presented as a key driver for enhancing efficiency in the food industry. Thomas Dietrich, Project Manager at **Tecnalia**; Carolina Porcar, R&D Project Lead at **Hausmann**; and Alvar Gràcia, Senior Researcher at **Leitat**, will discuss how companies are redesigning processes, materials, and resource flows to reduce waste, cut costs, and enhance sustainability. From the recovery of byproducts and the optimization of water and energy use to the application of digital tools for smarter resource management. Through real-world examples, they will demonstrate how circular strategies are generating a measurable impact on operational performance, climate resilience, and the sector's competitiveness.

In addition, the CTO's & Purchase Summit will also address another major challenge facing the food industry: traceability and food safety. Any incident can affect consumer confidence and a brand's reputation within hours, a scenario where technology has become a key tool for anticipating risks, responding quickly, and ensuring operational continuity. To this end, Mónica Cid, Quality Manager at **Eroski**; María Lavilla, Senior Researcher at **AZTI**; Iñaki Hormaetxe, Quality Manager at **Artzai-Gazta**; and Antonio Martín, Senior Researcher at **INIA-CSIC**, will analyze how IoT sensors, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and smart product recall platforms can strengthen real-time monitoring, improve risk prediction, ensure traceability, and facilitate coordination with distributors.

In this regard, the digital transformation of the food industry is key to improving traceability, efficiency, and consumer experience. Kristina Apinaiz, Head of Food & Pharma Solutions at Cefalux; Paulo Gaspar, CEO of **Brainr**; and Alberto Gamero, Head of Manufacturing Operations at **Siemens**, will share case studies and implementation challenges related to technologies such as the IoT, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and data platforms. These tools are enabling companies to optimize processes, ensure greater control across the value chain, and improve consumer relationships, thereby becoming a strategic asset for businesses.

Request your press pass for Expo FoodTech and Pick&Pack [here](#).

[About Expo FoodTech](#) (May 27 and 28, 2026, BEC-Bilbao): this is the leading innovation event for professionals across the entire value chain of the food and beverage sector. Over two days, F4F – Expo Foodtech will bring together food industry professionals at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre (BEC) to learn about the latest solutions in foodtech, robotics and automation, processing and packaging



machinery for different segments of the food industry, as well as food safety and science. It will also host the Food 4 Future World Summit, the largest European congress where you can discover the latest trends, success stories, and tools to transform the food and beverage industry. F4F - Expo Foodtech, organized by NEBEXT and AZTI, will be held simultaneously with [Pick&Pack for Food Industry](#), the only event in Spain specializing in packaging and logistics solutions for the food industry.

[About NEBEXT](#): Next Business Exhibitions (NEBEXT) is Spain's largest private organizer of professional events specializing in technology, innovation, and sustainability for various industries.

[About AZTI](#): AZTI is a science and technology center that develops high-impact transformation projects and businesses with organizations aligned with the 2030 SDGs. Specializing in the marine environment and food, it provides cutting-edge, value-added products and technologies based on solid science and research.