

ACTANNUAL
CONFERENCE

2025

AGENDA

20-21 MAY 2025 | ICC WALES, UK | [TREASURERS.ORG/ACTAC25](https://treasurers.org/actac25)

DAY ONE: Tuesday 20 May 2025

08:30	Registration
09:15	Welcome and opening remarks from the ACT <i>Annette Spencer, Chief Executive, Association of Corporate Treasurers</i>
09:30	Opening keynote Investment
10:10	Keynote speech and conversation Investment
10:50	ACT education update Resources
11:05	Morning refreshments in the exhibition hall
11:40	Choose between <i>STAGES</i>
	STAGE A: From treasury to the boardroom: aligning financial strategy with business goals Join us for an engaging panel discussion where leading UK Treasurers discuss how they support their company's business strategy. We'll explore the unique insights and expertise Treasurers can bring to Exec Management and Boardroom decision making, navigating current economic, political and environmental challenges while capitalising on opportunities. Learn how Treasurers can drive business success through financial forward-planning and transform challenges into strategic financial advantages. The panel will share real-world examples and best practices of Treasurers acting as strategic leaders and is a must attend for finance professionals seeking to elevate their role in corporate success! <i>In association with SMBC</i> Funding
	STAGE B: Why it matters to you: developments in trade finance

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	<p>Trade finance is being revolutionised, HSBC will update on current themes that are relevant in the trade world of today, notably, future of trade finance, global supply chains reshaping through geopolitical activity, growth of trade in services, sustainability, digitisation of the industry, platform innovation / disruption leading to expansion of B2B commerce. How can trade finance improve working capital, save costs, and where might alternative structured trade solutions complement other credit facilities? What are the latest updates and where do these affect treasurers?</p> <p><i>This is part of the 'Why it matters to you?' series – issues that aren't necessarily front and centre of a treasurer's priorities, but should be taken seriously.</i></p> <p><i>In association with HSBC</i></p> <p>Funding</p>
	<p>STAGE C: Digital assets and tokenisation</p> <p>The discussion will cover tokenisation (including tokenised funds and digital bonds) and digital money (CBDCs, stablecoins, and tokenised deposits) in the context of treasury management.</p> <p><i>In association with S&P Global Ratings</i></p> <p>Technology</p>
12:30	Lunch in the exhibition hall
12:40	<p>Invite-only lunch: The Treasurer's edge: Insights on market uncertainty and cash investment trends</p> <p>As macroeconomic uncertainty persists, access to timely and relevant information is critical to gaining an edge in treasury management. Join us to explore key macroeconomic themes, how we are positioning our portfolios accordingly, and the emerging trends in the money market fund industry.</p> <p><i>In association with HSBC</i></p>
13:40	<p>Choose between STAGES</p> <p>STAGE D: How technology is impacting corporate treasury</p> <p><i>In association with NatWest</i></p> <p>Technology</p>

	<p>STAGE E: Managing credit risk in a Trump 2.0 world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key potential market and corporate financing risks identified and evaluated • How the forecasting approach adapts in a changeable geopolitical environment • How do you integrate sustainability into credit risk? • The impact of geopolitical uncertainty on CRA decision making processes – and what can corporates do to mitigate? <p><i>In association with Fitch Ratings</i></p> <p>Funding</p>
	<p>STAGE F: Investing cash confidently through the use of technology</p> <p><i>In association with TreasurySpring</i></p> <p>Investment Technology</p>
14:30	Travel time
14:40	<p>Choose between STAGES</p> <p>STAGE G</p> <p><i>In association with Barclays</i></p> <p>STAGE H: Navigating volatile markets</p> <p>STAGE I: Financial risk management – managing first and second order risks in volatile markets</p> <p>In a rapidly changing global economy, rising economic and geopolitical risks are leading to increased volatility in interest rates, inflation, FX rates and commodity prices.</p> <p>The changing market dynamics have also meant that ‘new’ risks, or risks that were lower down the agenda, have come to the fore, creating new challenges for treasurers to deal with.</p> <p>During this panel session, we will provide insights into how companies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • managing these ‘traditional’ risks in the changing market environment • identifying ‘new’ risks and the tools and approaches that can be used to address them.

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	<i>In association with Lloyds Bank</i>
15:30	<i>Afternoon refreshments in the exhibition hall</i>
16:00	<i>Choose between TREASURY LABS</i>
	Treasury Lab 1: Practical applications of AI in treasury AI is no longer just a buzzword; it's a practical, transformative tool reshaping how treasuries operate. From predictive cash flow management to real-time fraud detection, AI offers opportunities to enhance decision-making, reduce manual workloads and uncover insights that were previously out of reach. In this session, we'll dive into practical applications of AI in treasury, along with how any AI tooling can be deployed, monitored, and controlled. This session is designed to equip delegates with ideas and confidence which can be shared within their organisations and teams. <i>In association with HSBC</i> Technology
	Treasury Lab 2: Trump, rates & global shocks: what every treasurer must know Join us for a rare opportunity to hear from Hank Calenti, SMBC's Global Rate Strategist, whose 35 years of experience span everything from the Fed to advising the UAE Central Bank and rating sovereigns at Moody's. In this high-impact, interactive session, Hank will unravel the shifting tides of global economics and interest rate policies — from Washington to Paris to London — and explore what a second Trump presidency means for markets, inflation, and your balance sheet. Expect candid insights, sharp analysis, and submersion into the big-picture interactive think-tank with real-world takeaways! <i>In association with SMBC</i> Funding
	Treasury Lab 3: Basel IV Basel IV may be a regulation that affects banks rather than corporates, but the implications on lending practices may be considerable. What are the latest updates in its implementation and what could Basel IV mean for pricing, access to finance and wider landscape changes?

