

Press release

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German government bets on Blockchain

Berlin - Distributed Ledger Technology plays an important role in the current coalition agreement between the CDU / CSU and the SPD, but there is even more demand.

But most importantly the document underlines: The German government welcomes the blockchain industry and invites them to become active in Germany.

Here are the results and the evaluation of the Blockchain Bundesverband in detail:

"To unlock the potential of blockchain technology and prevent abuses," the federal government wants to "develop a comprehensive blockchain strategy" and "advocate an appropriate legal framework for cryptocurrency and token trading at European and international levels."

Assessment: This is an important step to be implemented quickly. The lack of legal framework for ICOs and other token launches continues to be a major barrier for many startups in Germany. Only if this is remedied quickly at German and at EU level this technology can gain an enduring foothold in Europe.

Furthermore, the federal government wants to "test innovative technologies such as distributed ledger (blockchain)" to verify their use for government work. Such pilot projects will gather information "so that a legal framework can be established based on these experiences".

Assessment: Pilot projects are essential to use appropriate standards for the use of a decentralized database. Special focus must be put on the fixed points of each modern transaction: On the one hand the interfaces to public databases are represented with Blockchain and on the other hand we need legal standards for digital identities with legal capacities on the Blockchain.

There will be also focus on "artificial intelligence, data science, digital humanities and blockchain technology, robotics and quantum computing" and "existing technology programs for application-oriented research to promote cutting edge digital technologies such as quantum computing, robotics, autonomous systems,

augmented reality (3D Virtualization), Blockchain, Visible Light Communication and Smart Home. "

Assessment: The federal research budget is at a record level. Particularly in combination with autonomous systems, artificial intelligence and smart homes, generously funded research on blockchain technology is a crucial building block for the future of Germany as a business location for Blockchain startups.

What is missing? Sandboxing possibilities have to be created especially for the dynamic blockchain area, so that new ideas can be tried out without artificial obstacles. Only the experiences that arise from those sandboxes can point to future regulatory needs. Without space, new ideas are being solved with old tools. The results will not be useful, neither for innovators nor for regulators. But the Bundesblock is confident that it will help shape the "comprehensive blockchain strategy" the federal government is set to develop to ensure that appropriate sandboxes will emerge.

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