



Press release

DE-CIX Supervisory Board member and Internet pioneer Harald A. Summa appointed to the Hessian Future Council for the Economy

Frankfurt am Main (Germany), 22 March, 2023: DE-CIX Supervisory Board member and long-time CEO and Chair of the Board of the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges Harald A. Summa has been appointed by the state government of the German state of Hesse to its "Future Council for the Economy". The Hessian Future Council for the Economy is set up as a politically independent advisory body open to all sectors. It has been tasked with making recommendations for action by the end of the year for the Hessian state government of the 21st century. The aim is to develop a strategy for the second legislative period on the topics of the digitalization and decarbonization of the economy, the work of the future, and Hesse's strategic positioning at (inter)national level. The recommendations for action are to be in the interest of Hessian companies, employees, and Hesse as a business location, and are to be developed – as far as possible – through mutual agreement.

"The digitalization of Hesse and Germany can only succeed if there is nationwide availability of infrastructures for data storage, processing, and distribution that are both sustainable and high performance," comments Harald A. Summa, member of the Supervisory Board at DE-CIX, on his appointment to the Future Council. "The further rollout of fiber optic networks must go hand in hand with a decentralized build-out of regional data centers in order to connect companies and administrations directly to a high-performance, federated cloud infrastructure with a competitive offering. DE-CIX will play its part by making its interconnection services available in an automated way not only to network operators and cloud service providers, but also to enterprises and administrations."

With a data volume of almost 34 exabytes per year (as of 2022) and almost 1100 connected networks, DE-CIX in Frankfurt is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world and is considered part of the critical infrastructure in Germany.

In addition, DE-CIX offers its peering, cloud, and other interconnection services in over 40 metro regions in Europe, Africa, North America, the Middle East, and Asia. DE-CIX is accessible from data centers in over 600 cities worldwide and connects thousands of network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers and corporate networks from more than 100 countries.

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Caption (from left to right): The Minister President of Hesse Boris Rhein, Harald A. Summa (Supervisory Board DE-CIX Group AG), Dr. Marie-Luise Wolff (CEO ENTEGA AG), Tarek Al-Wazir (Hessian Minister for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing), and Professor Volker Wieland (Endowed Professor for Monetary Economics at Goethe University Frankfurt), after the press conference announcing the Future Council for the Economy.

About DE-CIX

DE-CIX (German Commercial Internet Exchange) is the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges (IXs). DE-CIX offers its interconnection services in more than 40 metro-markets in Europe, Africa, North America, the Middle East, and Asia. Accessible from data centers in over 600 cities world-wide, DE-CIX interconnects thousands of network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, and offers peering, cloud, and interconnection services. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world, with a data volume of almost 34 Exabytes per year (as of 2022) and close to 1100 connected networks. More than 200 colleagues from over 30 different nations form the foundation of the DE-CIX success story in Germany and around the world. Since the beginning of the commercial Internet, DE-CIX has had a decisive influence – in a range of leading global bodies, such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) – on co-defining guiding principles for the Internet of the present and the future. As the operator of critical IT infrastructure, DE-CIX bears a great responsibility for the seamless, fast, and secure data exchange between people, enterprises, and organizations at its locations around the globe.

Further information at www.de-cix.net

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