



ASTRID Innovation Hub: Launch of international think tank

Stadtwerke Wolfsburg and WOB COM want to become an international initiator in the development of practical digital applications on an open-source basis

Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG, WOB COM GmbH and FIWARE Foundation e.V. officially opened the 'ASTRID Innovation Hub' on October 06, 2021. The new platform is intended to help (further) develop practical digital applications and business models that create added value for citizens, municipalities, companies and other stakeholders. The ASTRID inauguration took place as part of an international 'FutureCongress_digital'. Stefan Muhle, State Secretary of the Lower Saxony Ministry of Economics, Labor, Transport and Digitalization, as well as other guests from city administration, politics, business and research participated in the event. NVIDIA has become the first international technology cooperation.

Experts from politics, industry and research agreed: Open source is the foundation and driver of digitalization. The use of open source software makes digital solutions more efficient, sustainable and future-proof. As part of the 'FutureCongress_digital', speakers from city administration, politics, industry and science highlighted the opportunities for joint innovations in a digital and open platform economy in the science theater of the 'phaeno' in Wolfsburg. Around 200 participants took part in the on-site and digital discussions on open source, 5G and AI.

Collaborative platform aims to bring digitization closer to citizens

By collaborating intensively with national and international technology companies, Stadtwerke and WOB COM want to create the conditions to promote an attractive open source ecosystem for targeted investments and leverage the region's potential already identified in the #WolfsburgDigital initiative even more efficiently. In this context, the ASTRID iHUB will be able to push the development of smart city applications and apps in Wolfsburg as well as bundle core competencies in Wolfsburg, with the aim of developing the region into a preferred investment hub for technology companies. At the same time, northern Germany should be confirmed as a first-class information and communications technology (ICT) location. In the future, politics, industry, science and citizens will engage in an open exchange to jointly develop innovations from ideas and bring them to market maturity. Through the international networking of open source and various collaborations, solutions can be created that will sustainably improve living conditions in cities.

For this purpose, both companies have signed a cooperation with the FIWARE Foundation e.V. and jointly founded the ASTRID iHUB. FIWARE is an open source initiative of the European Union that promotes developments of smart solutions.

Smart solutions through open collaboration

The open source culture is the basis of all activities of the ASTRID iHUB, where sharing ideas and results will create better solutions and more innovations for everyone. As an open platform, the ASTRID iHUB is intended to push new ideas for digital services in the future and provide a central point of contact for established companies and start-ups to collaboratively identify partners and funding opportunities for



projects. The main focus is on the development and implementation of concepts in the areas of digitization, with the aim of making cities more digital (Smart City), mobility more intelligent (Smart Mobility), industry more networked (Smart Industry) and applications more secure (Smart Security).

First cooperation with International technology company NVIDIA - further cooperation to follow

In future, the ASTRID iHUB will combine the know-how of strong international partners to develop innovations that sustainably improve the quality of life in the Wolfsburg region and beyond. NVIDIA, one of the world's leading companies in the field of artificial intelligence, has become the first international technology cooperation. NVIDIA plans to support the "ASTRID iHUB" by contributing its international partner network and enabling iHUB members to use its AI platform. Further collaborations with local, national and international partners are already underway. As part of the FIWARE Foundation's international open source community, the ASTRID iHUB will promote cross-border innovation activities of companies and start-ups while building bridges to local businesses.

Statements:

Dr. Kästner, Member of the Board of Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG and Managing Director of

WOB COM GmbH: "New mobility concepts, intelligent solutions for waste, parking space management, automated air quality measurements and much more, are all part of a future smart city, the development of which we as the Stadtwerke Group want to help drive forward. In the future, the ASTRID iHUB will be a place of participation for companies and citizens alike - far beyond the borders of Wolfsburg. Through the cooperation with the FIWARE Foundation, we want to benefit from the international open source network and bring global innovations to Wolfsburg as well as create structures in other regions in the world with our ideas."

Stefan Muhle, State Secretary at the Lower Saxony Ministry of Economics, Labor, Transport and Digitalization:

"Lower Saxony is one of the most active GAIA-X regions in Germany. First and foremost, this shows that we have a high level of digital affinity and that we are willing to actively work on the digital sovereignty of our country and Europe. This commitment deserves broad and best possible political support."

Dennis Weilmann, Lord Mayor City of Wolfsburg:

"With the ASTRID Innovation Hub, we have created a platform that enables us to push smart city applications on an open-source basis and thus generate real added value for Wolfsburg as a business location. Together with FIWARE Foundation e.V., Stadtwerke and WOB COM are able to make a significant contribution to the smart development of our city. On the one hand, citizens benefit from this, and on the other, it strengthens Wolfsburg as a center of attraction for technology companies."

Press release

Wolfsburg, 7. Oktober 2021



WOB COM



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Ulrich Ahle, CEO Fiware Foundation:

"FIWARE is the leading open source technology for the digitization of cities and municipalities worldwide by now. More than 200 cities in over 30 countries are implementing their Smart City using FIWARE technology. The FIWARE iHubs (Innovation Hubs) play in the further market adoption of the technology. We are very pleased to welcome ASTRID in Wolfsburg as the 25th iHub in our global network of iHubs."

Keith Strier, Vice President, Worldwide AI Initiatives, NVIDIA:

"NVIDIA is delighted to work with WOB COM GmbH and Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG to support ASTRID iHub. These public private partnerships are critical to advancing Germany's digital transformation, and we are energized to help build the human and compute infrastructure that unlocks new frontiers in Urban AI Innovation for the City of Wolfsburg."

Information Image rights and captions:

Photo: Ceremoniously opened the ASTRID Innovation Hub in Wolfsburg today (from left to right): Ulrich Ahle (CEO FIWARE Foundation), Dr. Frank Kästner (Member of the Board of Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG, Managing Director WOB COM GmbH) and Dennis Weilmann (Mayor of the City of Wolfsburg). Also in attendance: "Smarty", the science robot of the phaeno. Photo credit: Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG/ Philipp Ziebart

Pressemitteilung

Wolfsburg, 7. Oktober 2021



Bei Rückfragen stehen wir Ihnen gerne zur Verfügung.

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Gemeinsam unter einem Stern

Die Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG stehen an der Spitze der zentralen Infrastruktur-Dienstleistungsunternehmen der Stadt Wolfsburg. Die Stadtwerke Wolfsburg AG und ihre Tochtergesellschaften sind der Infrastrukturdienstleister für Wolfsburg und die Region. Mit unserer Arbeit tragen wir zur Entwicklung des besonderen Wohn- und Wirtschaftsstandortes bei und gestalten zahlreiche Bereiche des täglichen Lebens in und um Wolfsburg. Unter dem Dach der Stadtwerke bieten rund 660 Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter in sechs Unternehmen kundenorientierte Dienstleistungen und kompetente Beratung in den Bereichen Telekommunikation, Mobilität, Gebäudeinfrastruktur und Personalwesen.

Zur Unternehmensgruppe gehören unter anderem die Wolfsburger Verkehrs-GmbH (WVG), der Telekommunikationsanbieter WOB COM GmbH sowie die Wolfsburger Dienstleistungs- und Melde-Zentrale GmbH (WDZ) mit dem Angebot von Personal- und Sicherheitsservices. Die Stadtwerke sind darüber hinaus zu 43 Prozent am kommunalen Energieversorger der Stadt Wolfsburg, der LSW Holding GmbH & Co. KG, und zu 50 Prozent an der Wolfsburger Energie-Agentur beteiligt.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie auf:

stadtwerke-wolfsburg.de