Within the GAIA-X initiative, more than 170 participants and over 150 organizations from France and Germany, but also from Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain, have already collaborated in two comprehensive thematic workstreams. The user domains represented are energy, health care, Industrie 4.0/SMEs, mobility, public infrastructure and administration as well as smart living, finance and agriculture. Now, 22 companies and organizations from France and Germany – including Beckhoff Automation GmbH & Co. KG, Verl – have taken another major step towards a European digital infrastructure with the establishment of the GAIA-X Foundation. Its structure will deal with addressing, data availability, interoperability, portability, transparency and fair participation.

The work in the domain-specific and joint working groups gave rise to the idea of a jointly usable layer of basic functionalities for a European data space. Beckhoff actively participated in this process, particularly in the Industrie 4.0/SME workgroup and the coordination of all domain sponsors with the infrastructure providers in the project. Gerd Hoppe, Corporate Management at Beckhoff, explains: “Many of the principles of GAIA-X coincide with our philosophy of an open, perfectly fitting, continuously expandable communication and data space technology for users.”

GAIA-X is based on several principles to ensure the highest possible level of data sovereignty for users:
- simple, federally structured identification and confidence-building between data exchange participants
- data sovereignty of all participants along the value chain
- identical protection classes for data and services
- openness to adaptation by all market participants
- hybrid data and service implementation (centralized, decentralized, cloud-based, on-premise, edge-based)
- free choice of the level of data protection, legislation and geography for data and services

The European Data Space Initiative GAIA-X starts broadly supported by the industry and many other user domains

Beckhoff is a founding member of the GAIA-X Foundation

The data space initiative, which is driven by the international non-profit organization GAIA-X Foundation, Brussels, Belgium, aims to achieve a secure, trustworthy data infrastructure and thus the digital sovereignty of Europe. Behind it is a diverse group of European companies, institutions, and associations, which is also open to other potential members. The aim is to refine and expand use-case scenarios and to build an organization and initial demonstrators in funded projects.

The aim of the project is to develop joint common requirements for a European data infrastructure. Therefore openness, transparency and the ability to connect to other European countries are central to GAIA-X. Such a digital ecosystem should accordingly allow both the digital sovereignty of cloud services users and the scalability of European cloud providers. The project is divided into two workstreams for specific topics: “User ecosystems and requirements” including the definition of use cases and “Technical implementation” for the building of the data infrastructure. There is also the cross-functional expert unit known as the “Joint requirements” expert tribe, which deals with topics where there is a strong interdependency between the workstreams.
Gerd Hoppe confirms the great importance of customer orientation: “In numerous discussions with customers and organizations, the need for a jointly usable, European data ecosystem has become and is becoming increasingly clear. The decisive factor here is that this can be used by all infrastructure providers and users within an application domain and across domain boundaries. In addition, individual and domain-specific standards must be adopted for the fastest possible acceptance in the market. GAIA-X has great potential here to avoid incompatibilities and to ensure sovereignty in the application with open communication structures.”

More information:
www.data-infrastructure.eu
www.beckhoff.com/iot

Gerd Hoppe, Corporate Management, Beckhoff Automation:
“Other interested companies and organizations are invited to join the GAIA-X Foundation to promote the open and independent nature of this data ecosystem.”

Beckhoff is Premium Partner of the Hannover Messe Digital Days

Topics of Hannover Messe presented as a two-day digital event

According to Deutsche Messe AG, the industrial transformation with its megatopics of digitization, individualization, climate protection and demographic change is continuing unabated despite the corona crisis and will be the focus of the first-ever Hannover Messe Digital Days. Beckhoff is participating as a Premium Partner in this digital event, which will take place on 14 and 15 July 2020 and will cover the latest developments in industry, energy and logistics.

During the digital event, keynotes from business, science and politics as well as panel discussions, live chats, networking, and innovation presentations will address the following questions: How can industrial transformation succeed? Which steps industry must take to recover quickly from the consequences of the shutdown? Dr. Jochen Köckler, Chairman of the Managing Board, Deutsche Messe AG, explains: “With the Digital Days, we are creating an online platform for the entire Hannover Messe community. We had to cancel the show this year due to the corona pandemic, but people still need to learn about the latest technological products and solutions and to talk with experts from all over the world. Because tomorrow’s innovations are only possible when different industries and cultures exchange ideas.”

The Hannover Messe Digital Days revolve around the content of the show. For example, the conference program focuses on topics such as Industrie 4.0, artificial intelligence, smart energy, and Logistics 4.0. Exhibitor products and solutions form the second layer of content. As one of ten Premium Partners of the event, Beckhoff will participate in one of the “high-level talks” with representatives from politics and industry (14 July, from 3 p.m.). In addition, there will be three further highlights from Beckhoff experts (14 July, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.; 15 July, 11:30 a.m.): a keynote on a general topic and the innovation presentations “PC Control – Ideal base for advanced Automation” and “EtherCAT – The communication standard for advanced Automation”.

More information:
www.hannovermesse.digital