



PRESS RELEASE

Internet of Things: Strategic partnership between Next Big Thing AG and Fraunhofer-Research in Berlin

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Berlin, July 04, 2017

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The IoT company builder, Next Big Thing AG and the Berlin Center for Digital Transformation have agreed to a strategic partnership. The goal of the cooperation is to scientifically and economically promote technological innovations in Berlin. The main focus is the exchange of knowledge and technology for the digital transformation, especially for the Internet of Things and sensory technology.

From concept to prototype and beyond: The Next Big Thing AG (NBT) builds start-ups and companies with a strong technological business infrastructure in order to successfully introduce Internet of Things (IoT) ventures into the market. This will be complemented by the partnership with the Berlin Center for Digital Transformation in terms of research-know-how and concrete technologies. As a first step, the Berlin Center will provide software building blocks for applications in the Internet of Things and standards-based prototypes for the Industry 4.0.

The CEO at Next Big Thing AG, Harald Zapp says, "The partnership is a real opportunity for us as individual organization but also for Germany as a whole. I firmly believe that the creativity of the technological innovation, that we promote at NTB, paired with the unique applied research at Fraunhofer, will create interesting future technologies. I expect that our work and the way we build products and services in the IoT will change globally. I look forward to present the first results of our cooperation."

"Through the cooperation with NBT we are able to get closer to the energetic start-up scene in Berlin. We learn a lot about the requirements of the companies and their new business models and support them with our technologies and our research-know-how in the development of new products for the digital transformation. The partnership with NBT is very important to us," says Prof. Dr. Ing. Ina Schieferdecker, member of the board Berlin Center for Digital Transformation and director of the Fraunhofer Institute FOKUS.





The Berlin Center for Digital Transformation is a cooperation of the four Berlin Fraunhofer-Institutes FOKUS, HHI, IPK and IZM. The focus activities are technologies and solutions that take into account the increasing digitalization and networking of all spheres of life. Research is being conducted on basic technologies as well as interdisciplinary technologies as well as solutions for four concrete application areas: healthcare, mobility and city of the future, industry and production and critical infrastructures. The center is funded by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Senate Chancellery – Department for Research and Technology as well as from Regional Development Funds (EFRE).

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Fraunhofer FOKUS

Fraunhofer FOKUS researches digital transformation and its impact on society, economics and technology. Since 1988 it supports commercial enterprises and public administration in the shaping and implementation of the digital transformation. For this purpose, Fraunhofer FOKUS offers research services ranging from requirements analysis to consulting, feasibility studies, technology development right up to prototypes and pilots in the business segments Digital Public Services, Future Applications and Media, Quality Engineering, Smart Mobility, Software-based Networks, Networked Security, Visual Computing und Analytics. With about 430 employees in Berlin and an annual budget of 30 million euros, Fraunhofer FOKUS is the largest ICT institute of the Fraunhofer Society. Around 70% of its budget is generated through projects from industry and the public domain.

Next Big Thing AG

Next Big Thing AG is a Berlin-based IoT company builder that offers a complete framework for the acceleration of IoT ventures. Our goal is to promote digital transformation and IoT-driven innovation for startups and companies throughout Europe. We facilitate the merging of all necessary components of a successful venture, providing access to a thriving ecosystem of investors, startups, corporate partners, hardware and software engineers and technology providers. Our unique approach to company building distills the most valuable ideas whilst offering a framework in which they can thrive, guiding our ventures from concept right through to prototyping and beyond. Since launching in August 2016 we have successfully launched numerous IoT ventures across energy, property / facility management and assisted living sectors whilst at the same time developing our own tech stack of enabling technologies in blockchain and secure hardware.

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