Secure Digital Identities in Germany

Bundesblock members provide technical infrastructure in national lighthouse project

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The Bundesblock welcomes the "Lighthouse Project for Secure Digital Identities" ([German: Schaufenster Sichere Digitale Identität](#)) established by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

The Lighthouse Pilot Programme is divided into two phases: in a project competition phase now coming to an end, 11 select consortia have been working on concepts for a future-proof digital identity in Germany. For the past six months the project consortia have been developing various concepts to harmonize security, interoperability and usability, with the aim of making digital identity more user-friendly for both the population and the economy. A jury will soon choose 3-4 concepts from the 11 projects to advance to an implementation phase lasting 3 years. Each consortia project will receive 15 M EUR in funding.

Initial talks between the Bundesblock and the Ministry of Economics to set up such sandbox projects began three years ago. We are pleased that our work on the topic of "Decentralized Digital Identities" has found political support via these projects and also become a central part of the official Blockchain strategy of the Federal Government.

We are recognize the intrinsic value of working together with different stakeholders on new technologies. Only in this way can we, as a young digital society, accelerate our learning curve and, not least, create stable collaborations and network effects. We hope that we will see similar lighthouse projects coalesce in other industries, and we demand that a sustainable digital society in Germany and Europe be built on common and open base technologies.

Future-proof technologies can only be developed together. Especially when it comes to Web 3.0 infrastructure and digital identities, a decentralized open source approach is essential to secure the Internet as a global democratic infrastructure. Core areas of this global infrastructure should be seen as public services and be operated in a manner that ensures their accessibility and added value for the entire population, as well as the economy.

Decentralized technologies that are based on open standards will be essential for enabling cooperation at eye level in the national and, above all, international sphere.

Within the scope of the EU Council Presidency 2020, Germany has a unique opportunity to help shape this future and to further anchor the German combination of innovative spirit and protection of fundamental rights within the European Union framework.

We wish all Bundesblock members involved in the competition phase good luck and every success during the upcoming selection process for project consortia advancing to the implementation phase of the Schaufenster SDI national pilot program.

The future is decentralized.

Participating Bundesblock members:

Bundesdruckerei GmbH (ONCE, SSI für Deutschland, People ID)

Chainstep GmbH (STEREO)

Christoph Kroschke GmbH / carTRUST (STEREO)

Deutsche Telekom AG (EMIL)

esatus AG (SSI für Deutschland)

Jolocom GmbH (EMIL, ONCE, SDIKA, ID-Ideal)

Targens GmbH (EMIL)

Volksbank Mittweida (ID-Ideal)