

## PRESS RELEASE

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# Andreas Scheuer is patron of the Hackathon at the Smart Country Convention

## BMVI to provide data for the programming marathon

## First competition to be held on 20 and 21 November at the Smart Country Convention at the CityCube Berlin

The Smart Country Convention has been able to secure another strong partner, with Federal Minister of Transport Andreas Scheuer to act as patron of the Hackathon at the event. The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI) will also provide the data that will be used to develop digital solutions for municipalities. Over a period of 24 hours, a number of teams will use the data supplied to develop ideas and prototypes for administrations and public services at the competition. The Smart Country{Hacks} Hackathon will take place for the first time on 20 and 21 November 2018 at the Smart Country Convention in Berlin and is being organised by Hackerstolz e.V. The results will be presented on 21 November and a celebration will take place of the winning team. The project was initiated by Digitalverband Bitkom and Messe Berlin, the joint organisers of the event.

“A breath of fresh air is needed where digital solutions for municipalities are concerned, and the Hackathon is the ideal competition for that. The support offered by the federal ministry underlines the role of the Smart Country Convention as a platform for discussing innovative digital solutions for local authorities, offices and public enterprises“, said Achim Berg, president of Bitkom.

Federal Minister Andreas Scheuer: “We need innovation in the public sector in order to ensure social equality throughout Germany. Data is a central pillar of the digital transformation of society as a whole and the Hackathon gives developers, programmers and designers an opportunity to help shape Germany’s digital future, which is why I am delighted to be acting as patron.“

Dr. Christian Göke, CEO of Messe Berlin: “The digital transformation of the public sector can only succeed if we bring all the relevant players together. As well as other representatives of administrations, politics, the digital economy, associations and science, having the transport ministry on board is of great benefit to everyone at the Smart Country Convention. I am greatly looking forward to the results of the Hackathon.“

At the Smart Country Convention digital solutions for the public sector will be presented at the CityCube Berlin on all three days of the event. The Smart Country Convention targets tech companies, representatives of administrations and local authorities at federal, state and communal level, municipal companies and other public enterprises, as well as bodies supporting educational establishments and healthcare institutions.

More information on the first Smart Country {Hacks} Hackathon can be found at <https://smartcountry-hacks.de/>.

**Bitkom** represents over 2,600 companies in the digital economy, over 1,800 of whom are direct members. With their IT and telecoms business alone, annual turnover is 190 billion euros, including exports worth 50 billion euros. Bitkom members in Germany employ a combined workforce of over 2 million. Among Bitkom’s members are 1,000 SMEs, over 400 startups and practically every global player. They market software, IT services, telecoms and internet services, manufacture appliances and components, represent the digital media or other parts of the digital economy. 80 per



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cent of these companies are based in Germany, 8 per cent each are in Europe and the US, and 4 per cent in other regions. Bitkom supports and is a driving force behind the digital transformation of the German economy and campaigns for a broad societal involvement in digital processes. The aim is to make Germany one of the world's prime locations for digital business.

### **About Messe Berlin**

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