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In association with NatWest

Funding

Treasury Lab 4: Today's treasurer: a hands-on session for payment strategy innovation

The treasury function must adapt and innovate to maintain its strategic relevance. A fresh approach to payments can significantly enhance operational efficiency and drive organisational success.

This interactive workshop is designed to provide treasury professionals with the tools and insights necessary to transform their payment processes into a strategic advantage. It will also explore why a payment champion at your organisation could be the missing link.

In association with Bottomline

Technology

Treasury Lab 5: Unlocking pension surplus

In association with Cardano

Investment

16:35 *Travel time*

16:45 **Afternoon Plenary**

17:30 Networking drinks reception

19:00 Networking evening at Celtic Manor

DAY TWO: Wednesday 21 May 2025

08:00	Breakfast in the exhibition hall
	Invite-Only Breakfast <i>In association with BNP Paribas</i>
09:00	Opening remarks to day 2 <i>Tariq Kazi, Deputy President, Association of Corporate Treasurers</i>
09:10	The view from the C-suite – how can the treasurer help? <p>The extent of the treasurer's role is often led and directed based on the preferences and priorities of the CFO and wider C-suite. Treasurers must understand what these are to add the most value to their organisation, and to enhance their role and support their career.</p> <p>The discussion will explore what a treasurer can do to better support their board, both for treasury and their wider organisation.</p> <div>Resources</div>
09:50	Travel time
10:00	Choose between STAGES
	STAGE J: Accelerated settlement <div>Funding</div>
	STAGE K: Transition planning: what's shaping the market? <p>With recent developments in the US, the focus on sustainability is shifting, but action is still taking place to transition to net zero. As sentiment waxes and wanes and reporting requirements continue to grow, treasurers face new transition-related standards and frameworks that impact financing tools, reporting, and risk management. This session will explore what is happening in the market and how treasurers can continue to support the transition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the approach of treasurers changing in supporting the transition? • How can treasurers effectively leverage transition finance to drive responsible growth?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role do transition plans play in facilitating engagement between treasurers and lenders/ investors? • What constitutes a robust transition plan and how are formal reporting requirements and guidance evolving? • How can treasurers integrate taxonomy changes to support sustainable finance and align with regulatory expectations, while embracing the clarity that the taxonomies claim to provide? <p><i>In association with Sustainable Fitch</i></p> <p>Sustainability</p>
	STAGE L
10:50	Morning refreshments in the exhibition hall
11:20	<p>Choose between TREASURY LABS</p> <p>Treasury Lab 6: More choice, more questions: which option is right for settling your defined benefit pension risk?</p> <p>In January, property and construction company the Wates Group transferred its defined benefit scheme to a pension 'superfund'. This was the third superfund transaction in the last 18 months and is an example of the growing range of options companies have to manage legacy pension scheme risk.</p> <p>What are 'superfunds' and what are their pros and cons? Are they a good fit for your pension scheme versus passing the risk to an insurer or running the scheme on and accessing its surplus? And how do these different options affect company cashflows and the balance sheet?</p> <p><i>In association with Clara</i></p> <p>Funding</p>
	<p>Treasury Lab 7</p> <p><i>In association with ION</i></p> <p>Technology</p>

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	Treasury Lab 8 <i>In association with Barclays</i>
	Treasury Lab 9 <i>In association with TIS</i>
11:55	Travel time
12:05	Choose between TREASURY LABS
	Treasury Lab : HSF/ACT Corporate Debt Survey 2025 <i>In association with HerbertSmithFreehills</i> Funding
	Treasury Lab 11 <i>In association with d-fine</i>
	Treasury Lab 12
	Treasury Lab 13: ACT Future Leaders in Treasury: developing your treasury career What are the key trends in the treasury recruitment market, how do you make your CV stand out and what factors are organisations considering when looking for new roles. We ask a panel of recruitment consultants to provide their insights, and a senior treasurer to discuss what treasury skills they value and what they look for when they recruit. Resources
12:40	Travel time
12:50	Co-lead panel: In the world of AI, do we still need relationship bankers? Artificial intelligence is transforming financial services and businesses more generally, and the impact on banks and how they service corporate clients will be considerable going forward. This session will bring together a representative from three major banks to discuss their vision for the future of AI, how AI is being used and implemented, some key lessons they have learned so far and how this will affect the relationship with their clients, along with the impact across different

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	<p>regions. The discussion will help treasurers work out what it means for how they engage with the banks.</p> <p><i>In association with HSBC, NatWest and SMBC</i></p> <p>Technology</p>
13:30	<p>Reflections</p> <p><i>Annette Spencer, Chief Executive, Association of Corporate Treasurers</i></p>
13:35	<p><i>Lunch in the exhibition hall</i></p>
14:25	<p>Choose between ROUNDTABLES A-C</p> <p>ROUNDTABLE A (treasurer-only)</p> <p>ROUNDTABLE B: Cash forecasting</p> <p>ROUNDTABLE C</p>
15:00	<p><i>Travel time</i></p>
15:10	<p>Choose between ROUNDTABLES D-F</p> <p>ROUNDTABLE D (treasurer-only)</p> <p>ROUNDTABLE E</p> <p>ROUNDTABLE F</p>
15:45	<p><i>Close of conference</i></p>

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